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## Academic Board

Adjourned meeting held on Monday 18 May 1998

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Minutes of the adjourned meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Monday 18 May 1998 in the Professorial Board Room.

**There were present:** the Chair (Professor R Pesman) presiding, the Deputy Chairs (Professors D J H Cockayne and J R Lawrence), the Acting Deputy Chair (Associate Professor M Painter), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor K Eltis), Professor C Adam, Associate Professors R Arnold, D Davey and C J Durrant, Professors L D Field and G J Gill, Dr D P Godden, Professors M A Harris and R Hewitt, Dr D Hutchinson, Professors H Kendig and J F Kinnear, Mr S Lojewski, Associate Professor A F Masters, Professors G T Moore, W Schworm, G Sherington and J Webber and Mr T J Wilkinson.

Present as observers were: Dr W Adams (Secretary of the Academic Board), Mr J Shipp and Professors D Weisbrot and J A Young.

Present by invitation were: Associate Professor T Koppi and Mrs L Rose.

In attendance: Miss E R Ring.

*During discussion of the following item at the meeting held on 13 May 1998 the quorum was lost and it was agreed to hold an adjourned meeting of the Board at 1.30 pm on Monday 18 May 1998, with the specific purpose of considering this item and the recommendation (viz, that the Board endorse (nihil obstat) the academic aspects of the report and forward it to Senate for approval.*

### **49/98 Statement by the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal**

#### **Part I**

P 2. **Academic policy matters arising out of the proposed merger (joint venture) of the operations of the Graduate School of Business (GSB) and the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM) at UNSW**

The Chair informed the Board that as Professor Eltis had been Acting Vice-Chancellor at the time of the Board meeting on 13 May, he was again representing the Vice-Chancellor who could not be present.

As there was no quorum, the recommendation could not be put. The Chair invited further discussion which she would report to Senate.

Associate Professor Masters referred to questions he had asked during the discussion at the meeting of the Board on 13 May, and said that as this proposed merger might become a model for future proposals, some issues needed to be addressed. On the basis of the information in the documentation and that provided at the Board meeting, it was not credible to expect that an amalgamation of the two Schools would necessarily produce a "world class Business School". If that was the objective of the merger, it needed to be asked where the resources, staff and students would come from. If these additional resources and people came from areas previously untapped by the University then the proposal, in this regard, was probably worthy of support. If, however, the additional resources, staff and students came at the expense of the University's own existing academic and building programmes, then the amalgamation might need further consideration.

Professor Weisbrot replied that the figures indicated that immediately post-merger the new school would still not compete, in terms of scale, at the top level of business schools, but that it would provide a much stronger platform for resource-gathering and the enhancement

of academic offerings. There was no hope that the existing Graduate School of Business could compete at that international level without a great input of scarce University resources. The University would not contribute more resources to the joint venture than were currently being contributed to the GSB, beyond a few hundred thousand dollars in 1999 for special start-up funding. After that it was expected that the amalgamated school would expand with fee income and corporate support. The Sydney business community did not currently supply nearly the level of support as that supplied in Melbourne (let alone in the United States of America or in Europe), but the Sydney business community had indicated that it would lock in behind the amalgamated school and provide far more support to the joint venture. Relying largely on increased levels of private support for its future development, the joint venture would not draw resources away from other existing or planned programs at the University.

In response to questions from Mr Wilkinson about the possibility of there being a change in the Vice-Chancellor with jurisdiction for student matters (clause 16.1), Professor Weisbrot replied that a change could be made, but that there was no proposal for same. While there was an express understanding that other roles would be alternated between the universities (such as the chairing of the Academic Board of the AGSM), there was a desire also to maintain stability, so there would have to be good reasons for such a change to be made. UNSW was contributing considerably more staffing resources to the venture, and therefore it had been determined that the staffing protocols would be based on the UNSW model. Some of the responsibilities of the joint venture should rest with Sydney, and the handling of student matters would be one of them. In response to Mr Wilkinson's question about whether students would be able to complete their courses under the rules under which they had commenced candidature, Professor Weisbrot replied that care would be taken to ensure that students would not be disadvantaged should any changes be made. For example, a switch of the student protocol from one University to the other would be notified well in advance.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance and informed the meeting that with its agreement she intended to report to Senate both the concerns expressed at the meeting on 13 May and at this adjourned meeting and a unanimous view in support of the merger. There was no dissent from this course of action. The Board's support for the merger was subject to endorsement at the June meeting.