



Academic Board Minutes

Academic Board Officer: Miss E R Ring

Secretariat, Main Quadrangle, A14

Phone: 9351 3305; Fax: 9351 3572

E-mail: E.Ring@secretariat.usyd.edu.au

Web site: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/ab/>

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 10 November 1999 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Alternative Chair (Professor D Cockayne) presiding, the Deputy Chairs (Associate Professor R Atherton and Professor G P Steven), Professor S Armitage, Mr W T Arthur, Dr A E Brew, Professors J Carter and B Cass, Dr D Cockrell, Associate Professors D Davey, D Dragovich and C J Durrant, Professor K Eltis, Dr A Fekete, Professors L D Field and M A Harris, Ms E Henley, Professors B Hesketh, H Kendig, J F Kinnear, S R Leeder and K Lester, Mr S Lojewski, Associate Professor A F Masters, Professors G T Moore and S E Pretty, Associate Professor A Reynolds, Ms P Reynolds, Professor G Sherington, Ms K Stenner, Mr R Wilson and Professor P Wolnizer.

Also present:

Secretary of the Academic Board: Dr W Adams.

Present as observers: Dr M Edmond, Professors L M Koder, R Pesman and P Ramsden, Ms C M Sexton and Professor D Siddle.

Present by invitation: Ms N Verco.

In attendance: Miss E R Ring.

★ 1. Apologies

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors C Adam, L W Burgess and L Cram, Dr D Godden, Professor M Jabri, Associate Professor P Jones, Mr R Madhavan, Associate Professor P McCallum, Professors J Lawler, K Lee and D Nutbeam, Associate Professor E Probyn and Professors R Rose, J Sachs and V Spate.

(File 021/0005/00003)

2. Arrangement of agenda

★ 2.1 Starring of items

Members of the Board were invited to star for discussion any unstarred items.

The following additional items were starred: 4, 13.2(1) and 14.3.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 258/99

That the Academic Board resolve as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolution 259/99

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 1999 as a true record.

(File 028/0002/00354)

☆ 4. Business arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

4.1 The Green Paper

Associate Professor Masters referred to issues he had raised at the last meeting of the Board relating to the Green Paper and the funding model. He suggested that, given that DETYA was to establish a discipline-related review to determine the cost of funding per student and given that funding was to be transferred to institutional grants, it was important for the University to find out how much it was costing to undertake research. He asked whether the University was in a position to undertake such an analysis, the results of which would be needed for preparing a submission to DETYA.

Professor Siddle noted that the relative funding model distinguished between postgraduate research and other levels of study. He also stated that DETYA had acknowledged that these figures would need to be updated and that he understood that a consultancy would be entered into to gather data and provide the analysis. Indications were that the sector would be consulted about the terms of reference and parameters of the study.

Professor Masters said that the nature of PhD research had changed since the relative funding model had been established: the number of PhD students currently enrolled was equivalent to 50% of the total number of all PhD graduates from the University of Sydney. It was therefore important to have input into any re-calculation of the funding model.

The Alternative Chair said that note could be taken of the questions.

Resolution 260/99

That the Academic Board note the issues raised.

(File 006/0004/00003)

☆ 5. Report of the Chair

5.1 Report on Senate matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 1 November 1999

Resolution 261/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 1 November 1999.

5.2 General report

5.2.1 Alternative Chair

Resolution 262/99

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on his appointment of Professor J Sachs as Alternative Chair of the Board during periods when the Alternative Chair, Professor D Cockayne, is not able to act, during the period when the Chair is overseas between 2 and 19 November 1999.

(File 021/0002/00001)

(File 028/0006/00008)

☆ **6. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal**

6.1 Report on Senate matters

6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 1 November 1999

Resolution 263/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 1 November 1999.

6.2 General report

As the Vice-Chancellor had been delayed in arriving at the meeting, the Alternative Chair invited the Deputy Vice-Chancellors to report on any relevant issues.

Professor Eltis drew the Board's attention to the item in the Vice-Chancellor's report relating to Orange Agricultural College (item 6.1.1(3) refers) and to Senate's approval in principle that the campus be known as The University of Sydney, Orange and that the academic activities of OAC be renamed as the Faculty of Rural Management. He reported that there had been considerable discussion at Senate about this important issue, and, as noted in the report, the Vice-Chancellor had volunteered to ask College Pro-Vice-Chancellors to request Deans to consult with relevant colleagues on the report of the Working Party.

Resolution 264/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resources).

(File 021/0006/00007)

7. Reports of Faculties and Boards

7.1 Faculty of Science

7.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 265/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Faculty of Science meeting held on 12 October 1999.

7.1.2 Establishment of the Faculty of Pharmacy

7.1.2.1 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Faculty of Science Constitution

Resolution 266/99

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Science, from 1 January 2000, as set out in the report presented.

7.1.2.2 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the award courses offered by the Faculty of Science

Resolution 267/99

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the award courses offered by the Faculty of Science, from 1 January 2000, as set out in the report presented.

(Files 036/0006/00175, 036/0004/00004)

7.2 Sydney Conservatorium of Music

7.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 268/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

7.2.2 Semester and vacation dates 2000

Resolution 269/99

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the semester and vacation dates for the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for the year 2000, as presented in the report; and
- (ii) note that the Chair of the Board has referred this item to the Teaching and Learning Committee which is currently reviewing semester lengths and calendars, pursuant to the recommendation of the Examinations Working Party.

(Files 036/0006/00204, 023/0007/00010)

7.3 Board of Studies in Social Work

7.3.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 270/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Board of Studies in Social Work.

7.3.2 2000 Semester and vacation dates

Resolution 271/99

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the semester and vacation dates for the Bachelor of Social Work course for the year 2000, as presented in the report; and
- (ii) note that the Chair of the Board has referred this item to the Teaching and Learning Committee which is currently reviewing semester lengths and calendars, pursuant to the recommendation of the Examinations Working Party.

(Files 025/0006/00004, 023/0007/00010)

8. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee



8.1 Oral report of the Chair

No further report was presented.

8.2 Report of the meeting held on 19 October 1999

8.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 272/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 19 October 1999.

8.2.2 Initial proposals - New courses/major changes to existing courses

8.2.2.1 Faculty of Dentistry: Graduate dental program

Resolution 273/99

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve in principle the proposal of the Faculty of Dentistry for a new Graduate Dental Program, for introduction in 2001, as set out in the report presented.

(File 003/0016/00007)

8.2.2.2 Faculty of Architecture: Bachelor of Design (Architecture), Bachelor of Design (Urban Planning), Bachelor of Design (Digital Environments)

Resolution 274/99

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve in principle the proposal of the Faculty of Architecture for major changes to the Bachelor of Science (Architecture) course, including three new course titles, namely, Bachelor of Design (Architecture), Bachelor of Design (Urban Planning) and Bachelor of Design (Digital Environments), for introduction in 2001, and for the termination of the BSc(Arch) with no new students to be enrolled in the BSc(Arch) after 2000, as set out in the report presented.

(Files 003/0014/00006, 003/0014/00007)

8.2.3 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

8.2.3.1 Faculty of Education: Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Aboriginal Studies)

Resolution 275/99

That the Academic Board:

- (a) recommend that Senate:
 - (i) approve the proposal of the Faculty of Education for the new course, the Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Aboriginal Studies), for introduction in 2000;
 - (ii) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above course, with effect from 1 January 2000, as set out in the report presented; and
- (b) note the advice of the Dean of the Faculty of Education that Faculty Resolutions for the new course, the Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Aboriginal Studies), are being prepared, pursuant to the University of Sydney (Undergraduate Courses) Rule 1999, and will be finalised by 31 December 1999.

(File 003/0030/00023)

(File 028/0002/00290)

9. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee



9.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, Professor Steven, drew particular attention to item 9.2.3 in the Committee's report and acknowledged Associate Professor Master's work in bringing forward the recommendations in the report that would improve the PhD examination process.

Associate Professor Masters referred to the issue of length of candidature and commented in the following terms: The Government Green Paper on research proposed that funding for PhD candidatures be for three-and-a-half years, rather than five as at present. If the University's costs for research were approximated to the level of DETYA funding per PhD research student, the measure of the impact of this proposed change was such that last year the number of candidates over time (at the current level of five years of funding) represented a cost to the University in excess of \$1 million. In 1999 to date, a single faculty had given (quite properly and justifiably) extensions of candidatures to a total of twelve years. This represented a cost of

approximately \$500,000. If PhD funding was for three-and-a-half years the costs would be multiplied accordingly.

Professor Steven reported that a small working group comprising Professor Siddle, Associate Professor Masters and himself would be reviewing supervisory practice and how it could be improved, which would also address the issue of shortening lengths of candidature.

Resolution 276/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee.

9.2 Report of the meeting held on 25 October 1999

9.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 277/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 25 October 1999.

9.2.2 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

9.2.2.1 Faculty of Economics: Master of International Studies

Resolution 278/99

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate:

- (a) approve the proposal of the Faculty of Economics for the introduction in July Semester 2000 of the new stream in American Studies in the existing Master of International Studies course; and
- (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above course, with effect from 1 July 2000, as set out in the report presented.

(File 003/0017/00026)

9.2.2.2 Faculty of Education: Master of Education

Resolution 279/99

That the Academic Board, acting on behalf of Senate:

- (a) approve the proposal of the Faculty of Education to change the MED designation to "Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages/Languages" to reflect a recent change in nomenclature in the NSW Department of Education and Training from "LOTE" to "Languages"; and
- (b) approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above course, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

(File 003/0030/00029)

9.2.3 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Academic Board: Degree of Doctor of Philosophy — The Examination Process

Resolution 280/99

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Resolutions of the Academic Board relating to the Examination Process for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

(File 003/0042/00001)

9.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 281/99

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 25 October 1999 relating to the following matters:

- 4.1 Report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee
 - (a) Reports from faculties

- (i) PhDs awarded at faculty level
 - Third quarter 1999
 - Year to date
 - (ii) Summary of examination times
 - Third quarter 1999 (July to September 1999)
 - Year to date
 - (b) Student cases considered by the Sub-Committee
- 4.2 Report of the Coursework Sub-Committee
 - 4.3 National PhD Program
 - 4.4 Postgraduate Supervision
 - 4.5 PhD Examining times and facilities for research students
 - 4.6 Indicators of good supervision

(File 028/0002/00291)

10. Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee



10.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Alternative Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Dr Brew, said that the Chair of the Committee had asked her to report on the following matters.

She had been asked to thank Deans and Faculty Teaching and Learning Committees for their responses on the new course monitoring system. The document was now being reviewed in the light of comments received.

In respect of the Code of Practice on Plagiarism, Deans and Heads of Department had been sent information on a number of scenarios which would be developed further following interviews with people chosen from a wide variety of disciplines from across the University. A revised policy would be presented to the Board next year.

A working party would be established to revise the Guidelines for Teaching Excellence Awards.

Resolution 282/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Alternative Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee.

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 7 October 1999

10.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 283/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on 7 October 1999.

10.2.2 Institute for Teaching and Learning

Resolution 284/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Institute for Teaching and Learning.

10.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 285/99

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on 7 October 1999 relating to the following matters:

- 3.1 New course monitoring system
- 3.2 Other issues

(File 028/0025/00029)

11. Report of the Research Committee



11.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Research Committee, Professor Cockayne, had no further report for the meeting. He invited the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Siddle, to report on the outcomes of ARC grant applications.

11.1.1 Research grant applications

Professor Siddle gave a broad overview in the following terms:

- The University had achieved an outstanding result with ARC Large Grants: it had acquired 81 new grants, representing \$13.5 million over three years; 33% of applications had been successful, and Sydney had achieved 20 more grants than its nearest competitor. He also offered congratulations to all successful applicants.
- The University had been awarded 13 new Fellowships, two of which were Senior Fellowships; this was in line with previous years.
- The University had been successful with 27 of its 58 SPIRT grant applications, which resulted in an increase in funds over last year.
- One Special Research Centre application had been short-listed – in Astrophysics – but had not been successful.
- The University had gained just over \$2 million in successful RIEF collaborative grants where the University of Sydney was the lead institution. In addition, the University was involved in a further \$5 million of collaborative infrastructure grants.
- The Vislab Advanced Computing Facility, in which the University collaborated with UNSW, Macquarie and others, had gained \$500,000.
- The number of APAs had increased by four to 151.

The Alternative Chair congratulated grant recipients, especially those involved with successful ARC Large Grant applications. He commented that this success reflected success in the Pro-Vice-Chancellor's Office and those within it. He said that he believed that many deans were now applying strategies for mentoring young researchers in the period before ARC applications were due, and that this approach was paying dividends.

Associate Professor Masters referred to two aspects of Professor Siddle's report: the increase in the number of APAs allocated to the University; and the University's success in the current round of ARC grants. With regard to the number of APA scholarships, Professor Masters noted that in the future APAs would be allocated in part on completion rates. Given also that the University's postgraduate research load had not varied by more than 1% in recent years, he suggested that it was important to start working now towards timely completions of candidatures. With regard to the University's success in ARC grants he said that he had been made aware of a suggestion that the current funding model provided disincentives for the appointment of postdoctoral fellows (important in the University's research productivity) and asked whether it would be reviewed to ensure an appropriate distribution of funds throughout the institution without containing any disincentives to the institution's performance.

Professor Eltis observed that adjustment of the funding model might not be the issue. Professor Hesketh said that there were varied practices in the appointment of postdoctoral fellows, associated with various grants, with both positive and negative factors.

Professor Eltis said that he would take this issue on notice and that he expected that it would emerge at the Heads of Department Forum on 12 November.

Resolution 286/99

That the Academic Board note the report on the outcomes of grant applications.

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 21 September 1999

11.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 287/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Research Committee meeting held on 21 September 1999.

11.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 288/99

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research Committee meeting held on 21 September 1999 relating to the following matters:

- 2.1 Amendment to the Report of the Research Committee meeting of 17 August 1999
- 2.2 Research Needs Within the University's IT Planning
- 2.3 Research Training and Management Plan
- 2.4 Dean of Graduate Research Studies
- 2.5 Reports.
 - (a) Report by Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
 - (b) Report of the Director, Research and Scholarships Office

(File 028/0002/00173)

12. Report of the Library Committee



12.1 Oral report of the Chair

No further report was presented.

12.2 Receipt of report

Resolution 289/99

That the Academic Board note that the Library Committee has not met since its last report to the Board.

(File 028/0002/00321)

13. Report of the Academic Staffing Committee



13.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee, Associate Professor Atherton, reported that this would be her last Board meeting and that she wished to take the opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Committee over the past year and to thank its members and wish them well in the future. She also wished to thank Ms Beamish and the many Deans and other members of the Board who had contributed to the work of the Committee.

The Alternative Chair commended the Committee's outstanding work under Associate Professor Atherton's chairmanship, and he and wished her well in the future.

Professor Eltis reported that the report on promotions to Associate Professor had been approved but had not been presented to the Board this month as some applicants might not as yet have received notification of the results of their applications. The report would be presented to the December Board meeting.

Resolution 290/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee.



13.2 Report by the Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee on current issues before the Committee

Ms Stenner referred to the introduction of postgraduate fellowships and the recently adopted University Enterprise Agreement and asked whether the Academic Staffing Committee would be considering policy development on the academic aspects and whether SUPRA would have the opportunity for comment.

Professor Koder reported that policy development was underway and that Ms Croxon had consulted SUPRA prior to the formulation of a draft policy. The Academic Staffing Committee would be consulted during further development of the policy, as would other committees. He would appreciate any comments being referred to him.

Resolution 291/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee relating to the following current issues before the Committee:

1. Policy Development
2. Promotions
3. Web Site

(File 028/0002/00325)

14. General Business

14.1 Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Excellence in Teaching Awards

Resolution 292/99

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Committee appointed to consider the Excellence in Teaching Awards, noting that the following were recipients of awards in 1999:

Individual awards category

Dr T Bedding School of Physics
Dr R Ewing School of Social, Policy & Curriculum Studies in Education
Dr A George School of Chemistry
Mr T Hubble School of Geology and Geophysics

Group award category

Dr A Fekete, Dr J Kay, Dr J Kingston, Dr K Crawford and Dr T Greening

(File 028/0002/00125)

14.2 Report of the Core Tenure Committee

Resolution 293/99

That the Academic Board note the report of the Core Tenure Committee.

(File 028/0002/00363)



14.3 Outcome of 1999 Academic Board elections

Associate Professor Masters referred to the Academic Governance Rules relating to the Academic Board and to the provisions for the conduct of elections that forbid the withdrawal of nominations once nominations have closed; this had led to the necessity for the recent election of professorial members of the Board. He suggested that this provision be reviewed and that, if there was agreement that it was not in the Board's best interests, a recommendation be made to Senate for the modification of the Rules.

The Alternative Chair suggested that Professor Masters discuss this issue with the Registrar and bring any recommendations forward to the next meeting.

Professor Masters also referred to the new provision relating to Senate elections which forbade one person nominating more than one candidate. He suggested that, as the nominee could only have second-hand knowledge of whether or not a nominator had nominated another candidate, the Board might wish to suggest that Senate consider a modification to the procedures based on a provision that nominators be asked to sign a declaration to the effect that they had not nominated another candidate at that election.

The Registrar reported that this would not necessarily prevent a person from nominating more than one candidate. There was a motion on notice being presented to Senate, however, which would have the desired outcome in a different way.

Resolution 294/99

That the Academic Board note the outcome of 1999 Academic Board elections for:

- two professorial members of the Board, two members who are heads of department and two non-professorial members, for a term of office from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001; and
- one undergraduate and one postgraduate student member of the Board, for a term of office from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000.

(File 021/0002/00001)

14.4 Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on proctorial matters

Resolution 295/99

That the Academic Board note the tabled report on proctorial matters.

(Files 028/0002/00209, 041/0017/00114, 041/0017/00116)

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date