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## Academic Board Agenda

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/>

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### SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

for the meeting on Wednesday 14 June 2000

1. **Apologies**

Additional apologies have been received from:

Professor Chris Adam, Dr Peter Phibbs, Associate Professor Elspeth Probyn,  
Associate Professor Liyong Tong.

Pages

5. **Report of the Chair**

5.1 **Report on Senate matters**

5.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 5 June 2000**

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting on 5 June 2000.*

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5.2 **General Report**

5.2.6 **Academic Board nominee on the Disability Consultative Committee**

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board appoint Dr Marie Wilkinson, Department of Social Work, Social Policy and Sociology, as the Board nominee on the Disability Consultative Committee.*

5.2.7 **Meeting of the Academic Board of the Australian Graduate School of Management**

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair.*

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5.2.8 **Meeting of NSW Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates**

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair.*

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

**6.1 Report on Senate matters**

**6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 5 June 2000**

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***Recommendation***

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting on 5 June 2000.*

## **AGENDA ITEM 5. Report of the Chair**

### **5.1 Report on Senate matters**

#### **5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 5 June 2000**

Senate, at its meeting on 5 June 2000, on the report of the Academic Board:

- (1) approved the amendment of the Constitution of the Faculty of Architecture with immediate effect, as recommended in the report.
- (2) approved the amendment of the Constitution of the Faculty of Nursing with immediate effect, as recommended in the report.
- (3) approved the amendment of the Constitution of the Faculty of Veterinary Science with immediate effect, as recommended in the report.
- (4) approved the proposal from the Faculty of Law for the introduction in 2001 of the new course, the Graduate Diploma in Health Law; and the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above course, with effect from 1 January 2001, as set out in the report.
- (5) approved the proposal from the Faculty of Science for the introduction of a new generic Master of Applied Science, Graduate Diploma in Applied Science and Graduate Certificate in Applied Science, from July Semester 2000, to be offered in the first instance in the subject areas listed in the report; and the amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above courses, with effect from 1 July 2000, as recommended in the report.
- (6) noted the report on the 1999 reports on postgraduate teaching and reviews of postgraduate coursework.
- (7) noted the Chair's report on the Bachelor of Education (Design and Technology).

### **5.2 General Report**

#### **5.2.7 Meeting of the Academic Board of the Australian Graduate School of Management**

The first meeting of the Academic Board of the Australian Graduate School of Management was held at the AGSM on 7 June 2000. The President of the Academic Board of the University of New South Wales, Professor Kevin McConkey, was elected Chair; this position will rotate every two years between the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney.

The main item of business concerned the terms of reference of the new Academic Board, and its committee structure. A small working party has been established to consider the suggestions and comments made at the meeting, and to report to the next meeting of the AGSM Academic Board. I am a member of the working party.

There are considerable efficiencies to be gained if most of the work of the AGSM Academic Board can draw on policy frameworks already in place at one or both of the Universities. At present, this approach would have a tendency to institutionalize UNSW policy and practice, since it is more familiar to AGSM staff. In many areas this would be appropriate. However, I believe that the AGSM might benefit if those areas that potentially bear on academic collaboration, such as PhD governance rules, are developed with a strong sense of collaboration between the two partner universities.

In due course, this Academic Board will be required to establish certain arrangements acknowledging the AGSM Academic Board, and may also invite Senate to establish certain arrangements.

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### 5.2.8 Meeting of New South Wales Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates

The Committee of Chairs met at the University of New South Wales on 8 June 2000. The main items discussed at the meeting were:-

1. HSC – Languages. There is some evidence of a continuing decline in the proportion of HSC students presenting in languages, although there have been significant rises in candidatures for certain languages. The Committee is concerned with declining interest in languages, and will consider at its next meeting a report on Victorian approaches to LOTE education, and the detailed statistics which will become available from the Board of Studies.
2. HSC – VET in schools. There is a continuing and vigorous interest in encouraging universities to give maximum credit for vocational education and training (VET) programs in schools. The Committee of Chairs has agreed that one VET subject may be counted towards the calculation of the UAI. Discussions at the meeting around this topic explored the positioning of universities in the senior secondary/post secondary education arena, noting the problems in maintaining academic standards if universities offer award units of study at what might be called “pre-degree” levels. It was pointed out that the complementary roles of high schools in secondary education, and of TAFE and Universities in post-secondary education, become very clear when they are geographically co-located.
3. Closure of disciplines. The Committee had asked for reports on closures of disciplines, and was surprised to note how few disciplinary areas had been closed at any university in New South Wales. There has of course been extensive and ongoing restructuring. The question of inter-institutional teaching of disciplines with small enrolments was discussed in a very supportive climate.
4. Policy issue – exclusion. Members had been invited to provide notes on their university’s approach to exclusion and “show cause”. Several institutions have moved away from the approach used by the University of Sydney, to (a) formalizing a university-wide approach to supporting students whose unsatisfactory progress places them at risk and (b) avoiding the expense of student appeals against exclusion.
5. Outcomes and quality. There was a fascinating discussion including the Chair of the Board of Studies about the absence of “standards of entry” and “standards of performance” between NSW universities. The issues involve questions such as (a) is there a minimum academic performance below which a student will not be admitted to university “X”, and (b) how do universities establish that graduates in area “Y” are similarly prepared by different universities?

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## **AGENDA ITEM 6.**

### **Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal**

#### **6.1 Report on Senate matters**

##### **6.1.1. Report of the Senate Meeting held 5 June 2000**

Senate, at its meeting held on 5 June 2000:

- (1) noted that there was no longer a position of Principal, Orange Agricultural College to be filled; and appointed the selection committee for the position of Dean and Campus Director, Faculty of Rural Management.
- (2) noted the report on the Report of the Committee Established to Review Aboriginal Education in the University of Sydney.
- (3) noted the detailed report on Donations and Bequests.
- (4) noted the report on the establishment of a Task Force to Investigate Overcrowding and Tutorial Quality.
- (5) noted the report on the appointment of the Director of External Affairs and Development.
- (6) noted the report on the establishment of the Centre for Wave Physics and the Asian Agribusiness Research Centre.
- (7) noted the report on Corroboree 2000.
- (8) congratulated Ms Valerie Pratt, AM on the conferring of an honorary degree by Macquarie University.
- (9) noted the Final Report by the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW for the University on prevention of harassment.
- (10) agreed to the following program for the July Senate Colloquium:
  - (i) Public and private funding, with a presentation by Dr Gavan Butler; and
  - (ii) Information Technology, with a presentation by Assistant Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Information Technology), Associate Professor Simon Carlile.
- (11) approved the academic dress for the degree of Master of Occupational Therapy in the Faculty of Health Sciences and approved Resolutions of the Senate as set out in the report.

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