



Academic Board Agenda

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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

for the meeting on Wednesday 11 October 2000

Pages

☆ 1. Apologies

Additional apologies have been received from:
The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor G Brown
Professor C Adam
Professor L W Burgess
Professor B Cass
Professor R McPhedran
Professor S E Pretty
Mr R Wilson
Professor P Wolnizer

5. Report of the Chair

5.1 Report on Senate matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 2 October 2000 3

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 2 October 2000.

5.2 General report

5.2.6 Quality assurance and WebCT 4

Recommendation

That the Academic Board request the Chair to ask Professor Carlile and Professor Ramsden, in consultation with Faculty Teaching and Learning Committees and with the Institute for Teaching and Learning, to propose quality assurance processes for WebCT-related teaching. The Board's Teaching and Learning Committee will consider the proposal in the first instance.

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- 5.2.7 Report on Semester 1 Examinations** 4
- Recommendation*
That the Academic Board note the report.
- 6. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal**
- 6.1 Report on Senate matters**
- 6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 2 October 2000** 5-6
- Recommendation*
That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting on 2 October 2000.
- 15. General Business**
- 15.2 Membership of the Academic Board**
- 15.2.2 Filling of casual vacancies: academic staff members elected from the academic staff members of each Faculty** 7
- Recommendation*
That the Academic Board also appoint Associate Professor W M C Maxwell to membership of the Board as the academic staff member from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, to hold office from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2002, as recommended.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Report of the Chair

5.1 Report on Senate matters

Senate, at its meeting on 3 October 2000, on the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 16 August 2000:

- (1) approved the amendment of the student membership of the Faculty of Nursing, with immediate effect, and amended related Resolutions of the Senate 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 with three amendments.
- (3) approved the introduction in 2001 of the new combined course, the Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Medical Science, and amended related Resolutions of the Senate as recommended in report.
- (4) approved the introduction in 2001 of the new specialisation, Electronic Commerce, in the Bachelor of Engineering course and amended related Resolutions of the Senate as recommended in the report.
- (5) approved the introduction in 2001 of the new combined course, the Bachelor of Engineering (Electronic Commerce)/Bachelor of Commerce, and amended related Resolutions of the Senate as recommended in the report.
- (6) approved the introduction in 2001 of:
 - the new subject areas of Clinical Data Management, Health Informatics, Cardiopulmonary Physiotherapy, Neurological Physiotherapy and Paediatric Physiotherapy in the Master of Health Science course,
 - the revised subject areas of Physiotherapy, Manipulative Physiotherapy and Sports Physiotherapy in the Master of Health Science course,
 - major changes to the Graduate Diploma of Health Science and Graduate Certificate of Health Science courses,
 - the new Master of Health Information Management course; andamended related Resolutions of the Senate as recommended in the report.
- (7) amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Bachelor of Laws, adopting new Resolutions made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Undergraduate Courses) Rule 1999, as recommended in the report.
- (8) amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Bachelor of Nursing, adopting new Resolutions made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Undergraduate Courses) Rule 1999, as recommended in the report.
- (9) approved the introduction in 2001 of the new combined course, the Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Science, and amended related Resolutions of the Senate as recommended in the report.
- (10) approved the introduction in 2001 of the new course, the Bachelor of Science (Molecular Biotechnology), and amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the above course, adopting new Resolutions made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Undergraduate Courses) Rule 1999, as recommended in the report.
- (11) amended the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Bachelor of Psychology, adopting new Resolutions made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Undergraduate Courses) Rule 1999, as recommended in the report.
- (12) approved the introduction in 2001 of the new subject area, Molecular Biotechnology, in the Graduate Certificate in Applied Science, Graduate Diploma in Applied Science and Master of Applied Science courses, and amended related Resolutions of the Senate, as recommended in the report.
- (13) noted the report of the Chair on the Pilot project for the Flexible entry scheme.

5.2 General report

5.2.6 Quality assurance and WebCT

The University has selected WebCT as the platform for flexible online learning. Training programs are starting this month, and some materials will be prepared for Semester 1, 2001.

Experience at other universities suggests that, at this early phase of the introduction of WebCT, the Academic Board should develop management systems for the assurance of quality in online programs. Much of the responsibility for quality assurance will rest with Faculties and teaching staff, and the Board should encourage and facilitate this through its policy framework.

As a first step to a Board policy framework, I suggest that the Academic Board resolve as follows:

Recommendation

That the Academic Board request the Chair to ask Professor Carlile and Professor Ramsden, in consultation with Faculty Teaching and Learning Committees and with the Institute for Teaching and Learning, to propose quality assurance processes for WebCT-related teaching. The Board's Teaching and Learning Committee will consider the proposal in the first instance.

5.2.7 Report on Semester 1 Examinations

A total of 592 examinations were scheduled in the formal examination period at the end of semester 1, 2000. Of these, 173 were 3hour examinations and would have required the Dean's permission allowing the long duration. A total of 57 examinations involved examination times exceeding 30 minutes per credit point.

The option of scheduling two 2hour and one 3hour examination in a single day proved difficult for students (requiring special arrangements), supervisors and schedulers. Such timetabling will normally not be required in future examinations.

The Academic Board is asked to note that for the forthcoming Semester 2, 2000 examination period, the schedule requires 2 weeks plus 1 day. If reliance on 3-hour examinations could be reduced, and a cap of 30 minutes per credit point respected, the time required for formal examinations might be reduced to two weeks.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the report.

AGENDA ITEM 6.

Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

6.1 Report on Senate matters

Senate, at its meeting held on 3 October 2000:

- (1) admitted Associate Professor Helen Beh, a retired member of the academic staff, to the degree of Master of Science *ad eundem gradum*.
- (2)
 - (i) appointed the following members of the Selection Committee for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research):
Dr Michael Copeman,
Ms Larina Frolich,
Ms Daphne Kok and
Dr Chris Mallett (Deputy Chief Executive of the CSIRO).
 - (ii) appointed the following nominees proposed by the Academic Board:
Professor Les Field
Professor Margaret Harris
Professor Judy Raper
Professor Max Bennett, and
 - (iii) endorsed the following reserve members:
Dr Robin Fitzsimons
Professor Peter Wolnizer
Professor John Carter
Professor Stephen Leeder.
- (3) endorsed the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Roadmap for Reconciliation, recognising the University's already established policies in employment and student support, which have been designed to advance the cause of reconciliation and the scope of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff.
- (4)
 - (i) noted and approved the dissolution of the Dental Health Education and Research Foundation and the Faculty of Dentistry Foundation;
 - (ii) approved the establishment of the Oral Health Foundation under the Constitution presented in the report;
 - (iii) agreed to the transfer of assets from the Dental Health Education and Research Foundation and the Faculty of Dentistry Foundation to the Oral Health Foundation; and
 - (iv) expressed its appreciation to Dr Keith Hunter for his contribution to the work of the University as President of the Dental Health Education and Research Foundation and to Dr John Wilkinson AO for his contribution to the work of the University as President of the Faculty of Dentistry Foundation.
- (5) noted the revised terms of reference of the Orange Agricultural Advisory Committee, and noted the new membership of the Advisory Committee;
- (6) noted a report on Sesquicentenary events.
- (7) noted the Go8 document "Imperatives and Principles for Policy Reform in Australian Higher Education", released on 30 August 2000, together with the Vice-Chancellor's comments on a critique of the document by Dr Butler.
- (8) noted the report on the following functions during the Sydney 2000 Olympics:
 - A visit by President Trachtenberg of George Washington University who intended to establish a Study Abroad program with the University of Sydney;
 - A function for Dr C Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, hosted by the Chancellor.

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- A lunch with Mrs M Pitt, Chancellor of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, where aspects of higher education in Britain were discussed;
 - An evening in the Great Hall to welcome the Hungary Olympic Team and the Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr V Orbain;
 - A Sunday afternoon demonstration of dances from Catalonia, in the presence of Mr J Samaranch.

and congratulated the following University of Sydney students/members of Sydney University sporting clubs:

- Mr C Fydler – a gold medal for the 4x100 metres men’s swimming team
 - Ms Y Higgins, Ms D Watson and Ms L Weekes – a gold medal for women’s water polo
 - Ms R Gilmore – a bronze medal for women’s synchronised diving
- (9) congratulated the two recipients of the Prime Minister’s Prize for Science, Dr Jim Peacock and Dr Liz Dennis, who were both graduates of the University.
- (10) approved the proposed compulsory subscription for the SRC of \$58 for 2001.
- (11) resolved that the University affirms the following principles regarding its place within the Australian community: (i) that The University of Sydney should continue to be an independent public institution* of higher education; (ii) that the preponderant form of funding of undergraduate places within The University of Sydney should continue to be public funding; and (iii) that the preservation of public higher education in Australia is a commitment of the University. The Senate requests the Vice-Chancellor to convey these views to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia in the strongest possible terms.
- * A public institution being an institution in the public domain, owned in all respects by the people; and public education being an education available without reference to the social class, wealth or income of the person seeking access, and without reference to any other of the personal characteristics generally covered in legislation in regard to discrimination.
- (12) resolved that a fresh election for the position of Postgraduate Fellow should be conducted on 30 November 2000.

AGENDA ITEM 15. General Business

15.2 Membership of the Academic Board

(2) Filling of casual vacancies: academic staff members elected from the academic staff members of each Faculty

The Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science has nominated Associate Professor W M C Maxwell to fill the casual vacancy for an academic staff member of the Board from the academic staff members of that Faculty.

The Board is asked to appoint Associate Professor Maxwell to membership of the Board, as recommended, to hold office from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2002.