



Academic Board Minutes

Executive Officer to the Academic Board: Megan Kemmis

Secretariat, Quadrangle, A14

Phone: 9351 3306; Fax: 9351 3572

E-mail: admin@academicboard.usyd.edu.au

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 2 November 2005 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Chair (Professor J Carter) presiding, the Deputy Chair (Associate Professor A F Masters), the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Professors P Gay and Associate Professor B Sutton), Professors M Behnia, C Benrimoj, A Brewer, A Coats, L Copeland, D Day, S Garton, G Hancock, B Hesketh, G Llewellyn, G Murray, S Nicholas, B Reid, B Roufogalis, J Sinclair and K Walker, Associate Professors D Dragovich, R Drynan, A Fekete, C B Gillies, M Halliwell, P McCallum, C Peck, I Ramzan, and S West, Drs K Bosward, M Boughton, P Knight, M Torode and A Van Schaik, Mr P Ball, Ms L Brown, Ms M Hopwood, Ms R Jackson, Mr P Leung, Mr C Ritchie, Ms K Sexton (for Mr J Shipp), Ms T Thornley and Ms J Vaughan.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Ms J Russell).

In attendance: Ms M Kemmis.

The Chair advised members that the following items had been withdrawn from the agenda:

- 10.2.2.1 (2); and
- 13.2.

★ **1. Apologies**

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors C Armour, D Armstrong, D Grant, J Hearn, M Jackson, J Lawler, C Murphy, R Newman, J Uther and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors A Rubbo, A Welch and P Windsor, and Drs W Adams, R Dixon, M Edmond, N Gallery, P Gibbens, J Hughes, E Innes, C Lennings, I Maxwell, R Stanton and K C Wong, Mr B Kotic, Ms S Lam, Ms K McGraw, Ms J Mooney, Mr C Ritchie, Ms P Sexton and Mr J Shipp.

★ **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 item was starred: 8.1.2.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 306/05

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolution 307/05

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2005 as a true record.

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

The Chair advised members that at the last meeting a question had arisen regarding the faculty resolutions for the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Science. He referred members to the response from the Faculty of Economics and Business in the agenda papers.

Members endorsed the response, and the recommendation.

Resolution 308/05

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business for the amendment of the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce and the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Commerce courses;
 - (2) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and
 - (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to units of study, the pass degree, the honours degree, the combined degrees and award of the degrees
- with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented to the Academic Board meetings of 21 September 2005 and 2 November 2005.

★ **5. Report of the Chair**

5.1 Report on Senate Matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 19 September 2005

The Chair drew members' attention to the report of the Senate meeting held on 19 September 2005.

Resolution 309/05

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 19 September 2005.

5.2 General Report

5.2.1 Report of 2005 Winter School

The Chair drew members' attention to the report of the 2005 Winter School.

Resolution 310/05

That the Academic Board note the report of the 2005 Winter School, as set out in the report presented.

5.2.2 Strategic Directions 2006-2010

The Chair advised members that this document had been approved by Senate at its meeting on 19 September 2005. While the Board was not directly involved in its development, many individual members were. It was expected that the Board would have a role to play in how the document would be interpreted and implemented in the academic life of the University.

Resolution 311/05

That the Academic Board note the report on the Strategic Directions 2006-2010, as set out in the report presented.

5.2.3 Academic Board Membership 2006

The Chair noted that there were many vacancies still to be filled and urged Deans to advise the Academic Board office of any nominations to fill these vacancies. He also advised members that he would not be nominating for re-election as Chair of the Academic Board.

Resolution 312/05

That the Academic Board note the report on Academic Board membership for 2006, as set out in the report presented.

5.2.4 National Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Academic Senates

The Chair advised members that a meeting attended by the Chairs of Academic Boards of almost all universities in Australia was held at the University of NSW on Friday, 14th October. The main topic on the agenda was the role and function of the Academic Board in the modern Australian University, and in particular the relationship between collegiality and managerialism.

One of the tangible outcomes of the meeting was expected to be a document setting out what the chairs believe should be the roles and responsibilities of Boards. When the document is available it would be circulated to all members of the Academic Board.

Resolution 313/05

That the Academic Board note the report on the National Committee of Chairs of Academic Board and Academic Senates, as set out in the report presented.

5.2.5 Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)

The Chair advised members that Professor Judyth Sachs had been confirmed in the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and invited members to join with him in congratulating her on the appointment.

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

Before giving his report, the Vice-Chancellor took the opportunity to thank Professor Carter for his work as Chair of the Academic Board.

6.1 Report on Senate Matters

6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 19 September 2005

The Vice-Chancellor advised members that he had nothing further to add to the report of the Senate meeting held on 19 September 2005.

Resolution 314/05

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 19 September 2005.

6.2 General report

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Academic Board that the *Times Higher Education Supplement* 2005 World University Ranking had recently been released. With regard to overall rankings, the highest ranked Australian

university is the University of Melbourne at 19, followed by the Australian National University (ANU) at 23, Monash University at 33, the University of Sydney at 38 and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) at 40. The rankings are based on a number of criteria, including peer review. Based on peer review alone, the University of Melbourne would be at 11 and the University of Sydney at 18, so other criteria are having an impact on the university's overall ranking. As an example, the recruiter review score for universities showed that Harvard University came first with 100%, but the University of Sydney only scored 4% on this criterion. It was not clear why the University received such a poor score.

Rankings had also been published for five different discipline groupings Science, Technology, Arts & Humanities, Social Science and Biomedicine. The University's rankings in these groups were as follows:

	Science	Technology	Arts & Humanities	Social Science	Biomedicine
World ranking	37 th	48 th	Equal 36 th (with Macquarie University)	19 th	18 th
Australian ranking	3 rd (after ANU & Melbourne)	6 th (after UNSW, Melbourne, Monash, ANU & Queensland)	6 th (after Melbourne, ANU, La Trobe, Monash & UTS)	4 th (after Melbourne, ANU & Monash)	2 nd (after Melbourne)

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that there was a significant time lag between the collection of the data behind these rankings and the publication of the rankings, and during that time the University had continued to improve.

Resolution 315/05

That the Academic Board note the general report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

The Vice-Chancellor was asked to elaborate on what the Strategic Directions would mean in practice for staff at the University. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the next step would be for each section of the University to develop strategies based on the objectives and strategies in this document. He noted that it was critical that the University achieve an increase in nett resources in order to meet its goals, and that this could be done through efficiencies in operations and in sourcing further nett funding.

The Vice-Chancellor also advised that the draft enterprise bargaining agreement would be presented at the next Senate meeting and would then be published on the University's website for consultation and feedback.

★ 7. **Question time**

There were no questions raised.

8. Reports of Faculties and Boards
8.1 Report of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery
8.1.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 316/05

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery.

★ **8.1.2 Semester and Vacation Dates 2006**

The President of the Students' Representative Council advised the Academic Board that students in the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery were concerned that the proposed changes to semester dates from the Faculty would seriously curtail the mid-year break. The Faculty responded that the clinical placement block in the proposed calendar represented the total available time for placements, and that each student would in fact be placed for a shorter period within this block.

Resolution 317/05

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery for the year 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to note the Academic Board's approval of the semester and vacation dates for 2006.

(File 036/0006/00210)

9. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee
(Associate Professor Bruce Sutton)

★ **9.1 Oral report of the Chair**

The Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Associate Professor Bruce Sutton, advised members that the Admissions Sub-Committee had met recently and considered some items referred to it from the Academic Board. There would be some clarification of the admission rules as a result. Further correspondence on these issues had been received on the day of the meeting and would be considered at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Associate Professor Sutton also noted that some faculties had expressed concerns about the timelines in the new courses and fees toolkit. He advised members that the proposed meeting dates for the Committee in 2006 had been reviewed as a result. He also reminded members that the changes to course approval deadlines were in response to requirements from the Department of Education, Science and Training, not the Academic Board.

Resolution 318/05

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

9.2 Report of the meeting held by circulation in October 2005

9.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 319/05

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held by circulation in October 2005.

9.2.2 Proposals for Amended Courses

9.2.2.1 Faculty of Economics and Business: Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences and Bachelor of Laws, and Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws

Resolution 320/05

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences and Bachelor of Laws, and Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws combined degree courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and
- (2) approve the faculty requirements relating to the cross-faculty management of the courses, units of study, the pass degree, the honours degree and award of the degrees

with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences and Bachelor of Laws, and Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws combined degree courses.

(Files 003/0017/00010, 003/0017/00011, 003/0017/00012, 003/0019/00019)

9.2.2.2 Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Behavioural Health Science and Bachelor of Health Sciences

Resolution 321/05

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Behavioural Health Science and Bachelor of Health Sciences courses within the Faculty;
- (2) note the amendment to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to these courses within the Faculty, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and

- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to units of study with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Health Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Behavioural Health Science and Bachelor of Health Sciences courses.

(Files 002/0010/00019, 003/0032/00006, 2001/1050, 2003/3391, 2003/3392, 2003/4237, 2003/4238)

9.2.2.3 Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Science

Resolution 322/05

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Science;
- (2) note the amendment to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Science, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and
- (3) approve the faculty requirements relating to the honours degree with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Science to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended Bachelor of Science course.

(File 003/0021/00012)

10. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee (Associate Professor Anthony Masters)

★ 10.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, Associate Professor A Masters, reported to members on the following items:

- the Graduate Studies Committee had requested feedback from the faculties on the proposal that oral examinations become the default method for examining Doctor of Philosophy theses, and responses were due back this week. He clarified that the proposal would not make oral examinations compulsory, and would still allow the option of examining the written thesis only; and
- Associate Professor Masters also raised some issues regarding the management of Doctor of Philosophy candidates and the intellectual property related to candidates' research. He stressed the need for academic staff to ensure that students are properly advised on these matters.

A question was raised regarding the possibility of adopting the US/European model of requiring a student to sit an oral examination before submission of the final written thesis. Associate Professor Masters advised that this was not

under consideration at this time, but that the Committee would consider any submissions on this issue.

The Academic Board was also advised that the recent administrative review of the Business Liaison Office had highlighted a number of issues regarding intellectual property, and that the review had recommended some amendments to the current resolutions.

Resolution 323/05

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

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 4 October 2005

10.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 324/05

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 4 October 2005.

10.2.2 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses

10.2.2.1 Faculty of Economics and Business

- (1) **Master of Public Affairs; Graduate Diploma in Public Affairs and Graduate Certificate in Public Affairs**

Resolution 325/05

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to amend the Master of Public Affairs; Graduate Diploma in Public Affairs and Graduate Certificate in Public Affairs
- (ii) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and relating to these courses; and
- (iii) approve the faculty requirements relating to the degree;

with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the Academic Board's approval of the amended Master of Public Affairs; Graduate Diploma in Public Affairs and Graduate Certificate in Public Affairs courses, and approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and relating to these courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended Master of Public Affairs; Graduate Diploma in Public Affairs and Graduate Certificate in Public Affairs courses.

(File TBA)

(2) Master of Public Policy

This item was removed from the agenda.

10.2.2.2 Faculty of Health Sciences: Graduate Diploma in Communication Disorders

Resolution 326/05

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to introduce the Graduate Diploma in Communication Disorders
- (ii) recommend that Senate:
 - (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Health Sciences and relating to the course; and
- (iii) approve the faculty requirements relating to the degree;

with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the Academic Board's approval of the Graduate Diploma in Communication Disorders course, and approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Health Sciences and relating to this course.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Health Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of the Graduate Diploma in Communication Disorders course.

(File 2004/7047)

10.2.2.3 Faculty of Veterinary Science: Master of Veterinary Public Health Management

Resolution 327/05

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Veterinary Science to amend the Master of Veterinary Public Health Management
- (ii) recommend that Senate:

- (a) endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal; and
 - (b) approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Veterinary Science and relating to the course; and
 - (iii) approve the faculty requirements relating to the degree;
- with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it endorse the Academic Board's approval of the amended Master of Veterinary Public Health Management course, and approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Veterinary Science and relating to this course.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Veterinary Science to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended Master of Veterinary Public Health Management course.

(File 2002/4197)

10.2.3 Amendment of the Resolutions of the Senate

10.2.3.1 Faculty of Arts : Master of Arts in Public History; Master of Letters in Public History; Master of Theology; Master of Theology (Honours); Graduate Diploma in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Diploma in Modern Language Teaching; Graduate Diploma in Public History; Graduate Diploma in Public History (Heritage); Graduate Diploma in Public History (Media); Graduate Certificate in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Certificate in Human Services Management; Graduate Certificate in Modern Language Teaching; and Graduate Certificate in Public History

Resolution 328/05

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates offered by the Faculty of Arts and the adoption of new Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master of Arts in Public History; Master of Letters in Public History; Master of Theology; Master of Theology (Honours); Graduate Diploma in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Diploma in Modern Language Teaching; Graduate Diploma in Public History; Graduate Diploma in Public History (Heritage); Graduate Diploma in Public History (Media); Graduate Certificate in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Certificate in Human Services Management; Graduate Certificate in Modern Language Teaching; and Graduate Certificate in Public History, with effect from 1 January 2006, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the degrees, diplomas and certificates offered by the Faculty of Arts and the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Master of Arts in Public History; Master of Letters in Public History; Master of Theology; Master of Theology (Honours); Graduate Diploma in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Diploma in Modern Language Teaching; Graduate Diploma in Public History; Graduate Diploma in Public History (Heritage); Graduate Diploma in Public History (Media); Graduate Certificate in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Certificate in Human Services Management; Graduate Certificate in Modern Language Teaching; and Graduate Certificate in Public History courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the amended resolutions for the Master of Arts in Public History; Master of Letters in Public History; Master of Theology; Master of Theology (Honours); Graduate Diploma in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Diploma in Modern Language Teaching; Graduate Diploma in Public History; Graduate Diploma in Public History (Heritage); Graduate Diploma in Public History (Media); Graduate Certificate in Early Christian Studies; Graduate Certificate in Human Services Management; Graduate Certificate in Modern Language Teaching; and Graduate Certificate in Public History courses.

(Files 003/0015/00018, 003/0015/00024, 003/0015/00035, 003/0015/00036, 003/0015/00037, 003/0015/00038, 003/0015/00039, 003/0015/00041)

10.2.4 Review of Policies

10.2.4.1 Policy on definition of thesis, dissertation and units of study

Resolution 329/05

That the Academic Board approve the changes to the policy "Guidelines for the Usage of the Terms Thesis, Treatise, Dissertation, Essay and Long Essay as Units of Study Within Coursework Programs", with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer of the Academic Board to update the policy on Policy OnLine.

The Committees Officer to disseminate the amended policy.

(Files TBA)

10.2.4.2 PhD Candidature: Maximum Length

Resolution 330/05

That the Academic Board approve the changes to the policy “PhD Candidature: Maximum Length”, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer of the Academic Board to update the policy on Policy OnLine.

The Committees Officer to disseminate the amended policy.

(Files TBA)

10.2.5 Postgraduate English Language Requirements

Resolution 331/05

That the Academic Board amend the policy “Postgraduate English Language Requirements”, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer of the Academic Board to update the policy on Policy OnLine.

The Committees Officer to disseminate the amended policy.

(Files P24)

10.2.6 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 332/05

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 4 October 2005, as set out in the report presented.

11. Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee (Professor Penny Gay)

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11.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee, Professor Penny Gay drew members’ attention to a number of items in the Committee’s report as follows:

- 11.2.3(1): there was a robust discussion on SCEQ scores, and a major point in the discussion was the importance of providing feedback to students on their comments. Professor Gay encouraged all faculties to develop a feedback process to assure students that their comments had been taken into account; and
- 11.2.3(4): the Committee had noted with concern that the demand for the Graduate Certificate in Education (Higher Education) was outstripping the Institute for Teaching and Learning’s funding for places, and Professor Gay asked the Vice-Chancellor to consider increasing this funding.

Professor Gay also advised members that brochures were available for the e-learning symposium and encouraged members to attend.

Resolution 333/05

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

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 10 October 2005

11.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 334/05

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 10 October 2005.

11.2.2 Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty Progress Reports

Resolution 335/05

That the Academic Board note the Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty Progress Reports from the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the Faculty of Economics and Business.

11.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 336/05

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 10 October 2005, as set out in the report presented.

12. Report of the Academic Staffing Committee

(Professor Chris Murphy)

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12.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair, Professor John Carter, advised that Professor Murphy was unable to attend and referred the report of the Committee's August meeting to the Academic Board for noting.

Resolution 337/05

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

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 24 August 2005

12.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 338/05

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 24 August 2005.

12.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 339/05

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 24 August 2005, as set out in the report presented.

13 General Business

13.1 Report on promotion of academic staff from Level B to Level C

Resolution 340/05

That the Academic Board note the report on the promotion of academic staff from Level B to Level C in 2005, as set out in the report presented.

13.2 Amended Membership of the Central Promotions Committees 2005

This item was removed from the agenda.

13.3 Appointment of members of the Student Proctorial Panel

Resolution 341/05

That the Academic Board appoint members of the Student Proctorial Panel, as set out in the report presented.

The meeting closed at 2:44 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date