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## Academic Board Agenda

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### SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA for the meeting on Wednesday 5 July 2006

Pages

- ★ 1. **Apologies**  
Apologies have been received from: Professors C Armour, C Benrimoj, D Grant, J Hearn, J Higgs, M Jackson (Dr A Brew attending), R McCallum, C Mellis, A Rubbo, J Sachs and R Tiffen, Associate Professors A Bashford, B Buckley, S Kable and S Williams, Drs D Har, I Maxwell, A Molev, K Nelson, J Riley, A van Schaik, J Shaw, C Taylor and K C Wong and Mr C Ritchie.
- ★ 5. **Report of the Chair**  
5.1 **Report on Senate Matters**  
5.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 19 June 2006** 3-6
- Recommendation**  
*That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 19 June 2006, as set out in the report presented.*
- 5.4 **Notice of Motion** 6
- Recommendation**  
*That, the Academic Board:*
- (1) *recognise:*
- (i) *the significant contribution both the SRC and SUPRA make to the development of University policy and procedure;*
- (ii) *the importance of independent representation, welfare, advice and advocacy services in maintaining academic quality and standards at the University; and*
- (iii) *that the management of these services by students is a vital factor in their success in achieving these outcomes; and*
- (2) *note that the loss of any of the services or the loss of the independence of the provision of these services, as a result of the introduction of Voluntary Unionism Legislation will have a significant effect on the University's ability to maintain the highest standards in teaching, scholarship and research.*

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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 19 June 2006** 7
- Recommendation**  
*That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 19 June 2006, as set out in the report presented.*
12. **Report of the Research Committee**
- 12.2 **Report of the meeting held on 14 June 2006** 8
- 12.2.1 **Receipt of report**
- Recommendation**  
*The Academic Board receive and note the report of the Research Committee meeting held on 14 June 2006.*
- 12.2.2 **Proceedings of the Committee** 8-10
- Recommendation**  
*The Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research Committee meeting held on 14 June 2006, as set out in the report presented.*
14. **General Business**
- 14.1 **Membership of the Central Promotions Committees 2006** 11
- Recommendation**  
*That the Academic Board approve amendments to the membership of the Central Promotions Committees for 2006, as set out in the report presented.*

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **Report of the Chair**

#### **5.1 Report on Senate Matters**

##### **5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 19 June 2006**

Senate, at its meeting on 19 June 2006, on the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 17 May 2006:

- (1) approved the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Master of Agriculture, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, with effect from Semester 1, 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (2) endorsed the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to amend the Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) course to become the Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) (Honours) course and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts, and to the course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (3) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to introduce the Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) course, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and the introduction of Resolutions relating to the course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (4) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to introduce the Bachelor of Global Studies and Bachelor of Global Studies (Honours) courses, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and the introduction of Resolutions relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (5) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to introduce the Bachelor of Socio-Legal Studies and Bachelor of Socio-Legal Studies (Honours) courses, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and the introduction of Resolutions relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (6) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) (Honours) / Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery combined degree course, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Medicine and the introduction of Resolutions relating to the course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (7) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to introduce the Master of Philosophy and withdraw the Master of Science in Dentistry, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Dentistry and relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (8) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to reintroduce the Econometrics major in the Bachelor of Commerce and associate combined degree courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (9) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering to withdraw the E-commerce stream from the

- Bachelor of Engineering, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (10) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to withdraw the Bachelor of Applied Science (Health Information Management) and the Bachelor of Applied Science (Health Information Management) (Honours), and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (11) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to withdraw the Bachelor of Applied Science (Leisure and Health) and the Bachelor of Applied Science (Leisure and Health) (Honours), and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (12) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to withdraw the Bachelor of Applied Science (Orthoptics) and the Bachelor of Applied Science (Orthoptics) (Honours), and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (13) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to withdraw the Bachelor of Health Science (Rehabilitation Counselling) and the Bachelor of Health Science (Rehabilitation Counselling) (Honours), and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (14) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Bachelor of Health Sciences and the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) courses, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (15) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to withdraw the Graduate Certificate of Health Sciences (Casemix), and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Health Sciences, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (16) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Master of Orthoptics course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (17) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the Master of Bioethics, the Master of Bioethics (Honours), the Graduate Diploma in Bioethics, the Graduate Certificate in Bioethics and the Graduate Certificate in Bioethics (Biotechnology) courses, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Medicine and the introduction of Resolutions relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (18) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the Master of Philosophy and delete the Master of Philosophy in Public Health; Master of Philosophy in International Public Health; Master of Medicine (by research) and Master of Science in Medicine (by research) courses, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Medicine and the

- introduction of Resolutions relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
- (19) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Pharmacy to introduce the Master of Philosophy and delete the Master of Pharmacy (Research); Master of Pharmaceutical Science and Graduate Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science courses, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Pharmacy and the introduction of Resolutions relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (20) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science to introduce the Bioinformatics major in the Bachelor of Science course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (21) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Graduate Certificate in Bioethics, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Medicine and relating to this course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (22) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Sydney College of the Arts to introduce the Master of Documentary Photography course, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Sydney College of the Arts and the introduction of Resolutions relating to this course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (23) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Sydney College of the Arts to amend the Master of Multimedia Design course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (24) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Faculty of Medicine to introduce the Bachelor of Music Studies / Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery combined degree course, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Faculty of Medicine and the introduction of Resolutions relating to the course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (25) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Veterinary Science to introduce the Master of Animal Science (Animal Breeding Management); Master of Animal Science (Honours); Graduate Diploma in Animal Science (Animal Breeding Management); Graduate Certificate in Animal Science (Animal Breeding Management) courses, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the introduction of Resolutions relating to these courses, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.
  - (26) endorsed the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to introduce the Master of Veterinary Public Health Management (Honours) course, and approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the introduction of Resolutions relating to this course, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

- (27) noted reports on the following:
  - (a) Minor course amendments
  - (b) Vote of appreciation for Associate Professor A Masters
  - (c) Chairs of the Academic Board Standing Committees
  - (d) Appointment of Deputy Chair

**Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 19 June 2006, as set out in the report presented.*

**5.4 Notice of Motion**

Ms Jenny Leong, President of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representatives Association proposes the following motion:

*That, the Academic Board:*

- (1) *recognise:*
  - (i) *the significant contribution both the SRC and SUPRA make to the development of University policy and procedure;*
  - (ii) *the importance of independent representation, welfare, advice and advocacy services in maintaining academic quality and standards at the University; and*
  - (iii) *that the management of these services by students is a vital factor in their success in achieving these outcomes; and*
- (2) *note that the loss of any of the services or the loss of the independence of the provision of these services, as a result of the introduction of Voluntary Unionism Legislation will have a significant effect on the University's ability to maintain the highest standards in teaching, scholarship and research.*

**Background**

Section 4 of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* states, in part, that the functions of the Academic Board include:

**“4. (1) General functions**

Subject to the governing authority and powers of the Senate and to the powers of the Vice-Chancellor, the Academic Board has principal responsibility:

- (a) to maintain the highest standards in teaching, scholarship and research and, in that process, to safeguard the academic freedom of the University;...

**(2) Advisory functions**

The Academic Board will provide advice to the Senate and the Vice-Chancellor on:

- (a) academic matters relating to and affecting the University's teaching and research activities and its educational programs, including general advice on the academic priorities and policies of the University;..”

## **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 on 19 June 2006**

Senate, at its meeting held on 19 June 2006:

- (1) adopted the Rules set out in the report presented in respect of the following Foundations to take effect on 1 July 2006:
  - Bone and Joint Research Foundation, a Division of The Medical Foundation
  - Civil Engineering Foundation
  - Cornforth Foundation for Chemistry
  - Dairy Research Foundation
  - Earth Resources Foundation
  - Hoc Mai, the Australia Vietnam Foundation
  - Nutrition Research Foundation
- (2) noted a proposal for a reorganisation into nine academic entities which are intended to maintain faculty identity, as follows:
  - Group 1: Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Dentistry
  - Group 2: Science, Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Veterinary Sciences
  - Group 3: Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology
  - Group 4: Conservatorium and Sydney College of the Arts
  - Group 5: Faculty of Economics and Business, including the Graduate School of Government
  - Group 6: Faculty of Health Sciences
  - Group 7: Faculty of Law
  - Group 8: Faculty of Arts
  - Group 9: Faculty of Education and Social Workit being understood that further consultation and consideration will be required before appropriate nomenclature and final groupings for the new academic entities can be finally determined through Senate resolution. Further iteration will be brought back to Senate together with appropriate draft resolutions.
- (3) noted the report and joined the Vice-Chancellor in congratulating the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Ron McCallum, who was named an Officer of the Order of Australia and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Greg Hancock, Emeritus Professor David Weisbrot, former Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dr John Mack, former Chair of the Academic Board, Dr Lyndsay Genevieve Connors in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, Associate Professor Anthony William English in the Faculty of Veterinary Science and Dr Matthew John Hindson at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music who were named Members of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours.
- (4) noted the update on progress made by the VSU Working Party and that a proposal and constitutional amendments would come to the August Senate meeting.
- (5) noted the International report.
- (6) noted the report on University Relations which summarised activities in April and May of this year.

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 19 June 2006, as set out in the report presented.*

## **AGENDA ITEM 12**

### **Report of the Research Committee**

#### **12.2 Report of the Research Committee meeting held on 14 June 2006**

The committee met on 14 June 2006 when there were present: The Chair (Associate Professor R Overall) presiding, Professors C Armour, M Behnia, D Burke, D Cook, M Crossley, M Harris, T Hambley, R Lansbury, S Simpson, M de Sterke, Associate Professors P McCallum, B Sutton, Ms' J Leong, A McLaren, Y Sandiran, and Mr W Dawson.

##### **12.2.1 Receipt of Report**

The Committee **recommends** that the Academic Board receive and note the following report of the meeting held on 14 June 2006.

##### **12.2.2 Proceedings of the Sub-Committee**

###### **(1) Definition of Research Active**

Professor Crossley explained that the definition required by DEST is minimalist and was agreed upon long ago. This definition does not serve the University of Sydney well and is not an appropriate one to apply to a research intensive G08 member. However, the Research Office is preparing data on research output of individuals and it will be indicators relevant to RQF rather than a definition of research activity that will be important.. Proposed RQF definitions will apply to staff employed by the university in positions greater than 0.4FTE.

###### **(2) Reports from Faculties on Research Activity**

The Committee heard the following reports:

- Professor de Sterke (Faculty of Science) highlighted the Faculty's plans for raising the profile of research by ensuring that research is reported in the University News, on the University of Sydney website and in the mainstream press. The report also noted that some schools within the faculty are achieving greater research outputs than others.
- Professor Lansbury (Faculty of Economics and Business) advised that the Faculty currently holds forty ARC grants, and had moved from last position in the Go8 rankings in 2001 to second place. According to the DEST definition, 73% of the faculty's academic staff are research active though there are still some areas where further work needs to be done. The on-time completion rates for PhDs have increased in a large part due to the work of the Faculty's Director of Doctoral Studies, Professor Marcus O'Connor, however, they remain below the completion rates for our GO8 competitors. The point was raised that currently a number of PhD students from Economics and Business are visiting SUPRA concerned about the pressure they felt to complete their PhDs on time. The Faculty is focussing on attracting non-ARC grants and developing conference papers for journal publication. It is currently running grant-writing workshops and is continuing its mentoring program.

###### **(3) Report of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**

Professor Crossley reported to the Committee on the following matters:

- DEST has advised that the introduction of RQF has been delayed until 2008; and
- A productivity commission review has been launched by Treasury to investigate the benefits of public investment in research and development.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor also discussed the formation of a strategic planning group with representation from each of the new Faculty/cluster groupings to provide timely advice on how the University can improve

research performance to achieve its goals, to identify impediments and barriers to such improvement, and recommend solutions. The Committee discussed the role of the proposed group in comparison with the work of the current Academic Board Research Committee, in particular the role of the two groups in advising the Vice-Chancellor on research matters.

**(4) Report of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)**

Professor Armour reported to the Committee on the following matters:

- The Pro Vice-Chancellor is providing strategic advice and support to applicants for NHMRC funding, and retiring members of the NHMRC Research committees are contributing ideas on how to attract increased NHMRC funding to the University; and
- The Pro Vice-Chancellor has taken on oversight of human ethics (animal ethics will remain with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and is currently gathering information on improving the approval processes and committee structure.

**(5) Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies**

Professor Behnia reported to the Committee on the following matters:

- The first selection round for the University of Sydney International Research Scholarships (USIRS) have been completed with five scholarships awarded to each of the former colleges, from a total pool of 120 applicants. A recommendation has been made to the Graduate Studies Committee to increase the overall number of scholarships to thirty;
- A number of Go8 universities are moving to mandatory submission of theses in digital format and the Dean of Graduate Studies has discussed this issue with staff of the University Library, noting particularly the resource and staffing implications. Further work on this proposal will be done by the Dean and the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee; and
- The Dean congratulated the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Supervision.

**(8) Report of the Director of Research Office**

Mr Dawson reported to the Committee on the following matters:

- The University had submitted 382 applications in the recent NHMRC round, an increase of 130 from the last round, and the Research Office was currently analysing the results of its survey of applicants. The NHMRC has a new CEO and is currently undergoing major changes including greater independence from the Department of Health bureaucracy. The last round of NHMRC applications saw the inclusion of the NOI process which created difficulties for applicants and the Research Office, significantly increasing the workload for universities and the NHMRC;
- 31 applications had been received for the ARC Linkage scheme;
- LIEF received 11 bids led by the University of Sydney;
- Of the 25 new Federation Fellowships, the University has received two: Professor Benedict Kiernan and Dr Toni Shippenberg;
- The NHMRC will be introducing a scheme similar to the Federation Fellowships which will award 65 fellowships over 5 years;
- The University of Sydney Post Doctoral Fellowships have just been advertised;
- The ARC Discovery Project assessor reports will be released on 16 June;
- The Director will be presenting at the RIHSS research management post-award workshop on 16 June; and

- Mr Dawson reported on the recent ARC/NHMRC seminar in Canberra which was held June 7-8, which he and a number of staff from the Research Office attended. Mr Dawson noted that the ARC has adopted a much more collaborative stance under the leadership of their CEO Professor Hoj. He also noted that they are very committed to peer assessment. Grant recipients are expected to take part in the assessment process. Mr Dawson warned that the ARC made mention at the seminar that recipients who did not engage in the assessment process risked their eligibility for future grant funding.

## **AGENDA ITEM 14 General Business**

### **14.1 Membership of the Central Promotions Committees 2006**

It is recommended that the Academic Board approve amendments to the membership of the Level D Central Promotions Committees for 2006 (new appointments are underlined):

#### **Associate Professor**

Professor Don Nutbeam (Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor) (Chair)

Professor Bruce Sutton (Chair, Academic Board)

Professor Anthony Dooley (President, Academic Board, UNSW)

Professor Richard Banati (Medical Radiation Sciences)

Professor Catherine Stampfl (Physics)

Professor Daniel Potts (Philosophical and Historical Inquiry)

Vacancy

Professor Nalini Joshi (Mathematics)

Professor Anita Bundy (Occupation and Leisure Sciences)

*Meeting: 26 October 2006*

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Academic Board approve amendments to the membership of the Central Promotions Committees for 2006, as set out in the report presented.*