



Academic Board Minutes

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Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 23 August 2006 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor G Brown), the Deputy Chair (Associate Professor P McCallum), the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Professor C Murphy, Associate Professors S Kable and R Overall), Professors C Armour, A Aspromourgos, A Bashford, M Behnia, C Benrimoj, A Boyd, A Brewer, B Buckley, A Coats, L Copeland, D Day, P Gay, D Grant, J Hearn, M Jackson, T Kvan, G Murray and C Russell, Associate Professors F Ahmadi-Esfahani, E Cowley, R Mason, A Rubbo and S West, S Williams, Drs M Boughton, A Campbell, J Cox, S Cumming, A Dong, A Davison, M Edmond, T Gerzina, J Hanrahan, I Maxwell, A Molev, K Nelson, J Shaw, R Stanton and K-C Wong, Mr P Ball, Ms M Blanchard, Mr M Goldberg, Ms S Haggman, Ms J Henderson, Ms Y-H Koh, Ms J Leong, Mr J Shipp and Mr N Wood.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Dr W Adams).

Present as observers: Ms S Paynter, Ms J Russell and Mr M Smith (Secretariat).

In attendance: Ms M Kemmis (Executive Officer to the Academic Board).

★ **1. Apologies**

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors D Armstrong, G Gallop, L Jeffcott, J Lawler, G Llewellyn, D Nutbeam, I Ramzan, B Roufogalis, J Sachs, E Schwarz, R Tiffen, K Walker and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors R Drynan, W Evans, R Ewing, C Lumby, A Masters, and P Wynn, Drs C Campbell, M Collier, D Har, J Hughes, K Joliffe, P Knight, C Taylor, and Ms L Brown, Mr V Ghazavi, Ms C Jarrett, Mr S Lojewski, Mr A McLeod, Ms J Mooney and Mr C Ritchie.

★ **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: 15.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 232/06

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting
3.1 Meeting of 5 July 2006

Resolution 233/06

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 July 2006, as a true record.

4. Business arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)
There was no business arising from the minutes.

★ **5. Report of the Chair**

5.1 Senate Matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 14 August 2006

The Chair drew members' attention to the report of the Senate meeting held on 14 August 2006, noting that the courses approved by the Board had been endorsed by Senate.

The Chair advised members that one item of business of relevance to the Board had been held over until the next Senate meeting. This concerned the amendment of the Senate Resolutions on Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions in response to recommendations from the Topley report of 2004.

The Chair noted that these revisions would have an impact on the Academic Board's appeals processes. The Academic Board's resolutions on Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions would require amendment, and the Academic Board would need to complete the revision of its resolutions (a process which began in 2005). The Chair noted that the delays in implementing the proposed Students at Risk policy were due to issues with reporting modules available in FlexSIS.

The Chair briefly outlined the proposed process for Senate appeals. A panel of 12 to 20 people would be created and trained. The panel would be composed of academic staff (representing at least half the panel members) and students with the possibility of including members from outside the University. For any particular appeal the Registrar would select three members from the panel. The student making the appeal and the relevant faculty would provide written submissions to the three panel members, and the members could request supplementary information if required.

The Chair advised members that Senate was seeking comment on the proposals. He encouraged members to contact himself, Fellows of Senate or the Registrar to express their views on the proposed amendments before the Senate's next meeting on 18 September 2006.

Resolution 234/06

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 14 August 2006.

5.2 Honours and Distinctions

The Board noted and congratulated the recipients of honours and distinctions, as set out in the agenda. The Chair noted that Professor Rick Shine (School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science) had last night received the \$10,000 Botanic Gardens Trust Eureka Prize for Biodiversity Research.

Resolution 235/06

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on the honours and distinctions and congratulate the recipients, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair of the Academic Board to write to recipients congratulating them on their honours and distinctions.

5.3 General Report

5.3.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews

At its meeting of 22 February 2006 the Academic Board approved a data collection form for use in the next round of Academic Board Faculty reviews. This form is currently being trialled by a number of faculties. The results from the trial by the Faculty of Education and Social Work have been received and were circulated with the agenda. The response from the Faculty of Engineering will be submitted to the next meeting.

The Chair noted that a planning meeting would be held on 5 September to reflect on this process and to further consider the nature and focus of the reviews. A report on the planning meeting would come to the next Academic Board meeting.

Resolution 236/06

That the Academic Board note the report on the trial of the data collection template for the next round of Academic Board Faculty reviews, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.2 NSW & ACT Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards meeting

The Chair advised members that a meeting of the NSW & ACT Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards had been held on Friday 18 August 2006. The major item of discussion was the protocols for accreditation of higher education institutions, which will introduce more competition in the sector, particularly for courses in high demand and for which delivery costs are reasonably low (e.g. business and health-related studies).

Resolution 237/06

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on the meeting of the NSW & ACT Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.3 Academic Board Nominees

The Chair advised members that a call for expressions of interest had recently been sent to all academic staff members. As a result there was now a list of 230 nominees for recruitment and promotion committees, with a reasonable distribution across gender, discipline and promotion level. Discussions about the involvement of nominees had already

taken place with the Director of Sydney Recruitment, Ms Lisa Rouse. A training program was being developed for the new nominees, and existing nominees would be welcome to attend as well. One issue under discussion was the timing of appointment of nominees, with the optimum time being six to eight weeks before the interview.

With the expanded list of nominees, and assuming an evenly spread workload, most nominees should only be required to act twice a year, but it was expected that all nominees would co-operate by accepting a committee appointment when contacted. Once a nominee accepted a committee appointment their name would then be rolled to the bottom of the list.

Resolution 238/06

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on Academic Board nominees, as set out in the report presented.

The President of the Students' Representative Council asked the Chair to comment on why proposed changes to the student appeals process had gone to Senate without first being discussed by the Academic Board, particularly as the Topley report on the student appeals process had been referred to Senate from the Academic Board. The Chair invited the Registrar to respond to this question, and the Registrar advised that the Topley Report had been a comprehensive and wide-ranging review of student appeals at the University, while the proposals put to Senate related purely to the operations of the Senate's appeal committees.

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

6.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

6.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 14 August 2006**

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the following matters from the Senate meeting of 14 August 2006:

- Newsweek had recently published its own ranking of global universities, taking some of the criteria of the Shanghai Jiaotong University rankings and the Times of London Higher Education Survey, and including criteria such as openness and diversity. The University of Sydney was one of two Australian universities in the top 50 (ANU was placed at 38), with another 5 Australian universities in the top 100; and
- Senate has approved considerable funding (\$30 million over the next three years) to maintain the student experience at the University. The funding acknowledges the importance of the student experience in attracting students to the University of Sydney and other Australian universities, as well as the role of student organisations such as the University of Sydney Union, Sydney University Sport, the Students' Representative Council and the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association. The allocation of these funds has meant altering some of the University's priorities, including delaying the development of some research infrastructure.

The Vice-Chancellor also advised members that he had issued an e-mail to all staff and students regarding incidents on

campus of abuse towards Jewish students. He reiterated that any form of racial or religious abuse was completely unacceptable and that all staff and students had responsibilities to ensure that such behaviour was neither condoned nor supported.

Resolution 239/06

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 14 August 2006.

6.2 General report

The Vice-Chancellor advised members that he had no other issues to report.

★ **7. Question time**

No questions were raised.

★ **8. Presentation: Australian Certificate of Education**

Members noted that the Chair had advised the Academic Board at an earlier meeting of his intention to form a Working Party to consider the DEST report on the proposed Australian Certificate of Education. He advised members that, based on the Working Party's report, the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor Nutbeam) had submitted a response from the University to DEST, which had been co-signed by the Chair of the Academic Board. The Chair invited Professor Gordon Stanley (President, NSW Board of Studies) to provide background information on this issue, and invited Honorary Associate Professor John Mack to present the Working Party's report.

Professor Stanley advised members that the issue of a national certificate was not new, but had recently become a focus of Federal government policy. At the same time, the issue of common curricula and employability skills testing had been raised by a number of lobby groups. The Department of Education, Science and Training had commissioned Professor Geoff Masters (Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council for Education Research) to produce a report on a possible national certificate, the Australian Certificate of Education. Professor Masters' report had concluded that there should be a move towards such a certificate through a series of steps, looking at common curriculum areas across the various State senior secondary certificates. These common areas of learning could be used to develop national standards, which each State could report against in their own certificates. Professor Masters' report also considered the possibility of reporting on employability skills at all levels of education, and recommends a national test of some key skills.

Professor Stanley advised that the State education ministers had met with their Federal counterpart in July at a meeting of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). At this meeting, the Federal Minister for Education had not asked for the Masters' report's recommendations to be accepted, but had asked the States to note the contents of the report and the Federal government's efforts to progress the recommendations of the report. Each State was also asked to nominate a representative to work on identifying common curricula. The State ministers, while noting the contents of the Masters' report, declined the invitation to nominate representatives and instead determined that Victoria should look at the feasibility of introducing a common scale and a quality

assurance mechanism. In essence the States expressed a willingness to look at having a more consistent system while expressing support for retaining individual State systems.

In terms of the current NSW Higher School Certificate, Professor Stanley noted that the Masters' recommendations were reasonably consistent with the current system. He expected that there would be moves towards greater consistency across the States in curricula, assessment and reporting. The main concern of the Board of Studies was the recommendation of introducing an additional examination or assessment in Year 12. Professor Stanley noted that a report by Allen Consulting Group on "Skills in the Knowledge Economy" had argued strongly that competencies should not be reported separately in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

Professor Mack advised members that the Working Party had been asked to consider the Masters' report from the point of view of the admission of recent school-leavers to the University and the impact of the report's recommendations on the University's current admission processes. Of the four options canvassed in the Masters report, only one appears feasible on the basis of practicality and cost, but the report itself lacked detail on how the recommendations would work in practice. The Working Party had supported the concept of common core curricula and comparing outcomes from such curricula but was concerned by the possibility that these common areas could become mandatory subjects for all students, which would have a considerable impact on current admissions processes. The Working Party was also concerned by the recommendation to introduce an additional examination or assessment of key competencies in the senior school years. As well as imposing an extra burden on students, the Working Party was not convinced that such competencies should be assessed separately and supported the idea of including them within current Year 11 and 12 curricula (this would be similar to the inclusion of Meyer competencies in Years 7 to 10 curricula). On a related note, Professor Mack advised members that he had recently had the opportunity to speak with a group of Year 11 and 12 mathematics teachers. The teachers had commented that the current system of assumed knowledge was meaningless from their point of view and recommended a move back to pre-requisites. He noted that such a move could have an adverse impact on students and he suggested that the Board should review the issue of assumed knowledge and how it can be communicated more strongly to schools and students.

Members accepted the report of the Working Party. The Chair invited members to ask questions on the report.

Professor Stanley was asked to comment on what might happen over the next twelve months. He responded that this would depend on how closely the State agendas aligned with the Federal minister's aims. He noted that the Federal minister had warned MCEETYA that this issue could be referred to the Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) which meant that reforms could be tied to Federal funding. However, he pointed out that the Masters' report had suggested the changes be introduced incrementally, and that the States were currently assessing the current system against the proposals in the report.

Professor Stanley was also asked to comment on what mechanisms were in place to ensure that the outcome was not a political compromise, or an appeasement of specific interest groups, and how consistency across the State systems could be achieved while avoiding adopting a "lowest common

denominator” approach. Professor Stanley responded that developing national standards would inevitably involve some compromise. He noted that NSW was in a good position as it had already moved to standards-based curricula. He further noted that the States had more areas of similarity in their curricula than differences, and the goal would be to find out how significant those differences are and where necessary solve them.

On behalf of the Academic Board, the Deputy Chair thanked Professor Stanley and Professor Mack for their presentation.

Resolution 240/06

That the Academic Board note the presentation on the proposed Australian Certificate of Education.

★ 9. **Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies**

9.1 Student Research Experience Questionnaire (SREQ) Results

The Chair invited the Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Behnia to present the report on the analysis of Student Research Experience Questionnaire (SREQ) data.

Professor Behnia advised members that the presentation was the result of analysing SREQ data from 2002 to 2005 (noting that more than 50% of students had responded, the majority being PhD candidates) and highlighting areas where the University was doing well, and those where it needed to improve. He noted that studies on student attrition and completion rates indicated that the major factors are the quality of supervisor-student relations, the field of study, student involvement in structured activities, interaction with academic peers and financial support.

Professor Behnia highlighted the results of benchmarking the SREQ data against national data from the Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ). The University lagged behind other Group of 8 institutions in research facilities and research climate, but equalled or exceeded student expectations in the other criteria. The data indicated consistent improvement over the past four years, with the University’s main strengths being supervision and generic skills. Professor Behnia stated that the University should be aiming to achieve a minimum 75% satisfaction rating across all the criteria, and that this could be achieved by a variety of means, e.g. supervision contracts, greater use of the Institute for Teaching and Learning’s supervision development program, induction days and bi-annual student conferences, peer support, improvement of research infrastructure, etc. He also advised that the data would be further analysed by faculty clusters, with best practice and benchmarking identified, and faculty and University goals for improved performance would be set. He tabled the full report to members at the meeting, and invited members to provide comments to their faculty’s Associate Dean (Research).

Professor Behnia was asked to comment on where there was a correlation between attrition rates and specific faculties or faculty clusters. He advised that he was finalising a study on completions at the University over the last 15 years and that this would be presented to the Board shortly.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) noted that the orientation process for students, particularly international students, was an area of concern, and Professor Behnia agreed that more needed to be done in this area.

Members accepted the report. The Chair thanked Professor Behnia for his presentation.

Resolution 241/06

That the Academic Board note the report of the Dean of Graduate Studies on Student Research Experience Questionnaire results.

10. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee
(Associate Professor Scott Kable)

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10.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Associate Professor Kable, advised members that the major item at the Committee's meeting had been the establishment of the Honours Working Party. The group had been established following a query from the Faculty of Veterinary Science regarding the research component of the honours degree, how it should be defined and what portion of the degree it should represent. He advised members that the Working Party had held its first meeting. A request has been sent to faculties for information on current honours degrees, and faculties have also been invited to comment on honours information from the Australian National University and the University of Queensland. He anticipated that a report from the Working Party would come to the November meeting of the Board.

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 25 July 2006

10.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 242/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 25 July 2006.

10.2.2 Faculty Resolutions

10.2.2.1 Faculty of Arts: Bachelor of Arts

Resolution 243/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the amendments to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Arts in the Faculty of Arts, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and
- (2) approve the faculty requirements relating to units of study,
with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Arts to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty

Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Arts course.

(File 2000/3982)

10.2.2.2 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Bachelor of Music (Music Education)

Resolution 244/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the amendments to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Music (Music Education) in the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and
- (2) approve the faculty requirements relating to units of study,
with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Music (Music Education) course.

(File 2000/4196)

10.2.3 Reports from Faculties

10.2.3.1 Faculty of Veterinary Science: Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience

Resolution 245/06

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Veterinary Science regarding the introduction of new units of study in the Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience.

(File 2000/8761)

10.2.4 Award of Honours at the University of Sydney

Resolution 246/06

That the Academic Board note the report on the award of honours at the University of Sydney, as set out in the report presented.

10.2.5 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 247/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 25 July 2006, as set out in the report presented.

11. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee (Associate Professor Peter McCallum)



11.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, Associate Professor P McCallum, drew members' attention to the revised guidelines for PhD examiners. He noted that the revisions clarified the issue of consultation amongst examiners, and advised examiners that they could contact their fellow examiners but were expected to provide an independent examination report. Minor amendments had also been made to the section on theses containing publications.

Resolution 248/06

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

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 24 July 2006

11.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 249/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 24 July 2006.

11.2.2 Amendment of Resolutions of the Senate

11.2.2.1 Faculty of Architecture: Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Design Science; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Urban Design; Master of Urban Design (Urban Design and Planning); Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Resolution 250/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate approve:
 - (a) the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Design Science; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Urban Design; Master of Urban Design (Urban Design and Planning); Master of Urban and Regional Planning, and
 - (b) the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000, and
- (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 admission, specially designated streams and award of the degree, with effect from Semester 1, 2007, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the adoption of new Resolutions of Senate relating to the Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Design Science; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Urban Design; Master of Urban Design (Urban Design and Planning); Master of Urban and Regional Planning courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Architecture to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Faculty resolutions relating to the Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Design Science; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Urban Design; Master of Urban Design (Urban Design and Planning); Master of Urban and Regional Planning courses.

(Files 2000/2977, 2000/2978, 2000/2979, 2000/3082, 2000/3083, 2000/3087, 2000/3091)

11.2.2.2 Faculty of Medicine: Doctor of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Biostatistics; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Health Policy; Master, Graduate Diploma of International Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Medical Education; Master, Graduate Diploma of Surgery; Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion

Resolution 251/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate approve:
 - (a) the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the Doctor of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Biostatistics; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Health Policy; Master, Graduate Diploma of International Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Medical Education; Master, Graduate Diploma of Surgery; Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion, and
 - (b) the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of

- Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000,
and
- (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 admission, specially designated streams and award of the degree,
- with effect from Semester 1, 2007, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend to Senate that it approve the adoption of new Resolutions of Senate relating to the Doctor of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Biostatistics; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Health Policy; Master, Graduate Diploma of International Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Medical Education; Master, Graduate Diploma of Surgery; Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion courses.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Faculty resolutions relating to the Doctor of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Biostatistics; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Health Policy; Master, Graduate Diploma of International Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma of Public Health; Master, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate of Medical Education; Master, Graduate Diploma of Surgery; Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion courses.

(Files 003/0020/00012, 003/0020/00016,
003/0020/00029, 003/0020/00032,
2001/760, 2001/761, 2001/762)

11.2.3 PhD: Guidelines for Examiners of Doctor of Philosophy Theses : Conferring of Examiners

Resolution 252/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the amendments to the PhD: Guidelines for Examiners of Doctor of Philosophy Theses to reflect the current Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Resolutions of the Academic Board; and
- (2) note that the Postgraduate Research Training Sub-Committee will be reviewing the Degree of Doctor of

Philosophy, Resolutions of the Academic Board, The Examination Process – 2. Consideration by examiners with immediate effect.

Action: The Committees Officer to distribute the revised Guidelines to faculties.

(File P17)

11.2.4 English Language Requirements: Feedback from International Office regarding English Language Requirements – Combined Universities Language Test

Resolution 253/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the recommendation that the International Office, in conjunction with the Centre for English Teaching be responsible for updating the Combined Universities Language Test CULT whenever a faculty requests a change to the minimum standard mark for IELTS and TOEFL; and
 - (2) recommends the International Office, in conjunction with the Centre for English Teaching note their responsibility in updating the Combined Universities Language Test whenever faculties recommend changes to IELTS and TOEFL,
- with effect from 1 January 2007.

Action: The Director, International Office and the Director, Centre for English Teaching to note the Academic Board's approval of the revised processes relating to CULT and English language requirements.

(File P24)

11.2.5 Deputy Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee

Resolution 254/06

That the Academic Board approve the appointment of Dr Maureen Boughton to the position of Deputy Chair, Graduate Studies Committee from July 2006 to July 2007.

11.2.6 Reports from Faculties

11.2.6.1 Faculty of Health Sciences : Units of Study

Resolution 255/06

That the Academic Board note the unit of study information supplied by the Faculty of Health Sciences.

11.2.7 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 256/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 24 July 2006, as set out in the report presented.

12. Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee
(Associate Professor Robyn Ewing)

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12.1 Oral report of the Chair

In the absence of Associate Professor Ewing, the Chair of the Academic Board advised that the Committee would be establishing three working parties on the following issues:

- plagiarism and plagiarism detection (this had arisen from a recommendation by the Internal Auditor that the Academic Board develop a policy on plagiarism detection);
- assessment for learning and assessment of learning; and
- “Bologna”, i.e. developing a watching brief on the potential for alignment with northern hemisphere tertiary systems.

The terms of reference, membership and reports would come to the Academic Board over the next few meetings. The Chair advised that there would be interim, as well as final, reports from working parties, which would provide opportunities for discussion.

Resolution 257/06

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

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 1 August 2006

12.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 258/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 1 August 2006.

12.2.2 Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty Progress Report

Resolution 259/06

That the Academic Board note the Faculty Progress Report from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, as set out in the report presented.

12.2.3 Faculty Reports on Cases of Academic Dishonesty

Resolution 260/06

That the Academic Board note the report on cases of academic dishonesty, as set out in the report presented.

12.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 261/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 1 August 2006, as set out in the report presented.

13. Report of the Research Committee
(Associate Professor Robyn Overall)

★ **13.1 Oral report of the Chair**

The Chair noted that Associate Professor Overall had been unable to attend the August meeting of the Research Committee and that he had chaired the meeting in her absence. The main issue for discussion was the proposed research funding model for 2007 which contained some significant departures from the current model, e.g. there would be an increased focus on research income and higher degree completions. Details of the new funding model had been distributed to Deans and Associate Deans (Research) in the faculties.

The Deputy Chair expressed concern at the impact the new funding model would have on research in the humanities faculties, pointing out that the model did not recognise that there was a lack of synergy in the humanities between research, publications and grants. He also expressed concern that the funding model placed the risk for student non-completion with the faculty, and that this would become an additional deterrent for research degrees in the humanities faculties. Members noted that the funding model would provide a transitional period in which faculties would be guaranteed to receive not less than 90% of the 2005 grant.

Professor Behnia pointed out that the new funding model was far more transparent than the previous scheme. The Deputy Chair suggested the funding model could be improved by considering student numbers, as well as fees.

Resolution 262/06

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

13.2 Report of the meeting held on 2 August 2006

13.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 263/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Research Committee meeting held on 2 August 2006.

13.2.2 2007 Research Funding Model Report

Resolution 264/06

That the Academic Board note the report on the 2007 Research Funding Model, as set out in the report presented.

13.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 265/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Research Committee meeting held on 2 August 2006, as set out in the report presented.

14. Report of the Academic Staffing Committee
(Professor Chris Murphy)

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14.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Academic Staffing Committee, Professor Chris Murphy, highlighted the work currently underway to recruit more Academic Board nominees. He also advised members that the Committee would be forming Working Parties to look at the following issues:

- the academic experience, which would look beyond the issue of workloads; and
- academic freedom, with the aim of developing a statement or guidelines on this issue.

Resolution 266/06

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

14.2 Report of the meeting held on 2 August 2006

14.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 267/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 14 June 2006.

14.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 268/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 2 August 2006, as set out in the report presented.

15. General Business

15.1 Membership of the Central Promotions Committees 2006

Resolution 269/06

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

15.2 Academic Staff Promotions to Level B in 2006

Resolution 270/06

That the Academic Board note the report on the promotion of academic staff to Level B in 2006, as set out in the report presented.

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15.3 SRC/SUPRA Motion

The Chair noted that the Presidents of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) and the Sydney University Postgraduate Association (SUPRA) had asked for this item to be starred, and it was clear from the documents they had distributed to members that they wished to move a motion without notice. The Chair advised that he would rule the proposed motion out of order because the subject of the motion dealt with a Senate process and was thus *ultra vires*. He reiterated his earlier advice that any member with concerns about the proposed Senate amendments should submit their views to Senate.

The President of SUPRA advised members that the SRC and SUPRA were concerned that the proposed amendments had not been submitted to the Academic Board for consideration and comment, given that the proposed amendments would have an impact on Academic Board processes. She also stated that both student bodies were concerned that the original recommendations from the Topley report were not accurately reflected in the proposal presented to Senate.

The meeting closed at 3:51 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date