



Academic Board Minutes

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Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 15 November 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 R Ewing, S Kable and R Overall), Professors D Armstrong, C Armour, A Aspromourgos, A Brewer, A Coats, L Copeland, D Day, G Hancock, J Lawler, G Llewellyn, D Nutbeam, C Rhodes, B Roufogalis, C Russell, J Sachs, E Schwarz Associate Professors F Ahmadi-Esfahani, A Bashford, B Buckley, E Cowley, R Drynan, R Mason, A F Masters, S West and S Williams, Drs M Boughton, A Campbell, C Campbell, M Collier, J Cox, S Cumming, A Dong, J Hanrahan, D Har, K Jolliffe, J Kelly, I Maxwell, P McGreevy, A Molev, K Nelson, M-A Schnabel, J Shaw, A Van Schaik, K-C Wong, Mr P Ball, Mr M Goldberg, Ms J Henderson, Ms C Jarrett, Ms J Leong, Mr A McLeod, Mr J Shipp and Mr N Wood.

Also present: Secretary of the Academic Board (Dr M Edmond).

Present as observers: Mr R Araghi (SUPRA), 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 C Benrimoj, A Boyd, M Field, G Gallop, P Gay, J Hearn, T Kvan, G Murray, P Parkinson, K Parton, R Tiffen, K Trigwell and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors C Lumby, A Rubbo and P Wynn, Drs C Campbell, T Gerzina, J Hughes and C Taylor, Mr V Ghazavi, 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 items were starred: 10.2.1.2(2), 11.2.7, 12.2.3 and 12.2.4.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 319/06

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting
3.1 Meeting of 4 October 2006

Resolution 320/06

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 October 2006, as a true record.

4. Business arising from Minutes (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)
Members were advised that the Director, Summer School, would provide a response to queries raised regarding the Report of the Winter School (Item 8.2) to the Academic Board's meeting of 13 December 2006.

★ **5. Report of the Chair**

5.1 Senate Matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 6 November 2006

The Chair drew members' attention to the report of the Senate meeting held on 6 November 2006, noting that the amendments to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* approved by the Board had been endorsed by Senate.

Resolution 321/06

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 6 November 2006.

5.2 Honours and Distinctions

The Board noted and congratulated by acclamation the recipients of honours and distinctions, as set out in the agenda.

Resolution 322/06

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 Membership of Senior Executive Selection Committees

The Chair advised members that Senate had approved the formation of a number of selection committees for various senior executive appointments. The Chair noted that he had been requested by Senate to provide details of nominees for these committees. Acting on behalf of the Academic Board, he made the following nominations:

- Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Professor Penny Gay (with Professor Greg Hancock as reserve member);
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) – Professor Les Copeland (with Associate Professor Robyn Overall as reserve member);
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) – Professor Charles Areni and Professor Greg Murray (with Associate Professor Sandra West as reserve member);
- Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) and Pro Vice-Chancellor – Associate Professor Robyn Ewing and

- Professor Gwynneth Llewellyn (with Associate Professor Jennifer Hodgson as reserve member);
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Planning) – Professor Peter Wolnizer and Professor Chris Murphy (with Associate Professor Susan Williams as reserve member); and
 - Deanship, Faculty of Architecture – Professor Margaret Miller (as nominee of the Chair of the Academic Board).

The above nominations were noted by the Academic Board.

The Chair further advised that at its meeting on 6 November 2006, Senate passed the following resolution:

PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SENATE AND THE ACADEMIC BOARD IN RESPECT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR AND FOR SELECTION OF A VICE-CHANCELLOR

Following the extension to 7 July 2008 of the Vice-Chancellor's appointment on the terms recorded, and in order to provide a timely process for Senate to appoint and have in office an outstanding successor by that date, the Senate will appoint a Joint Committee of Senate by no later than the Senate meeting in December 2006 to be chosen in accordance with principles of good governance consisting of:

- (a) members ex officio (namely, the Chancellor, the Deputy Chancellor, and the Chair of the Academic Board),
- (b) members of Senate appointed by the Senate; and
- (c) members equal in number to those appointed under (b), to be appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Academic Board through its chair,

to identify and review applicants for appointment as the next Vice-Chancellor and to make recommendations to Senate for its determination in respect of such appointment reporting to Senate on a regular basis. Such will include the appointment by the committee of a suitable search firm of the highest integrity and competence in order to maximise the University's capacity to approach possible outstanding applicants on a strictly confidential basis in the first instance in order to ascertain their interest who may not otherwise respond and to have the benefit of objective external input and additional due diligence.

In order to represent the width of interest on the Board, it would be desirable to have four members appointed under (c). The Joint Committee will be a committee of the Senate which will report to that body.

The members of the Board to be nominated to Senate for appointment to the Joint Committee will be nominated to the Board by the Chair of the Academic Board (my italics).

The Senate is to approve the final composition of the committee, maintaining the equality of number referred to in (c)

above and be in a position, should circumstances warrant this to replace a member of the Committee or require in the case of those nominated by the Academic Board that the Chair of the Academic Board nominate a replacement for appointment by Senate.

A majority of the members of the Committee must be external, but so that a student Fellow may constitute an external member.

The Chair noted that the Joint Committee would comprise 11 members, with 3 ex-officio members, 4 members from Senate, and 4 from the Academic Board. He advised that Senate has decided that it will only appoint external members of Senate to this committee.

The Chair advised members that, being restricted to four members, he had attempted to select people who would be strong advocates for the many academic facets of the University and that he had been assisted in this by the Chairs of the Board's standing committees. There was obviously no possibility that four members could be fully representative of all the disciplines at the University. It was decided that membership would be restricted to Level E members (as per nominations to previous Joint Committees). Other factors considered were gender balance, spread across discipline groupings, spread across professional and liberal arts faculties, the different sizes of faculties, and ensuring strong external and internal perspectives. One area where there was a gap was in finding a science and technology professor, preferably female, with strong external experience. Professor Trehwella had been identified as a possible candidate but it would require her appointment to the Academic Board as a member.

The Chair advised that he wished to nominate to the Board the following persons as the Academic Board members on the Joint Committee:

- Professor Stephen Garton (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Professor Geoff Gallop (Director, Graduate School of Government)
- Professor Jocalyn Lawler (Dean, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery)
- Professor Jill Trehwella (Federation Fellow, Faculty of Science)

The following members were nominated as reserves:

- Professor David Day (Dean, Faculty of Science)
- Professor Chris Murphy (Bosch Professor of Histology and Embryology, Faculty of Medicine)

The Chair noted that biographies for the nominated members were included in the supplementary agenda.

The Dean of Engineering acknowledged the difficulties in finding four appropriate nominees for the Joint Committee but

raised serious reservations regarding the representation of the professional faculties. He moved that the list of nominees be reconsidered with a view to rectifying this issue. The Dean of Law seconded this amendment.

The Chair explained that both the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery and the Director of the Graduate School of Government had been selected with this issue in mind. At this point a member suggested that the issue of Professor Trewhella's nomination as a member of the Academic Board should be dealt with first.

The Chair advised that he was nominating Professor Trewhella for membership of the Academic Board under section 5 (1) (f) of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended). This nomination for membership would not only allow Professor Trewhella to be nominated to the Joint Committee (as set out above), but would provide the Academic Board with representation by a senior research-only academic. Professor Trewhella's appointment would be for a period expiring 31 December 2007, in line with all other academic staff members currently on the Academic Board.

Members approved the nomination of Professor Trewhella to membership of the Academic Board.

The Chair returned to the amendment from the Dean of Engineering and reminded members that the nominations had been requested by Senate in time for Senate's meeting of 4 December. He stated that if the Academic Board agreed that amendment was required to the list of nominees then the finalisation of those names would need to be done by circulation. The amendment was put to members, with 14 members voting in support and 25 voting against. The amendment failed.

The Chair asked members to accept the nomination of the four members and two reserves as outlined in the supplementary agenda. At this point it was suggested that the four nominations plus two reserves be put to Senate as a list of six, given that the Senate resolution did not refer to the nomination of reserves. The Chair pointed out that the Senate resolution did mention that the Chair of the Academic Board had authority to appoint replacement members if required, and that the two reserves were provided in this context.

Members were asked to vote with regard to the nomination of four members and two reserves to the Joint Committee. 45 members voted in support of the Chair's nominations with 2 members voting against. The motion was carried.

Resolution 323/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) appoint Professor J Trewhella under section 5 (1) (f) of the University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended) as a member of the Academic

- Board for the period 16 November 2006 to 31 December 2007; and
- (2) approve the members of the Joint Committee for the selection of the Vice-Chancellor on the nomination of the Chair of the Academic Board;
 - (3) note the Chair's report on nominations to selection committees for senior executive positions as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to advise Senate of the Academic Board's nominations to the Joint Committee for the selection of the Vice-Chancellor.

The Executive Officer to the Academic Board to amend the membership of the Academic Board to include the appointment of Professor J Trehwella.

(File 2003/2980)

5.3.2 Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions

The Chair advised members that at its meeting of 6 November 2006, Senate had approved the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006*. The effect of this new rule was to establish one Student Appeals Committee to hear student appeals against all academic decisions, including academic decisions relating to exclusion and applications for readmission or re-enrolment. This was consistent with the recommendations of the review of student appeals policies and practices conducted in 2004 by Mr John Topley.

As a consequence of Senate's approval of this new Rule, a number of amendments were now required to the Academic Board Resolutions: Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions. These amendments were as follows:

1. Clause 9 of the "Procedures for Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework Awards" is to be deleted and replaced with the following passage:

'9. Written appeal

If the student is not satisfied that his or her concerns have been addressed satisfactorily under this procedure, the student may lodge a written appeal in accordance with the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006*.'

2. Similarly, Clause 12 of the "Procedures for Student Appeals against Academic Decisions for Postgraduate Research Awards" is to be deleted and replaced with the following passage:

'12. Written appeal

If the student is not satisfied that his or her concerns have been addressed satisfactorily under this procedure, the student may lodge a written appeal in

accordance with the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006.*'

Senate had also requested that the Academic Board expedite revision of all of the resolutions of the Academic Board on student appeals against academic decisions, in accordance with the recommendations of the Topley Review.

With regard to this last point, the Chair reminded members that in December 2005 the Academic Board had approved in principle the implementation of the Students at Risk policy. He noted that implementation had been delayed until such time as FlexSIS was capable of providing the relevant student reports. This had now been achieved and work was progressing on developing a user's guide for staff and students.

The President of SUPRA noted that both SUPRA and the SRC had raised concerns about the Senate rule, and asked it be noted that, while the majority of these concerns had been addressed at the last Senate meeting, some were still being discussed. The President also expressed concern that the Rule had been developed by staff of the Office of General Counsel rather than by members of the Academic Board and its standing committees, and suggested that it would have been more appropriate for the Office of General Counsel to have been consulted on refining a document prepared by Academic Board and committee members.

The following issues were raised with regard to the new Senate rule and the amendments to the Academic Board's resolutions:

- the Academic Board resolutions in the Calendar appeared to differ from those on Policy OnLine (this would be checked although it was noted that the amendments put to the Academic Board were based on the version in the University Calendar);
- it seemed that PhD students would not be covered by the new Rule, however the Chair advised that this had been amended and that they would now be covered;
- non-award students would not be covered by the new Rule – it was agreed that this matter would be investigated further; and
- the Senate rule implied that a student was unable to proceed with their appeal until the matter had been dealt with (i.e. either upheld or declined) at the faculty level – the Chair advised that specific timelines were included in the Academic Board's resolutions to ensure that faculties dealt with matters in a timely fashion.

An Academic Board member suggested that where members identified major issues with agenda items it would be useful to have the details of those concerns prior to the meeting so that members could properly consider them. The President of SUPRA asked that the Academic Board advise Senate of the issues raised regarding the new Senate rule. The Chair reminded members that the Academic Board would be

reviewing its policies on student appeals and that many of these issues could be addressed via this review.

Members approved the amendments to the Academic Board Resolutions: Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions.

Resolution 324/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note Senate's decision to approve the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006*;
- (2) approve the proposed amendments to the Academic Board Resolutions: Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions; and
- (3) note Senate's request that the Academic Board revise its resolutions on student appeals against academic decisions in accordance with the recommendations of the Topley review

as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to revise the Academic Board's resolutions on student appeals against academic decisions in accordance with the recommendations of the Topley review.

The Executive Officer to the Academic Board to amend the Academic Board Resolutions: Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions.

(File 2001/2169)

5.3.3 Academic Board Committees

At the Academic Board's last meeting the Chair advised that full details of the proposed amendments to the Board's Standing Committees would be presented to this meeting. The Chair noted that a briefing paper outlining the rationale and details of the proposed amendments was circulated with the agenda, together with a summary of the consequent amendments to Academic Board and Senate policies and resolutions which will be required as a result of the amendments to the Academic Board's Standing Committees.

The Chair noted that the business of the Academic Board and the University had evolved and that the Board needed to review and revise its structures to deal with the changes. He outlined the rationale for the changes as presented in the report with particular reference to the shift from a discreet Library Sub-Committee to better articulated reporting lines with, and clear representation from, the University Library, and the revised Graduate Studies and Research Committees. He noted that the revised Academic Board committee structure might not reflect faculty committee structures and he stressed the need for faculties themselves to determine who would best represent them on the Board's committees.

The President of SUPRA expressed support for the amendments but asked that the experience and knowledge of

the existing members of the Postgraduate Coursework Sub-Committee be reflected in the new membership of the Graduate Studies Committee. She also asked that the Academic Board consider representation from early career researchers on the Research and Research Training Committee.

The following issues were raised regarding the amended terms of reference:

- it was noted that the Graduate Studies Committee and the Research and Research Training Committee did not have a Library representative – the Chair advised that the terms of reference strengthened the reporting lines between the committees and the Library and that there was scope for a Library representative to be co-opted or invited to attend to address specific items; and
- a general concern was raised regarding the consideration of major issues by committees without scope for the Academic Board to fully discuss the issues

Associate Professor Drynan moved to amend the terms of reference for the standing committees to allow members of the Academic Board to attend meetings as observers, and that such members be allowed, with the permission of the Chair of the committee, to address the meeting on issues being considered by the committee. This motion was seconded by the President of SUPRA.

Another member noted that faculties were represented on these committees, and that the faculty representatives could be asked to present issues and questions raised by other members of their faculties at the committee meetings. In that respect he saw no need for the addition of observer rights for Academic Board members. The Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee stated that he had no problem with observers attending the committee's meeting but could not support any move to give observers voting rights. It was clarified that the motion would not give voting rights to Academic Board members attending standing committee meetings as observers.

The motion was put to the vote with 25 members voting for and 18 voting against. The motion was carried. With that amendment the recommendation was put to the meeting and carried.

Associate Professor Masters asked that the Academic Board formally thank Dr Maureen Boughton for her work as Chair of the Postgraduate Coursework Sub-Committee. Dr Boughton was thanked by acclamation, and the Academic Board noted and expressed appreciation for the work of the other members of the Sub-Committee.

Resolution 325/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposed amendments to the Graduate Studies Committee and Research Committee of the

- Academic Board and consequent amendments to Academic Board policies;
- (2) recommend that Senate note the amendments to the Academic Board's Standing Committees and approve the consequent amendments to Senate resolutions and policies; and
 - (3) note the Chair's report on the restructuring of Academic Board committees
- as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate note the amendments to the Academic Board's Standing Committees and approve the consequent amendments to Senate resolutions and policies.

The Executive Officer to the Academic Board to amend the Terms of Reference for the Board's Standing Committees.

(Files 2003/3385, 2004/1797, 2004/1800, 2004/1803, 2004/1806, 2004/1809, 2004/1812, 2004/1815, 2004/1818, 2004/1821, 2004/1824)

5.3.4 Academic Board Faculty Reviews

Following discussions between the Chair of the Academic Board and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), the next phase of Academic Board Faculty Reviews has been developed. The following documents were provided to members:

- new guidelines, for the approval of the Academic Board;
- a draft program of Review visits; and
- a table showing the differences and similarities with the Academic Board Phase 1 and 2 reviews.

The Chair noted that this is an important part of the Academic Board's work and is highly regarded by other institutions. The new guidelines were approved by the Academic Board.

Resolution 326/06

That the Academic Board approve the guidelines for the Academic Board Phase 3 Faculty Reviews, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to the Academic Board to publish the Phase 3 Guidelines for Academic Board Faculty Reviews.

(File To be created)

5.3.5 National Colloquium of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates

The 2006 National Colloquium of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates was held at the University of South Australia on 23 and 24 October 2006. Major presentations were given on "The Purposes and Functions of Academic Boards", "The Bologna Process" and "The Research Quality Framework" and

there were addresses from Mr Colin Walters (Group Manager Higher Education, DEST) and Dr David Woodhouse (Executive Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency).

The Chair advised that Mr Walters had advised the Colloquium that DEST was committed to developing a diploma supplement for Australian institutions to ensure that they are compatible with the Bologna process, and that the University of Sydney would be involved in the development of this supplement. Dr Woodhouse had advised that the next round of AUQA reviews would focus on standards and benchmarking, and the Chair thanked Professor Sachs for ensuring that the University of Sydney was prepared for this shift in focus.

There was a strong move to formalise this group, and discussions are underway on how this could be achieved. There had been some discussion about the group joining the proposed Universities Australia body, but members had agreed to remain as a separate group. The group is planning to meet next year in Perth.

Resolution 327/06

That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on the National Colloquium of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.6 Academic Board Forum

The next Academic Board Forum will be held on Friday 17 November 2006 and is being co-ordinated by the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Forum will look at the issue of PhD examinations, and will build on the work being done by one of the Board's working parties. Speakers will include Professor Behnia, Professor Sid Burke (University of Newcastle) and Professor Margaret Kiley (Australian National University).

Resolution 328/06

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

5.3.7 2007 Academic Board Meeting Dates

Members were asked to note the schedule of meeting dates for 2007.

Resolution 329/06

That the Academic Board note the schedule of meeting dates for 2007, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.8 Academic Board Nominees Training

On 1 November 2006 a training session was held for new and existing Academic Board nominees, with over 60 people attending the session. Mr John Hackett, Director of Sydney Recruitment, and Ms Anne Scahill, Director of Staff and Student Equal Opportunity, provided advice on current personnel processes. The Chair advised that the training session had been very constructive and that more would be held in the future.

Resolution 330/06

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

5.3.9 Tribute to Professor Judyth Sachs

The Chair gave the following tribute to Professor Sachs:

As most people are aware, Judyth is leaving the University of Sydney next month to take up the position of Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Macquarie University. This is sad news for us, but (yet another) leap forward for Judyth.

Judyth has held academic positions at the University of Queensland, Griffith University and the University of Sydney. She first joined the University of Sydney as Professor of Education in 1996. In the Faculty of Education she was Pro-Dean from 1999-2001 and Chair of the Academic Board's Teaching and Learning Committee from 1999-2003.

In 2001 she was elected Chair of the Academic Board, a position she held until June 2004 when she took up the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching). Her term of office as Chair was highlighted by the review of the Academic Board and the (then) Academic Forum, leading to the introduction of a new Academic Board structure. Major policy initiatives included the introduction of the Intellectual Property Rule, Academic Honesty in Coursework and the development and implementation of the system of faculty reviews, as well as reviews of Academic Board communication of policy and of the student appeals process.

The Faculty Reviews in particular are likely to be Judyth's enduring legacy at the University. The principles behind the reviews and the processes with which they have been conducted embody her commitment to collegiality and to promoting and celebrating achievements by staff across this University. The Chair also gave his personal thanks to Professor Sachs for her encouragement to him.

The Chair asked members to join with him in thanking Judyth for her many contributions to our University and in wishing her every success in the future.

Resolution 331/06

That the Academic Board join with the Chair in acknowledging Professor Sachs' contribution to the University and wishing her every success in her future career.

★ 6. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

6.1 Report on Senate Matters

6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 6 November 2006

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the report on the Senate meeting of 6 November 2006 was contained in the supplementary agenda and that he had nothing further to add to this report.

Resolution 332/06

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting held on 6 November 2006.

6.2 General report

The Vice-Chancellor announced that the University had been successful in its bid for the new US Studies Centre. The winning bid had been announced at the inaugural dinner of the American Australian Association held the previous night. The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Nutbeam and Dr Sean Gallagher for their work on the successful bid, as well as the many academics who had supported the project. He noted that the University was already receiving enquiries from students and academic staff in the United States expressing interest in studying and working at the University as a result of this successful bid.

The Vice-Chancellor also expressed his delight at the recent news that the University had been ranked 5th in the world in the Times Higher Education Supplement humanities rankings. He congratulated the humanities staff at the University on this result.

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Academic Board that the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee (AVCC) was still working towards the development of a new body, Universities Australia, which would also include University Chancellors. He advised that both he and the University's Chancellor, the Hon. Justice Kim Santow, were not in favour of the proposal to combine the Vice-Chancellors and Chancellors associations into one body, and both were concerned about the potential for conflict between the two groups of representatives.

The Vice-Chancellor also advised the Academic Board that the Research Quality Framework had been approved by Federal cabinet and appeared to have been approved in the form proposed by Dr Jim Peacock (Chief Scientist), which would include assessment of research impact. It appeared likely that the Framework would be introduced for 2008, but the final details had not yet been released by the Federal Government.

★ 7. Question time

The Vice-Chancellor was asked whether the proposed amalgamation between the Faculty of Architecture and the Faculty of Engineering was proceeding and advised that, while both faculties were amending their names, they would not be amalgamating. He was further asked to comment on the proposed Faculties of Arts. The Provost advised that this proposed cluster was still the subject of some discussion. The Vice-Chancellor added that these discussions would not affect the title of the Sydney College of the Arts.

The Chair of the Academic Board was asked to expand on his earlier comments regarding the evolution of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). The Chair advised that his comment was a reference to the progression of AUQA towards investigating the outcomes of University processes. The Vice-Chancellor commented that AUQA was still committed to its external evaluation of goals identified by each university. He noted that

the Australian Labor Party would like AUQA to be replaced by a system of standards-based evaluation of universities.

The Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery asked the Vice-Chancellor to share with the Academic Board some of his insights regarding the University's strategic role in Asia. The Vice-Chancellor commented that the main focus of the recent Asian visits had been the graduation ceremonies in Shanghai and Hong Kong, but that the University had taken the opportunity to engage in range of discussions in both regions on issues such as research and shared teaching with the aim of building sustainable partnerships and co-operative ventures. He noted that China in particular was expanding rapidly in the tertiary education sector and it was vital that the University of Sydney position itself strategically in the area. He reiterated that there were no plans for the University to establish off-shore campuses, and that the University remained committed to the existing model of shared operations with local institutions.

The Chair was asked to explain to the Academic Board the authority on which he had made his nominations to Senate for the various senior executive selection committees mentioned earlier. The Chair advised that he made these nominations under the Senate Resolutions on pages 142 and 143 of the University Calendar 2006. It was pointed out that the resolutions regarding Pro Vice-Chancellors stated that the Academic Board, not the Chair, was to make the nominations to Senate. The Chair advised that Senate had asked for the nominations on very short notice, and that the resolutions had recently been revised by Senate. He asked the members to vote on the selection committee nominees relating to positions at the Pro Vice-Chancellor level. The nominations were approved.

★ **8. Presentation on University College Sydney**

The Chair invited the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community), Professor Andrew Coats, to speak to the Academic Board regarding the proposed University College Sydney.

The Vice-Chancellor advised members that this matter had been discussed as a confidential item at Senate's most recent meeting, and that there were some aspects of the proposal that needed to remain commercial-in-confidence. However he also noted that there was a need for the scope of the proposal to be shared and discussed collegially.

The Vice-Chancellor explained that the concept would involve a number of phases. The first phase would encompass some of the University's non-core academic activities, such as the Centre for English Teaching, the Centre for Continuing Education and the University's Summer and Winter Schools. These units would be transferred to a company structure outside the University itself. The second phase would use the same structure to build and develop foundation programs and alternative pathways for entry to university (e.g. students who had not achieved a UAI sufficient for admission to one of the University's degrees could enrol in a course at the College). As the University's admission requirements were at the high end of the market, there were still a large number of capable students who were ending up at other institutions because they had just missed out on admission here.

In the medium to long term, as well as potentially generating considerable income, the new structure would allow the University enormous flexibility to focus on its core activities. The Federal Government's alterations to the accreditation system for tertiary institutions raised the very real threat of

private operators and overseas institutions delivering low-cost, no-frills education with the potential to erode the University's current operating base. The Vice-Chancellor finished by noting that Senate had approved the concept in principle and would be considering a more detailed proposal.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community), Professor Coats, advised members that the concept had developed from the University's continued growth in alternative and additional educational activities. The success of these activities indicated a growing demand for such services, but there was a need for the University to look at more efficient ways of delivering these services. From this basis the project had expanded to identify services not currently offered by Australian universities, in particular alternative entry pathways for bright students who had not succeeded at the Year 11 and Year 12 level. The market for mature age students was also evolving with a significant portion of the workforce considering major career shifts. The proposed College could offer such people a means of engaging in tertiary studies at their own pace. Professor Coats stressed that the proposed College would adhere to the high academic principles of the University itself, and that the Academic Board's oversight and involvement would be crucial in ensuring this level of quality.

Members made the following comments about the proposal:

- the proposed College could potentially allow students to transfer in to the University at 2nd year level, which would have a positive impact on the University's drop-out rates;
- there was also potential for University and College students to be co-taught – Professor Coats advised that it was too soon to comment on this possibility, but there was the possibility that the University's facilities would be used by the College, and transferring credit from College studies to the University was definitely something that would be considered;
- the Vice-Chancellor commented that there were some issues where a definitive answer was not yet available; however it was still valid to raise and discuss these issues;
- a member queried whether the proposal would be similar to the failed Melbourne Private venture – the Vice-Chancellor noted that venture had focussed on postgraduate students and had competed directly with the University of Melbourne whereas the College proposal would be quite different; Professor Coats added that part of the proposal development was a review of similar structures in Australia and overseas with the aim of identifying best practice and potential problems;
- a query was raised regarding the proposed College competing with new tertiary-level providers, and Professor Coats advised that the College would be pitched at the high end of this market, and would not simply be competing on price;
- it was noted that the College had the potential to assess the academic capabilities of students who did not have a UAI or equivalent score;
- as well as undergraduate and university preparation courses, there was also potential for the College to offer some postgraduate and continuing professional education courses;
- a decision had not yet been made as to whether the College would be located at a separate site from the University; and
- there was a potential for mature-age students to initially undertake education for leisure and then transfer into academic units of study.

Members expressed support for the College concept.

Resolution 333/06

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community) on the proposed University College Sydney.

9. Reports of Faculties and Boards

9.1 Faculty of Education and Social Work- Semester and Vacation Dates 2007

Resolution 334/06

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for the Faculty of Education and Social Work for the year 2007, as set out in the report presented.

9.2 Sydney Conservatorium of Music - Semester and Vacation Dates 2007

Resolution 335/06

That the Academic Board approve the semester and vacation dates for the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for the year 2007, as set out in the report presented.

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

★

10.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Associate Professor Kable, advised members that the main issue currently before the Committee was the review of honours at the University. He advised that a discussion paper on this review would be presented at the December meeting of the Academic Board. He highlighted the main issues discussed in the paper as follows:

- the number of credit points that should be associated with the identifiable research component of honours;
- the entry standard for admission to honours;
- the standard required for the different classes of honours in integrated (i.e. WAM-based) honours;
- the range of assessment instruments for honours units of study;
- the range of merit degrees that are currently offered; and
- the standard required for graduation with a merit degree.

Resolution 336/06

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

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 31 October 2006

10.2.1 Faculty Resolutions

10.2.1.1 Faculty of Education and Social Work: Bachelor of Education

Resolution 337/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the amendments to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Education in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, made pursuant to the

- University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and
- (2) approve the faculty requirements relating to requirements for the degree, with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Education and Social Work to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Education degree course.

(File 003/0030/00022, 003/0030/00023, 003/0030/00031, 2000/3998, 2001/1989, 2001/1990, 2001/7117, 2001/7118, 2001/7119, 2001/7121)

10.2.1.2 Faculty of Health Sciences

(1) **Bachelor of Behavioural Health Science**

Resolution 338/06

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the table of units of study for the Bachelor of Behavioural Health Science degree in the Faculty of Health Sciences, with effect from 1 January 2007, 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 amendments to the table of units of study for the Bachelor of Behavioural Health Science degree course.

(File 002/0010/00019)

★

(2) **Bachelor of Health Sciences (Physiotherapy)**

A query was raised regarding the compliance of this course with the *University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 (as amended)* given that it appeared to allow students to graduate having completed only one semester full-time at the University. It was agreed that this matter would be referred back to the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

At this point the meeting was deemed inquorate.

10.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 339/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 31 October 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

This item was not considered.

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 30 October 2006

11.2.1 Academic Board – 2006 Self-Review – Realignment of Graduate Studies Committee and Research Committee

Resolution 340/06

That the Academic Board approve the new structure of the Standing Committees of the Academic Board and the new terms of reference and membership of the Graduate Studies Committee and the Research and Research Training Committee.

11.2.2 Proposals for New and Amended Courses – Faculty of Economics and Business – Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Enterprise

Resolution 341/06

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to introduce the Graduate Certificate in Innovation & Enterprise
- (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 the course; and
- (iii) approve the faculty requirements relating to the degree; with effect from Semester 1, 2007, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Economics and Business to introduce the Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Enterprise and approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Economics and Business and relating to the course.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Economics and Business to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce the Graduate Certificate in Innovation & Enterprise course.

(File 2006/9023)

11.2.3 Proposals for Deletion of Postgraduate Courses – Faculty of Arts – Master of Arts in Early Christian Studies

Resolution 342/06

That the Academic Board:

- (i) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to delete the Master of Arts in Early Christian Studies
- (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 Arts and relating to the course

with effect from Semester 1, 2007, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Chair to recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts to delete the Master of Arts in Early Christian Studies and approve the amendment of the Senate Resolutions relating to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Arts and relating to the course.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Arts to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Master of Arts in Early Christian Studies degree course.

(File 003/0015/00034)

11.2.4 Amendment of the Resolutions of Senate and Faculty – Faculty of Law – Postgraduate Courses

Resolution 343/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) recommend that Senate approve:
 - (a) the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the postgraduate degrees and diplomas in the Faculty of Law, and
 - (b) the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000,
- (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, units of study, the pass degree, combined degrees, specially designated streams and award of the degree for postgraduate degrees and diplomas in the Faculty of Law,

with effect from Semester 1, 2007, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Chair to recommend that Senate approve the rescission of the Resolutions of the Senate relating to the graduate degrees and diplomas in the Faculty of Law and the adoption of new Resolutions of the Senate relating to these courses, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000.

The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Law to note the Academic Board's approval of the revised Senate and Faculty resolutions relating to the Faculty's graduate degrees and diplomas.

(File 003/0019/00006, 003/0019/00007, 003/0019/00008, 003/0019/00009, 003/0019/00013, 003/0019/00014, 003/0019/00015, 003/0019/00018, 2000/3486, 2000/3487, 2000/4532, 2001/2540, 2001/5887, 2002/1057, 2002/1058, 2002/1059, 2002/1060, 2002/1061, 2002/1062, 2002/1063, 2002/1064, 2003/4455, 2004/7623)

11.2.5 Report from Faculties – Faculty of Arts – English Language Requirements

Resolution 344/06

That the Academic Board amend Appendix 1 of the policy "Postgraduate English Language Requirements", as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Executive Officer to update the policy on Policy OnLine.

(File P24)

11.2.6 Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Resolution 345/06

That the Academic Board note the Summary Report on the Student Research Experience Questionnaire (SREQ) Action Plans, as set out in the report presented.

- ★ **11.2.7 Proceedings of the Committee**
This item was not considered.

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

- ★ **12.1 Oral report of the Chair**
This item was not considered.

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 31 October 2006 **12.2.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty Progress Reports**

Resolution 346/06

That the Academic Board note the Faculty Progress Reports from the Faculty of Dentistry and the Faculty of Law, as set out in the report presented.

12.2.2 Faculty Reports on Cases of Academic Dishonesty

Resolution 347/06

That the Academic Board note the report on cases of academic dishonesty in 2005 and its recommendations, as set out in the report presented.

★ **12.2.3 Research-enhanced Learning and Teaching**

This item was not considered.

★ **12.2.4 Annual Reports of the Learning Centre and the Mathematics Learning Centre**

This item was not considered.

12.2.5 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 348/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 31 October 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**

This item was not considered.

13.2 Report of the meeting held on 20 September 2006

13.2.1 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 349/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 20 September 2006, as set out in the report presented.

The meeting closed at 4.12 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date