



Academic Board Minutes

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Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2 pm on Wednesday 4 October 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, M Behnia, C Benrimoj, A Brewer, L Copeland, D Day, G Hancock, J Hearn, J Higgs, J Lawler, G Llewellyn, R McCallum, I Ramzan, C Rhodes, B Robinson, J Sachs, R Tiffen, K Trigwell and P Wolnizer, Associate Professors F Ahmadi-Esfahani, E Cowley, R Drynan, W Evans, R Mason, A F Masters, A Rubbo and S Williams, Drs A Campbell, M Edmond, J Hanrahan, J Hughes, K Jolliffe, P McGreevy, A Molev, K Nelson, M-A Schnabel, J Shaw, and K-C Wong, Mr P Ball, Ms L Brown, Mr V Ghazavi, Ms C Jarrett, Ms J Leong, Mr S Lojewski and Mr T Patton.

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

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

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

Prior to the meeting, the Chair introduced Professor Keith Trigwell, the newly appointed Director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning.

★ 1. **Apologies**

The Board noted that apologies had been received from: Professors C Armour, A Aspromourgos, A Boyd, M Crossley, P Gay, D Grant, T Kvan, C Mellis, G Murray, D Nutbeam, P Parkinson, B Roufogalis and K Walker, Associate Professors A Bashford, C Lumby, C Russell and S West, Drs M Boughton, C Campbell, L Chappell, M Collier, J Cox, T Gerzina, D Har, P Knight and R Stanton and Ms J Henderson, Ms Y-H Koh, Mr A McLeod, Mr C Ritchie and Mr N Wood.

★ 2. **Arrangement of agenda**

★ 2.1 **Starring of items**

Members of the Board were invited to star for discussion any unstarred items.

The following additional item was starred: 8.2.

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution 272/06

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting

3.1 Meeting of 23 August 2006

Resolution 273/06

That the Academic Board adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 August 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.

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5. Report of the Chair

5.1 Senate Matters

5.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 18 September 2006

The Chair drew members' attention to the report of the Senate meeting held on 18 September 2006, noting that the courses approved by the Board had been endorsed by Senate.

Resolution 274/06

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 18 September 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 also congratulated Dr Deanna d'Alessandro, School of Chemistry on winning Fresh Science 2006, a national competition promoting the work of early-career scientists. Her prize involves a study tour of the UK sponsored by the British Council Australia and the opportunity to present her work at the Royal Institution in London.

Resolution 275/06

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 Committees

Following discussions amongst the Chairs of the Academic Board's Standing Committees, a number of amendments are proposed to the terms of reference and membership of the existing committees. Minor amendments relating to the Undergraduate Studies Committee and Learning and Teaching Committee are outlined in the reports of these two committees later in the agenda.

In addition, discussions are being held within the Graduate Studies Committee and Research Committee which will lead to the transfer of some functions from Graduate Studies to Research. The Chair advised that the changes would reflect the abolition of the Colleges, which had been the basis for representation on many committees. Full details of the proposed amendments will come to the next meeting of the Academic Board.

Resolution 276/06

That the Academic Board note the report on the restructuring of Academic Board committees, as set out in the report presented.

5.3.2 Academic Board Membership

At its meeting of 18 September 2006, Senate was asked to amend a number of rules to reflect the abolition of the Colleges of Health Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences and Sciences and Technology. Among the rules to be amended was the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* which outlines the membership and functions of the Academic Board. Proposed amendments to the rule relating to membership of the Board were withdrawn at the Senate meeting pending the Academic Board's consideration of these issues.

Under the current version of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* elected student members and elected non-professorial academic staff members are nominated by and elected from college electorates. It is proposed that both categories of membership be amended to reflect the abolition of the college structure. The suggested amendments are set out in the attached, revised version of Clause 5 of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003*.

The proposed changes can be summarised as follows:

- addition of the Director of the International Office and the Director of Student Services as ex officio members (both are currently co-opted members);
- the deletion of the list of faculties to be replaced by a formula for determining the number of representatives for each faculty;
- the deletion of the category of elected non-professorial staff members, to be replaced by an instruction on the inclusion of at least one professorial and one non-professorial representative from each faculty; and
- the amendment of the existing election procedures for student representatives to remove the reference to Colleges.

The Chair advised members that the guiding principle in making these amendments was ensuring that the current level of academic representation was maintained. The proposed amendments sought to ensure this and at the same time provide for possible changes to faculty structures that could

occur in the near future. Under the current structure and the proposed quota system, no faculty would lose faculty representatives and some would increase their number of representatives, while the current depth of membership would be maintained by ensuring that each faculty had at least one professorial and one non-professorial academic staff member.

A query was raised regarding the definition of full-time staff and the Registrar advised that this was addressed in the associated *Guidelines for the Election of Academic Staff to the Academic Board*.

Associate Professor Drynan raised concerns at the addition of a clause allowing the Board to appoint up to four additional members noting that, in conjunction with the existing clause allowing the co-option of up to four members, this would allow a total of eight members to be added to the Board. He queried the distinction between appointing and co-opting such members, and moved the following amendment:

That clause 5 (1) (g) be deleted, and that all references to co-opted members be deleted from clause 6 (3).

The motion lapsed as there was no seconder.

The Chair advised that co-opted members would be appointed for a specific reason and for a defined term (e.g. Professor Parton as the Dean of the old Faculty of Rural Management), but would be expected to participate fully in the deliberations of the Board. In contrast, the inclusion of a clause allowing the appointment of four additional members was intended to help the Board maintain membership following possible future changes to the University's structure.

Associate Professor Drynan also queried the removal of the list of faculties, given that there had been some discussion of the number of total faculties being reduced to five. Using the new quota system, this would provide only 25 academic staff members to the Board. He expressed concern that the removal of the list would make it easier for management to effect Academic Board membership by altering the number of faculties at the University.

The Chair responded that if there were major changes to the number of faculties or to the University structure in general, the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule* would require further amendment. He stated that the amendments currently before the Board were aimed at uncoupling membership from the current faculty structure to provide the Board with greater flexibility in determining membership.

The President of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association suggested stipulating a minimum number of academic staff members, similar to the minimum number of student members. The Chair pointed out that the *University of Sydney Act 1989* and associated by-law defined

the minimum membership requirements for the Academic Board.

Associate Professor Masters commented that the overall number of academic staff on the Board was not as important as ensuring that the spread and level of representation on the Board, and that the Board remained vigorous and active.

Professor Hancock moved the following motion:

“That Clause 5(1)(c)(iii) of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* be amended to read “the Executive Deans and Deans”

The motion was seconded and carried by a show of hands.

The resolution was approved by a majority of members with one vote against.

Resolution 277/06

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve amendments to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair of the Academic Board to recommend to Senate that it approve amendments to the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* with immediate effect.

(File 2000/3982)

5.3.3 Academic Board Forum

The next Academic Board Forum will be held on Wednesday, 8 November 2006 in the Eastern Avenue Auditorium, with a further forum to be held later in the same month. The Chair advised members that there were a couple of topics being considered, one being the examination of Doctor of Philosophy theses, which would be the subject of the later forum. The forum in early November would look at how staff can manage their roles as academics in a research-intensive university.

Resolution 278/06

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

5.3.4 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 Engineering have been received and were circulated with the agenda. The Chair invited the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering to comment on the Faculty's trial of the form.

Professor Hancock advised members that the Faculty had experienced significant challenges in collecting the data for the form and that the process had highlighted problems with where specific data was held within the University. He also questioned how useful some of the data might be, and noted that no explanation for the various questions had been provided with the form.

The Chair advised members that there had been further meetings about planning the next round of Faculty reviews and that a draft schedule had been sent to the deans for comment.

The Chair was asked whether the reviews would look at the issue of academic workload. He advised that the Academic Staffing Committee would be establishing a working party to look at the academic experience, including workload. Professor Hancock advised that the University of Adelaide had tabled their workload model at the recent meeting of Go8 Deans of Engineering, to general approval. He stated that the model covered teaching, research and service and offered to provide a copy for distribution via the Academic Board. Associate Professor Rubbo advised that the Faculty of Architecture was also developing a workload model that they would be happy to circulate.

Resolution 279/06

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.

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

6.1 **Report on Senate Matters**

6.1.1 **Report of the Senate meeting held on 18 September 2006**

Members noted the Vice-Chancellor's report on the Senate meeting of 18 September 2006.

Resolution 280/06

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 noted that the sector was still waiting for firm advice from the Department of Education, Science and Training regarding the implementation of the Research Quality Framework and that there was some doubt as to whether it would be introduced in 2007.

The Vice-Chancellor noted with concern some recent instances of intervention by Federal Government ministers involving Macquarie University and the University of Melbourne, and indicated that there was a need to be vigilant with regard to the University's academic freedoms.

The President of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) thanked Senate, via the Vice-Chancellor, for

writing to the NSW Government in support of providing travel concessions to international students. She noted that the NSW Government has effectively blocked this move with recent amendments to relevant legislation. She also asked for an update on the proposed *University of Sydney (Academic Appeals) Rule*. The Registrar advised that seven points raised by SUPRA and the Students' Representative Council would be referred back to the two bodies with his comments and explanation. SUPRA and SRC would be given an opportunity to further comment, and then the proposed Rule would be submitted to Senate.

Resolution 281/06

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

★ 7. **Question time**

The Vice-Chancellor was asked to comment on possible "loyalty rewards" that could be provided to retiring academic staff to acknowledge their work for the University, particularly those who are not alumni of the University. He was also asked to advise the Academic Board on the proportion of staff who retire or resign and cease to be members of the University community, how many of these staff would be eligible to be awarded a degree *ad eundem gradum* and how many actually were awarded a degree *ad eundem gradum*. The Vice-Chancellor advised that he would need to take the request for details on notice. With regard to staff being able to continue as members of the University community following their retirement or resignation, he agreed that it was important that staff be able to continue to contribute and participate. He suggested that this could be achieved in part by allowing people to retain an e-mail account and access to *uninews*, but pointed out that the University was constrained with regards to the physical space that could be provided to retired staff. He invited further comment and suggestions from staff on this issue.

The Vice-Chancellor was asked to advise on the current status of restructuring at the University. He advised that the removal of the College structure had been negotiated successfully, noting that while there had been nothing intrinsically wrong with the College system it had created certain issues which hampered the future growth of the University. He acknowledged that there was still some uncertainty surrounding some of the details of the restructure but believed that this was being addressed. He encouraged the increased use of Shared Services, but acknowledged that better central provision of human resources support and information technology support was required. He assured members that there was no intention of creating artificial mergers between faculties or academic units, and that the focus of the restructure was to create opportunities for faculties to work together in different groupings as and when appropriate.

The Vice-Chancellor was asked to comment on the kinds of indicators that could be used in two to three years time to measure the success of the restructure. He commented that quantitative indicators were not always a useful means of measuring such success, and pointed out that it was difficult to separate the effects of the restructure from the effects of other forces, such as changes to Federal government policy. The Vice-Chancellor suggested it would be of more value to focus on qualitative measures, and stressed the need to ensure that any centralised service was at least as efficient, and preferably more so, than the localised structures it replaced. He stated that

there should be no sacrifice of quality of service in the process of attaining savings in expenditure.

The Vice-Chancellor suggested that one way of measuring the success of the restructure would be to measure the University's performance against its KPIs. He noted that the University had seen a steady improvement in performance over the last seven years, so a positive outcome of the restructure would be an exponential increase in this improvement.

Resolution 282/06

That the Academic Board note the questions and responses provided.

8. Reports of Faculties and Boards

8.1 Report of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery

8.1.1 Receipt of Report

Resolution 283/06

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

8.1.2 Semester and Vacation Dates 2007

Resolution 284/06

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

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8.2 Report of the 2006 University of Sydney Winter School

Mr Patton, representing the Students' Representative Council (SRC), asked that it be minuted that the SRC was extremely disappointed that the University had lobbied DEST to alter legislation so that HECS students can no longer study at Winter School. He stated that SRC caseworkers knew from their experience with students that the necessity to take out a FEE-HELP loan in order to be able to study at Winter or Summer School served as a disincentive to many students, and that it was well known that the cost of University was rapidly increasing for students with escalations in HECS and full-fee places. He further stated that the University was encouraging this price rise and encouraging students to take out even higher levels of debt, despite the adverse impact this had on student choice and outcomes for graduates.

Mr Patton stated that the SRC would like the Academic Board to request an explanation from the Director of Summer School on why HECS places mean that some subjects would be in danger of becoming non-viable, given that:

- there had been a significant rise in income from HECS at Winter School in 2006;
- much greater revenue was received from full-fee paying international students; and
- only four undergraduate students paying via FEE-HELP had enrolled in Winter School in 2006 (compared to five in 2005).

The SRC also asked the Academic Board to request the Director of Summer School to explain why it was thought that the proportion of international students studying at Winter School was so high (64.5%)

compared to their much lower representation in the general University community, and to advise on the percentage of undergraduate international students enrolled in Winter School 2006.

Finally, the SRC noted that the no fee waivers were given in 2006 and asked the Academic Board to request that the Director of Summer School advise on the following matters:

- how many students applied for fee waivers for Winter School 2006;
- how did this compare historically, for both Summer and Winter School, in terms of applications compared to fee-waivers granted (noting that three such waivers were granted for Winter School 2005);
- what are the criteria for successful applications for fee waivers; and
- what is the limit on the number or amount of fee waivers that can be offered, and how is this limit determined.

It was noted that the above requests would be forwarded to the Director of the Summer School. The Vice-Chancellor commented that the Summer School and Winter School were viable chiefly because students could choose to take subjects on a fee-paying basis that they could otherwise study during the standard semester under HECS. He clarified that the request to amend DEST legislation to include winter sessions had been made by the sector as a whole, not just the University of Sydney, and was intended to ensure that the same criteria existed for both summer and winter session schools. It was simply not true to categorise this as lobbying to exclude HECS students.

8.2.1 Receipt of Report

Resolution 285/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the 2006 University of Sydney Winter School.

★ 9. **International Portfolio Report**

The Chair invited the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor John Hearn, to present a report on the International Portfolio to the Academic Board. Professor Hearn advised members that he had tabled two documents providing a snapshot of recent achievements and current projects in the portfolio. He highlighted the following items in particular:

- the University's International Biennium (2006-2008), was launched in June 2006 and coincides with the Vice-Chancellor's Presidency of the Asia Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), which will increase the University's opportunities for networking, and for staff and student exchanges;
- the University is also a member of Academic Consortium 21 and has recently joined the Worldwide Universities Network, arguably the most effective network in the sector, which will enhance the University's access to Europe and East Coast and Mid North America;
- current offshore activities included graduations and alumni gatherings in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, with further such events to be held in Shanghai and Hong Kong later in the month. These offshore events also included the formation of alumni chapters in these cities, and meetings with industry, government and the media; and

- the portfolio has also introduced the International Forum, the first of which featured Mr Michael L'Estrange (Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and Her Excellency Madame Fu Ying (Chinese Ambassador to Australia) debating the relationship of Australia and China and the position of the two countries in the region.

Professor Hearn also highlighted recent market research conducted on the University's brand and noted that the University's inclusion in the top 50 international universities in Newsweek's global 100 had been a positive boost. He also highlighted the reviews of the University's regional and country plans and invited any members with specific interests or expertise in international matters to contact his office.

Professor Hearn was asked to comment on the cost structure for the University's international programs and the sorts of costs the University was likely to face in a competitive market for international students. He advised that the University expected to spend little in addition to what had already been budgeted, and that the programs had been designed to be self-sustaining. He noted that the team-work and participation from deans and faculty staff had been crucial to the success of the University's international programs. He acknowledged that there was increased competition, particularly from the United States and China, but noted that the short term results from the programs was encouraging.

The President of SUPRA noted that many students had expressed concern at the quality of the infrastructure and student support at the University. Professor Hearn noted that infrastructure was a major issue, but noted that there were plans in place for improvement. He pointed out that the responses from international alumni and recent graduates was very positive, and advised that discussions were being held with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) and the Academic Board on the improvement of curriculum quality and the internationalisation of curriculum. He advised that international students would be invited to comment and provide feedback on this project.

Resolution 286/06

That the Academic Board note the report of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) on the International Portfolio.

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 issue he wanted to raise was the ongoing review of honours at the University. He advised members that the Working Party had met for a second time, and that he was currently meeting with the Associate Deans (Undergraduate) of each faculty. He indicated that a discussion paper should be available for the Board's next meeting.

Resolution 287/06

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

10.2 Report of the meeting held on 5 September 2006

10.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 288/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 5 September 2006.

10.2.2 Faculty Resolutions

10.2.2.1 Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Law: Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws

Resolution 289/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the amendments to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws in the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Laws, 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 Arts and the Faculty of Law to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws combined degree course.

(File 2000/3991)

10.2.2.2 Faculty of Economics and Business and Faculty of Law: Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences/Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of International Studies/Bachelor of Laws

Resolution 290/06

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the amendments to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, the Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences/Bachelor of Laws, the Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Laws and the Bachelor of International Studies/Bachelor of Laws in the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Law, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000; and
- (2) approve the faculty requirements relating to cross-faculty management and the award of 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 Economics and Business and the Faculty of Law to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws, the Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences/Bachelor of Laws, the Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Laws and the Bachelor of International Studies/Bachelor of Laws combined degree courses.

(File TBA)

10.2.2.3 Faculty of Medicine

(1) Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

Resolution 291/06

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:*The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Bachelor of Medicine and the Bachelor of Surgery.

(File 003/0020/00040)

(2) Diploma in Indigenous Primary Health Care and Advanced Diploma in Indigenous Primary Health Care

Resolution 292/06

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the Resolutions of the Faculty relating to the Diploma in Indigenous Primary Health Care and Advanced Diploma in Indigenous Primary Health Care in the Faculty of Medicine, made pursuant to the University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule 2000 with effect from 1 January 2007, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager of the Faculty of Medicine to note the Academic Board's approval of amendments to the Faculty Resolutions relating to the Diploma in Indigenous Primary Health Care and Advanced Diploma in Indigenous Primary Health Care.

(Files 2002/5631 and 2002/5632)

10.2.3 Reports from Faculties

10.2.3.1 Faculty of Health Sciences

Resolution 293/06

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Health Sciences regarding units of study.

10.2.3.2 Faculty of Law: Bachelor of Laws

Resolution 294/06

That the Academic Board note the report from the Faculty of Law regarding the reclassification of a unit of study in the Bachelor of Laws.

10.2.4 Admission to Undergraduate Studies

Resolution 295/06

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of Schedule 1 of the policy "Admission to Undergraduate Courses", as set out in the report presented.

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

(File P23)

10.2.5 Terms of Reference

Resolution 296/06

That the Academic Board approve the amended terms of reference for the Committee, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to amend the terms of reference for the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

(File 2004/1800)

10.2.6 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 297/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 5 September 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 Commercialisation Training Scheme, based on a proposal from the Department of Education, Science and Training. The scheme proposes an additional certificate for research students and it was hoped that the University could obtain funding for 24 places.

Associate Professor McCallum also raised concerns about a recent application for the deferment of public availability of a thesis. He advised that this particular application was of concern because the deferment was being sought on the basis that the candidate had made undertakings of confidentiality to the informants. He noted that deferment was for a limited time period, and that theses were, in general, meant to be public documents.

Finally, he noted that the Chair had previously referred to a working party on Doctor of Philosophy examinations and advised that one model under consideration was the North American system of having a panel of examiners who would be involved in assessing the candidature as well as examining the thesis.

Resolution 298/06

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

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 4 September 2006

11.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 299/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 4 September 2006.

11.2.2 Reports from Faculties

11.2.2.1 Faculty of Health Sciences: English Language Requirements

Resolution 300/06

That the Academic Board approve amendments to Appendix 1 of the "Postgraduate English Language Requirements" policy for the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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

(Files 2006/3378 and 2006/3380)

11.2.2.2 Faculty of Health Sciences: Postgraduate Coursework Course Review

- (1) **Master of Health Science (Behavioural Science); Master of Health Science (Honours) (Behavioural Science); Graduate Certificate of Health Sciences (Behavioural Science)**

Resolution 301/06

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

- (2) **Master of Health Science (Child and Adolescent Health); Master of Health Science (Honours) (Child and Adolescent Health); Graduate Certificate of Health Sciences (Child and Adolescent Health)**

Resolution 302/06

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

- (3) **Master of Health Science (Education); Master of Health Science (Honours) (Education); Graduate Diploma of Health Science (Education); Graduate Certificate of Health Sciences (Education)**

Resolution 303/06

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

- (4) **Master of Health Science (Gerontology) and Master of Health Science (Honours) (Gerontology)**

Resolution 304/06

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

- (5) **Master of Health Science (Medical Radiation Sciences); Graduate Diploma in Health Science (Medical Radiation Sciences) and Graduate Certificate in Health Science (Medical Radiation Sciences)**

Resolution 305/06

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

(6) **Master of Rehabilitation Counselling and Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation Counselling**

Resolution 306/06

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

11.2.2.3 Faculty of Law: Units of Study

Resolution 307/06

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

11.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 308/06

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 4 September 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

The Chair of the Academic Board noted that Associate Professor Ewing had been unable to attend this meeting of the Committee. He noted that the main issues were the appointment of Associate Professor G Ryan as the Deputy Chair, and the establishment of a Working Party to develop a policy on plagiarism detection methods.

The President of SUPRA noted that the inclusion of the Director of the Summer School as a member of the Committee had been discussed and asked if anything further had been decided on this matter. The Chair advised that further advice on this issue would be presented at the Committee's next meeting.

Resolution 309/06

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

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 12 September 2006

12.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 310/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on 12 September 2006.

12.2.2 Academic Board Faculty Reviews: Faculty Progress Reports

Resolution 311/06

That the Academic Board note the Faculty Progress Reports from the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Health Sciences, as set out in the report presented.

12.2.3 Faculty Reports on Cases of Academic Dishonesty

Resolution 312/06

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

12.2.4 Terms of Reference

Resolution 313/06

That the Academic Board approve the amended terms of reference for the Learning and Teaching Committee, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Executive Officer to amend the terms of reference for the Learning and Teaching Committee.

(File 2004/1803)

12.2.5 Appointment of Deputy Chair

Resolution 314/06

That the Academic Board note the appointment of Associate Professor Greg Ryan as the Deputy Chair, as set out in the report presented.

12.2.6 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 315/06

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)

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13.1 Oral report of the Chair

The Chair of the Research Committee, Associate Professor Robyn Overall, advised that the Committee had received a report on research in the Faculty of Arts. The report highlighted an increase in publication rates and initiatives such as seed-funding, mentoring and leadership programs and the appointment of school-based research managers to assist staff in developing grant applications. The Faculty had noted that student completions and infrastructure were still issues of concern.

Associate Professor Overall also advised members that the Committee had discussed plans to merge with the Postgraduate Research Training Sub-Committee (which currently reports to the Graduate Studies Committee) to become the Research and Research Training Committee. The Chair advised members that the Graduate Studies Committee was also looking at merging with the Postgraduate Coursework Sub-Committee and that draft terms of reference and membership were being provided to these committees for discussion and approval.

Resolution 316/06

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

13.2 Report of the meeting held on 20 September 2006

The Board noted that this report had not yet been received from the Research Office.

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, advised that he had two points to highlight. The first related to a working party that had been formed to look at developing a Charter of Academic Freedom. The working party was currently gathering information and was hoping to draft a statement of broad principles. He also highlighted the issue of how widely available academic staff applications were in various faculties, and noted that the Committee was seeking advice from SydneyPeople on this issue.

With regard to the Charter of Academic Freedom, it was suggested that this could be the subject of a future Academic Board forum. The President of SUPRA also asked whether the proposed charter would cover the work of students, and Professor Murphy noted this for consideration by the working party.

Resolution 317/06

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

14.2 Report of the meeting held on 20 September 2006

14.2.1 Receipt of report

Resolution 318/06

That the Academic Board receive and note the report of the Academic Staffing Committee meeting held on 20 September 2006.

14.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution 319/06

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

15. General Business

15.1 Membership of the Central Promotions Committees 2006

Resolution 320/06

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

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date