MINUTES

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed new member Dr Lian Loke as representative of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, replacing Associate Professor Paul Jones.

The Committee noted the apologies.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Starring of agenda and adoption of unstarred items

No additional items were starred. The Committee agreed to resolve as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

Resolution GSC16/5-1
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolve as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

2.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 27 July 2016.

Resolution GSC16/5-2
The Graduate Studies Committee resolved that the minutes of meeting 4/2016, held on 27 July 2016, be confirmed as a true record.

2.3 Actions Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
3 STANDING ITEMS

3.1 Report of the Chair

Resolution GSC16/5-3
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair.

3.2 Report of the Academic Board

Associate Professor Masters highlighted two items in the written report, advising that meetings of the Academic Board and its committees would be moving to Tuesdays, with meetings of the Board to commence at 1pm to accommodate those with carer responsibilities. Members were also informed of recent discussion regarding mandatory lecture recordings, which are especially important for students with a disability, carer responsibilities or with timetable clashes. Associate Professor Masters advised that only three per cent of students who are carers complete their studies, and that these students are currently largely unsupported by the University. A paper to guide deans in the assessment of requests from Unit of Study Coordinators to opt out of recording is currently in development.

The Report of the Academic Board was noted as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-4
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting of 17 August 2016.

3.3 Report of PhD Award Sub-Committee

Resolution GSC16/5-5
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meeting of 26 July 2016.

3.4 Report of HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee

Members noted that the HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee.

4 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Major Course Proposals

4.1 Law School: Master of Global Law and Graduate Diploma in Public Health Law, Master of International Taxation and Master of Law and International Development – Course Deletion/Amendment

Associate Professor Hamer provided an overview of Items 4.1 through 4.4, which are components of an integrated restructure arising from a review of postgraduate Law programs. Declining student numbers (approximately one third over the last five years) have driven the review, which calls for a simplified range of postgraduate offerings that it is believed will be more attractive to potential students.

The overhaul has three major components: the deletion of specialist courses and their subsumption into a smaller number of generalist degrees (Items 4.1 and 4.2); offering pathways for promising Bachelor of Laws and Juris Doctor students to enter into postgraduate courses with advanced standing (Item 4.3); and streamlining the admission requirements for the remaining specialist Master of Law courses (Item 4.4). Items 4.3 and 4.4 were discussed in greater detail, as below.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-6
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to delete the Master of Global Law and Graduate Diploma in Public Health Law and amend the Master of Health Law with effect from 1 January 2017;
(2) approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to delete the Master of International Taxation and Master of Law and International Development with effect from 1 July 2017;
(3) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal and approve
amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Law; and
(4) approve the deletion of Course Resolutions arising from this proposal.

4.2 Law School: Graduate Diploma in Business Law – New Course Proposal

This proposal was discussed under Item 4.1 above. The proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-7
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from Sydney Law School to introduce the Graduate Diploma in Business Law, amend the Master of Business Law and Master of Laws, and delete the Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law, Graduate Diploma in Corporate, Securities and Finance Law and Graduate Diploma in International Business Law;
(2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in Sydney Law School; and
(3) approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

Minor Course Proposals

4.3 Law School: Juris Doctor – Amended Resolutions

Associate Professor Hamer advised that this proposal allows meritorious students in the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Juris Doctor (JD) degrees to undertake up to 24 credit points of Master of Laws (LLM) units of study, credit for which will be recognised should the students continue into a Master of Laws. It is driven in part by student demand, noting that JD students are currently permitted to undertake 12 credit points of such units. The ability of LLB students to undertake the higher level of study represented by these units is supported by the fact that the students will only undertake the units of study after having completed the requirements of their other Bachelor-level qualification. The units are also elective, so students must not only meet an academic threshold to be eligible, but also self-select to undertake the LLM subjects. The proposal is anticipated to encourage enrolment into the LLM, as well as increase the viability of postgraduate units of study with low enrolments.

Members were advised that the proposal had been presented to the Undergraduate Studies Committee earlier in the day, and that several minor amendments to the course resolutions had been requested, as well as the inclusion of tables of units of study. These will be provided before the proposal is presented to the Academic Board.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-8
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Juris Doctor, Graduate Diploma in Law and Master of Laws;
(2) approve the amendment of Resolutions of the Faculty of Law for Coursework Awards arising from the proposal; and
(3) approve the amendment of Course Resolutions arising from the proposal; with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.4 Law School: Postgraduate Programs – Amended Admission Criteria

Associate Professor Masters requested that this proposal be forwarded to the Chair of the Admissions Committee for consultation, and Associate Professor Hamer advised that the proposal has been discussed with the Director, Admissions. Associate Professor Frost asked whether changing the admission criteria for the Business Law program will change the cohort of students in the program, and was advised that it was not anticipated to do so as any Master of Law student can currently undertake the constituent units of study, regardless of disciplinary background.

Mr Suhaib expressed concern that by removing background requirements, we may be setting up students for failure. Associate Professor Hamer advised that students will have foundational and advanced units from which they can select, and that pre-reading will be made available on request to students engaging with unfamiliar areas. The permissibility of credit transfer between the JD and the LLM was also raised, with specific credit transfer between postgraduate degrees explicitly prohibited by the Coursework Rule. It may be possible to provide a reduction in volume of learning
in such instances through provision of non-specific credit.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/5-9**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Master of Administrative Law and Policy, Master of Business Law, Master of Criminology (Coursework), Master of Environmental Law, Master of Global Law, Master of Health Law, Master of International Law, Master of International Taxation, Master of Jurisprudence, Master of Labour Law and Relations, Master of Law and International Development, Master of Laws (Coursework), Master of Taxation, Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law, Graduate Diploma in Corporate, Securities and Finance Law, Graduate Diploma in Criminology, Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law, Graduate Diploma in Health Law, Graduate Diploma in International Business Law, Graduate Diploma in International Law, Graduate Diploma in Jurisprudence, Graduate Diploma in Law, Graduate Diploma in Public Health Law and Graduate Diploma in Taxation; and
2. approve the amendment of Course Resolutions arising from the proposal; with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.5 **Law School**: Master of Environmental Law and related programs – Amended Units of Study

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/5-10**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Master of Administrative Law and Policy, Master of Environmental Law, Master of Global Law, Master of Laws, Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law and Graduate Diploma in Law; and
2. approve the amendment of the unit of study tables arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.6 **Medical School**: Doctor of Medicine (MD) – Amended Course Resolutions

Associate Professor Jenkin advised that a set of resolution changes had been presented to the Committee in May 2016, at which meeting feedback had been provided by and incorporated into the proposal before presentation to the Academic Board. Since its presentation to the Board, the Office of General Counsel has advised that the version of the resolutions previously presented does not align with those currently in effect, and the new proposal presents all of the desired changes tracked against the current resolutions to ensure that all changes are understood and approved.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/5-11**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from Sydney Medical School to amend the Doctor of Medicine; and
2. approve the amendment of Course Resolutions arising from the proposal; with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.7 **Medical School**: Master of Medicine (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health) – Amended Units of Study

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/5-12**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Sydney Medical School to amend the Master of Medicine (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health); Graduate Diploma in Medicine (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health); Graduate Diploma of Science in Medicine (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health); Master of Medicine (Advanced) (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health); Master of Science in Medicine (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health); Master of Science in Medicine (Advanced) (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health); Master of Medicine (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health) and Master of Philosophy; Master of Science in Medicine (HIV, STIs and Sexual Health) and Master of Philosophy; and
2. approve the amendment of the table of units of study arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.
4.8 Medical School: Master of Surgery – Amended Units of Study

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-13
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Medical School to amend the Master of Surgery; and
(2) approve the amendment of the table of units of study arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

Higher Degree by Research
4.9 Business School: Master of Philosophy – Amended Course Resolutions

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-14
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Business School to amend the Master of Philosophy; and
(2) approve the amendment of Course Resolutions arising from this proposal with immediate effect.

Minor Course Proposals
4.10 Law School: Juris Doctor – Progression Requirements

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-15
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Juris Doctor; and
(2) approve the amendment of the Course Resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 Engineering & IT: Graduate Diploma in Project Management – Amendment of Resolutions of Senate

The item was noted as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-16
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) note an administrative correction to the Resolutions of the Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies; and
(2) recommend that Senate note the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies with effect from 1 January 2017.

5.2 2017 Meeting Schedule

The item was noted as presented.

Resolution GSC16/5-17
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the 2017 Committee meeting schedule, as approved by the Academic Board at its meeting of 17 August 2016.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 2:47pm.

Next meeting: 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Wednesday 19 October 2016
Senate Room, Quadrangle

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2016:
2:00pm – 4:00pm, Wednesday 16 November 2016
A full copy of the Graduate Studies Committee papers is available at:
sydney.edu.au/ab/committees/grad_studies/grad_studies_agendas