MINUTES

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Committee noted apologies and welcomed attendees.

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 GSC16/6-1
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 31 August 2016.

Resolution GSC16/6-2
The Graduate Studies Committee resolved that the minutes of meeting 5/2016, held on 31 August 2016, be confirmed as a true record.

2.3 Actions Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

2.4 Amendment of Terms of Reference

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/6-3
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend to Academic Board the amendment of its terms of reference.
3 STANDING ITEMS

3.1 Report of the Chair

Resolution GSC16/6-4
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair.

3.2 Report of the Academic Board

In addition to items in the written report, Associate Professor Masters advised that transitional provisions are being developed to retain the existing structure and membership of the Academic Board’s standing committees.

The Report of the Academic Board was noted as presented.

Resolution GSC16/6-5
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting of 14 September 2016.

3.3 Report of PhD Award Sub-Committee

Resolution GSC16/6-6
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meetings of 23 August and 20 September 2016.

3.4 PhD Award Sub-Committee: Amended Terms of Reference

Resolution GSC16/6-7
That the Graduate Studies Committee endorse the amendment of the Terms of Reference for the PhD Award Sub-Committee, with immediate effect.

3.5 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 Dentistry: Graduate Certificate in Oral Health Therapy – New Course Proposal

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/6-8
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to introduce the Graduate Certificate in Oral Health Therapy;
(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 the Faculty of Dentistry; and
(3) approve the introduction of Course Resolutions arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.2 Pharmacy: Graduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Complementary Medicines – New Course Proposal

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

Resolution GSC16/6-9
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Pharmacy to introduce the Graduate Certificate in Evidence-Based Complementary Medicines;
(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 the Faculty of Pharmacy; and
(3) approve the introduction of Course Resolutions arising from this proposal
4.3 **2016 – 2020 Curriculum Reforms: New Course Proposals**

Associate Professor McCullum spoke to this proposal and advised that it presents the postgraduate components of a larger proposal that was presented to the Undergraduate Studies Committee earlier in the day. In discussion, the Committee was advised that the alignment of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees is anticipated for 2019, and that the Undergraduate Studies Committee discussed different options for high-achieving students, including the deletion of the ‘Named Scientist’ stream from the BSc combined programs.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-10**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. Approve the introduction of the Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Medicine;
2. Approve the amendment of the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Science and Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Science and Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, Bachelor Science and Doctor of Medicine and Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Dental Medicine;
3. Approve the deletion of the Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Nursing, Bachelor or Economics and Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Commerce and Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Music Studies and Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Science (Advanced) and Doctor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Science (Advanced) and Doctor of Dental Medicine;
4. recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board’s approval of the proposal and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate, as appropriate; and
5. approve the introduction, amendment or deletion, as appropriate, of Course Resolutions arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

**Minor Course Proposals**

4.4 **Architecture, Design and Planning:** Master of Architecture – Amended Resolutions

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-11**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Architecture; and
2. approve the amendment to the course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.5 **Architecture, Design and Planning:** Graduate Certificate in Architectural Science (Building Services), Graduate Certificate in Architectural Science (Facilities Management) and Master of Architectural Science (Illumination Design) – Amended Units of Study

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-12**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Graduate Certificate in Architectural Science (Building Services), Graduate Certificate in Architectural Science (Facilities Management) and Master of Architectural Science (Illumination Design); and
2. approve the amendment to the tables of units of Study arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.6 **Architecture, Design and Planning:** Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts – Amended Units of Study

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-13**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts; and
(2) approve the amendment to the units of study table arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.7 **Arts and Social Sciences**: Graduate Certificate in Art Curating – Amended Resolutions

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-14**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the Graduate Certificate in Art Curating; and
(2) approve the amendment to the course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.8 **Arts and Social Sciences**: Graduate Diploma in Art Curating – Amended Resolutions

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-15**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the Graduate Diploma in Art Curating; and
(2) approve the amendment to the course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.9 **Arts and Social Sciences**: Amended Postgraduate Units of Study

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-16**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve changes to the Unit of Study tables for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, with effect from 1 January 2017, as presented.

4.10 **Dentistry**: Doctor of Clinical Dentistry – Amended Resolutions

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-17**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to amend the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry; and
(2) approve the amendment to the course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.11 **Dentistry**: Doctor of Dental Medicine – Amended Resolutions

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-18**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to amend the Doctor of Dental Medicine; and
(2) approve the amendment to the course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.12 **Engineering and Information Technologies**: Master of Engineering and Master of Professional Engineering – Amended Units of Study

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-19**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Master of Engineering and Master of Professional Engineering; and
(2) approve the amendment of the tables of units of study arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.
4.13 **Engineering and Information Technologies**: Master of Project Management – Amended Resolutions and Units of Study
This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-20**
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Master of Project Management, Graduate Certificate in Project Management and Graduate Diploma in Project Management; and
(2) approve the amendment to the Course Resolutions and the table of units of study arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.14 **Education and Social Work**: Master of Education (General) – Amended Units of Study
Associate Professor Shen Hui Zhong spoke to this proposal and advised that it arises from the University’s international strategy and a planned agreement with Minzu University to deliver the first two units of study in the Master of Education (General) program offshore as well as on the Camperdown Campus. Associate Professor Zhong confirmed that the units of study will be delivered by staff from the University of Sydney in intensive mode, and that the content will otherwise be identical to the on-shore delivery. The Committee was also informed that the Chinese government is supportive of the partnership, a formal agreement on which is being finalised for sign-off in December.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-21**
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve a proposal to add a mode of delivery for two units of study in the Faculty of Education & Social Work, as presented, with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.15 **Science**: Graduate Diploma in Psychology
This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-22**
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Graduate Diploma in Psychology; and
(2) approve the amendment of course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.16 **Science**: Master of Clinical Psychology
This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-23**
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Master of Clinical Psychology and Master of Clinical Psychology/Doctor of Philosophy; and
(2) approve the amendment of course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.17 **Science**: Master of Medical Physics
This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-24**
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Master of Medical Physics and Graduate Diploma in Medical Physics; and
(2) approve the amendment of course resolutions arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.
4.18 **Science**: Master of Veterinary Public Health

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-25**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Master of Veterinary Public Health, Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Public Health and Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Public Health; and

(2) recommend that Senate approve the amendment of Resolutions of Senate for the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of the Faculty of Science with effect from 1 January 2017.

4.19 **Science**: Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

This proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC16/6-26**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; and

(2) approve the amendment of course resolutions and the table of units of study arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2017.

**Higher Degree by Research**

4.20 **Thesis & Examination of HDR Policy and Procedures 2015 – Amendment of Policy**

Associate Professor Coleman spoke to this proposal and advised that this is the second iteration of the policy to be presented to the Committee, with the first focussing on the incorporation of Academic Honesty provisions as endorsed at the previous meeting. The key driver underlying the current proposal is to reduce the complexity of examination processes, and to simplify the communications between faculty and the HDR Examinations Sub-Committee. The aim is to improve the student experience by shortening examination times, and aligns with the Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The proposal calls for the appointment of a Chair of Examination – usually but not necessarily a Postgraduate Coordinator – to oversee each examination, and this person will consult within the faculty to obtain advice based on disciplinary expertise as necessary.

In discussion, Associate Professor Nelson advised that the HDR Examinations Awards Sub-Committee had not seen the current version of the proposal and asked that it be circulated to them for comment. She also sought clarification as to whether the intent was for the HDR Examinations Sub-Committee to oversee research masters examinations, and was advised that this is the case for University-awarded degrees but that faculties will retain oversight of faculty-controlled research masters degrees. Confirmation of this was requested as it has substantial resourcing implications.

The role in the examination process of the Head of School was discussed, and it was agreed that the faculty can determine the nexus of decisions. Associate Professor Coleman also advised that the anticipated procurement of a technological solution to facilitate examinations has yet to occur.

The proposal was endorsed as presented, pending any feedback received from the HDR Examinations Sub-Committee.

**Resolution GSC16/6-27**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend in principle that the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Thesis and Examination of Higher Degrees by Research Policy 2015 and Thesis and Examination of Higher Degree by Research Procedures 2015, with effect from 16 November 2016, subject to further consultation with the HDR Examinations Sub-Committee.

4.21 **HDR Scholarship Allocation**

Associate Professor Coleman spoke to this proposal and advised that it emerged from a SEG Research Training Committee working party that examined the distribution of HDR scholarships. He advised that the proposal is intended to speed up the processing of applications and enable the making of early offers to outstanding applicants, but that the basis for allocation of scholarships will remain under the remit of the HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee. It will also facilitate the alignment of HDR student recruitment with the Strategic Plan 2016-2020.
The first component of the proposal calls for the removal of the current fixed scholarship rounds, noting that these are out of sync with northern hemisphere study patterns. It will enable applicants to apply for scholarships at any time, and outstanding applicants (as determined against criteria set by the HDRSSC) will be offered a scholarship immediately. The Scholarships and Admissions Offices have been consulted and have agreed to a single application process for both scholarship and admission.

The second component of the proposal builds in a mechanism to allow for targeted recruitment of students based on strategic priorities, with 20% of scholarships to be allocated to students working on specific themes as demonstrated by the intended supervisor working in a research centre, in strategic areas identified in a Faculty Research Compact, or being an outstanding individual researcher of ERA Rank 5. Students aligned with a priority area will be given additional points in the allocation process to facilitate receipt of an award.

In discussion, the linking of scholarships to specific projects was highlighted as an area for concern, as research projects may change from the original intentions as the project progresses. Breakdowns in the student / supervisor relationship are also possible and need to be addressed. The possible reduction in the number of awards available to students who are classified as ‘excellent’ rather than ‘outstanding’ was also raised, as well as the availability of awards for research in non-priority areas. Associate Professor Coleman advised that the University will be increasing the number of international scholarships to address increased international demand. Mechanisms of ensuring the accuracy of application processing was also flagged as a necessary component of the proposal, with permanent staff in the Scholarships Office to undertake what is currently seasonal work undertaken by casual staff.

Associate Professor Masters expressed concern that the justification of the proposal carried the implication that scholarships are being used to support research, rather than being enablers of research training. However, there are mechanisms for staff to obtain research support and the conduct of research is often more efficiently done by postdocs. It would then seem to follow that the purpose of the proposal was to provide high quality research training. That being the case, it is therefore necessary to ensure that the supervision supplied by supervisors is of the highest quality. Associate Professor Coleman advised that there is no mechanism at the University at present to monitor supervisor quality, and suggested that a model can be developed in future. The desirability of including equity and diversity targets in preferential allocation was also expressed, although the Committee was advised that the current allocation process is blind to equity. Concern was also expressed that the proposed allocation process will imbalance allocations in favour of large groups and facilities. Suggested amendments to the proposal were made and Associate Professor Coleman undertook to update the proposal before submission to the Academic Board.

Associate Professor Masters sought confirmation that the HDRSSC had been appropriately consulted on the proposal, and was advised that the Chair of the HDRSSC was part of the working party that developed the proposal.

It was agreed that the proposal be endorsed in principle, subject to further consultation with the HDRSSC.

Resolution GSC16/6-28
The Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board adopt the proposed allocation scheme for HDR scholarships, with effect from 1 January 2017, subject to further consultation with the HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee.

4.22 Student Awards Policy 2016
Ms Koureas spoke to this proposal and advised that it amalgamates a number of current Academic Board policies within a single document. An earlier version of the proposal was discussed at the 12 October meeting of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee (ASPC), which recommended that the proposal be circulated to the HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) for comment before being presented to the Graduate Studies Committee. An amended version of the proposal, incorporating feedback received from the ASPC and HDRSSC, was circulated to the Committee for consideration.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.
Resolution GSC16/6-29
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the adoption of the Student Recognition Awards Policy 2016, with effect from 16 November 2016.

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Next meeting: 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Wednesday 16 November 2016
Senate Room, Quadrangle

A full copy of the Graduate Studies Committee papers is available at sydney.edu.au/secretariat/academic-board-committees/graduate-studies-committee.