1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
The Committee noted apologies and welcomed Dean Lovett and Tong Li as postgraduate coursework and research student members respectively.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS
2.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting
Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 7 February 2017, as an accurate record.

Resolution GSC17/2-1
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolve that the minutes of meeting 1/2017, held on 7 February 2017, be confirmed as a true record.

2.2 Actions Arising
Ms Fernandez provided an update regarding Item 4.2 in the previous agenda, a proposal from Sydney Nursing School to amend the Master of Nursing. At that meeting, it was agreed that an alternative mechanism to meet the intent of the proposal be investigated, and Ms Fernandez advised that the intent of the proposal can be met using a modification to existing system functionality. A final meeting is scheduled with the Faculty on 9 March to sign off on this solution prior to deployment.

3 STANDING ITEMS
3.1 Report of the Chair
The Chair drew the attention of members to the written report. He highlighted the approval of a number of applications for recognition of prior learning, primarily from students whose supervisors are transferring to the University from other institutions. Because one of the requirements in providing this recognition is continuity of the area of previous research, there is a need for applicants to identify whether or not they are transferring with a supervisor. Associate Professor Masters...
informed members that transferring students must complete at least 6 months of candidature at the University to be eligible to graduate with a Sydney award, and cautioned against possible perception in late-candidature transfers that the University is appropriating completion funding from the previous institution which may have made a significant investment in the project.

**Resolution GSC17/2-2**
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair.

### 3.2 Report of the Academic Board

Further to the written report, Associate Professor Masters highlighted that the report of the external review of the Academic Board was formally received at the February meeting. Board members were requested to circulate the report to their constituencies seeking feedback to bring back to the March meeting, at which discussion of the review will be a focus. Due to the urgent need to revise the composition and membership of the Board to better reflect the University’s new structure, a working group has been established under Professor Jane Hanrahan to develop a proposed model to be presented to the March Board meeting. It is anticipated that a revised Academic Governance Rule will be prepared for presentation to Senate in May, to enable the conduct of elections in Semester 2.

Noting that some members of the committee have not received the review report, the Secretary undertook to circulate it to the members of the Board’s standing committees.

The Report of the Academic Board was noted as presented.

**Action:** Circulate the report of the external review of the Academic Board to members of standing committees. **Responsible:** Secretary. **Timing:** Immediately following meeting.

**Resolution GSC17/2-3**
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 28 February 2017.

### 3.3 Report of HDR Examinations Sub-Committee

Associate Professor Nelson advised that she had nothing to add to the written report, which was noted as presented.

In discussion, the Chair asked whether the revised process of appointing a Chair of Examination for each examination is increasing or alleviating the workload of the committee. Associate Professor Nelson suggested that it is too early to say, but she highlighted the need for Chairs of Examination to provide a clear recommendation to the committee to eliminate the need for follow-up.

**Resolution GSC17/2-4**
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the HDR Examinations Sub-Committee meeting of 31 January 2017.

### 3.4 Report of HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee

Further to the written report, which was noted as presented, Associate Professor McCrystal advised members that the Sub-Committee has moved to the rolling model for scholarship allocation. The first scholarship has now been awarded to an outstanding applicant via this process and the remaining applications are awaiting consideration at the first 2017 quarterly ranking meeting in April.

The introduction of strategically-aligned research scholarships has so far been challenging to implement, in particular the allocation of points to applicants undertaking study in strategically aligned areas in faculty compacts. It has been agreed to revisit this part of the model in 2018 as part of the negotiation process for faculty research compacts. The Scholarships Office has also requested (and the HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee has agreed) to delay the making of conditional offers to students who have yet to receive final results to allow re-alignment of resources to accommodate the new rolling process.

**Resolution GSC17/2-5**
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) meeting held on 24 February 2017.
4 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

**Major Course Proposals**

4.1 **Business**: Master of Business Administration (Full-Time)

Professor Guy Ford, Program Director for the MBA, attended the meeting to answer any questions arising from this proposal. Associate Professor Frost introduced the proposal and advised that it has been developed as a complement to the Business School’s existing MBA programs. The content of this program is distinct from the current part-time courses, meaning that it can be offered as a distinct MBA option. Professor Ford advised that the full-time program targets a different cohort and provides a different learning experience than the existing part-time MBA offerings.

In discussion, Associate Professor Masters expressed his support for the “exciting and timely” proposal but expressed reservations that the proposed name (specifically, use of the term Full-Time in brackets after the degree title) did not meet our commitment in the Learning and Teaching Policy to abide by the naming requirements outlined in the AQF. A name change was therefore advised before presentation of the proposal to the Academic Board and Associate Professor Masters undertook to liaise with the faculty to assist with this.

Associate Professor Masters also highlighted the desirability of including in the proposal an explanation of how the faculty will check the achievement of learning outcomes, pointing to the requirement in the Higher Education Standards Framework the need for institutions to periodically review and improve courses. Associate Professor Frost advised that Business conducts an annual or semi-annual process of reviewing assurance of learning in all of its programs, and Associate Professor Masters suggested that a generic statement of this process could be incorporated into the proposal (and any future proposals from Business). Other faculties were asked to include similar statements in any proposals they may currently be developing.

The inclusion of the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma as exit-only degrees was flagged as problematic under the AQF, and it was recommended that reference to this in the course resolutions be amended to read “transfer only” rather than “exit award only”.

It was also recommended that the faculty outline the criteria against which the ‘statement of motivation’ (at 5(1)(iii) in the course resolutions) will be assessed, in order to minimise possible dispute. This need not be done in the resolutions, but should be available on a website or other publicly-available source.

The proposal was endorsed subject to these concerns being addressed before presentation to the Academic Board.

**Action**: Liaise with Business to agree on naming of this program and address HESF requirements for review of assurance of learning, changes to the course resolutions, and the development of criteria for the assessment of the ‘statement of motivation’ for admission. **Responsible**: Chair of Academic Board. **Timing**: Before presentation of proposal to the Academic Board.

**Resolution GSC17/2-6**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommends that Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to introduce the Master of Business Administration (Full-Time);
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 University of Sydney Business School; and
3. approve the introduction of Course Resolutions arising from this proposal, with effect from 1 July 2018.

**Minor Course Proposals**

4.2 **Health Sciences**: Master of Speech Language Pathology

Dr Alison Purcell spoke to this proposal and advised that it arises from a desire to streamline the degree. Graduate qualities imparted by the program have been modernised in response to industry and graduate feedback, and units of study have been restructured and rebadged to better reflect the content they contain. Delivery methods have also been revised, and the course now contains more clinical and simulation content as well as leadership opportunities.
In discussion, the Chair questioned changes to admission requirements that now necessitate prior completion of specific tertiary subjects. This was explained as arising from feedback from students and applicants which has suggested that students would be happy to complete these subjects as prerequisites to enable them to directly focus on the requirements of the discipline as soon as they commence study. It was recommended that the listed subjects be explicitly required as prerequisites, rather than assumed knowledge, to ensure that this knowledge is understood as foundational. It was also requested that the reference to the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma as exit-only degrees be amended to read “admission only by transfer from the Masters”, and that reference in the course resolutions to “A PhD, master’s or bachelor’s degree” at clause 4(2)(a) be amended to read “A minimum of a bachelor’s degree”.

Subject to these amendments, the proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

**Resolution GSC17/2-7**

*That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:*

(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Master of Speech Language Pathology; and

(2) approve the amendment of course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from this proposal, with effect from 1 January 2018.

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Any Other Business

Associate Professor Kelly sought clarification regarding whether 3 credit point units of study are permitted and was advised that they are, but that the Academic Board needs to approve any units of study that have values other than 6 credit points. Where the content, assessment and learning outcomes academically necessitate the creation of non-standard units of study, a case can be presented to the Academic Board for consideration. It is essential, however, to ensure that the degree is not unnecessarily fragmented. It was also necessary to ensure that non-standard units of study can be undertaken in a balanced pattern in multiples of 6 credit points so that students are not forced to exceed the requirements of their degree to complete a program of study.

Associate Professor Nelson asked whether it is possible to cancel units of study that attract very small enrolment numbers. Ms Fernandez advised that the University needs to advise the government of any cancellations at least two months in advance and require explanation as to how students will not be disadvantaged by the cancellation. It was agreed that such courses will therefore need to be taught, and that this provides an opportunity for the faculty to re-examine its elective offerings for future delivery. It was also suggested that as a means of allowing flexibility in offering units with potentially small enrolments, enrolment could be restricted by requiring permission or implementing an expression of interest process. If sufficient numbers are not obtained, delivering the unit could then be reassessed without disadvantage to students.

Next meeting: 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Tuesday 11 April 2017
Senate Room, Quadrangle