1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Committee noted apologies as recorded above.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 April 2017, as an accurate record.

Resolution GSC17/4-1

That the Graduate Studies Committee resolve that the minutes of meeting 3/2017, held on 11 April 2017, as amended, be confirmed as a true record.

2.2 Actions Arising

Members were advised that all actions arising from the previous meeting have been completed.

3 STANDING ITEMS

3.1 Report of the Chair

Further to the written report, the Chair informed the Committee that as of 16 May 2017, approval of additions to the Supervisor Register can now be made at Faculty level by the Associate Dean.

Resolution GSC17/4-2

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

3.2 Report of the Academic Board

Expanding on the written report circulated with the agenda, Associate Professor Masters highlighted the discussion of the proposed Academic Board Rule 2017. He informed members that this Rule is intended to replace the current University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003 (as amended), and will be accompanied by Procedures to enable agile updates of election processes without the need to seek Senate approval. He observed that the authority of the Academic Board is further cited in the Delegations of Authority - Academic Functions, and that the powers extended by delegation need not be repeated explicitly in the Rule. It will be necessary to present the Rule to Senate before the conduct of elections for staff and student members in Semester 2. Feedback from
faculties on the draft is welcome, and the Secretary undertook to circulate the document to members for broader dissemination.

Associate Professor Masters advised that he made a presentation to Senate on the Rule and asked Fellows to consider the locus of decision-making at committee level, observing that to date Senate has never overridden an Academic Board course approval. The current starring system for Academic Board agendas effectively means that course proposals are most rigorously scrutinised at the committee level so this may provide an opportunity to formalise current practice. It may also be desirable for future committees to draw membership directly from the Academic Board; any two members so appointed could refer contentious proposals to the Academic Board for further consideration. Starring items on the Academic Board agenda in advance of the meeting has also been supported and will be implemented from the next meeting, seeking to free up time at the meeting to consider strategic items.

*Resolution GSC17/4-3*

That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 2 May 2017.

### 3.3 Report of HDR Examinations Sub-Committee

Associate Professor Nelson highlighted the inclusion in the written report of principles for writing exam recommendations, to assist the Chair of Examinations to develop a clear recommendation for consideration by the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee and HDR Administration Centre are also revising a number of forms, including those used for the Appointment of Examiners and Conflict of Interest; processes relating to the latter are also under consideration and external benchmarking is underway.

In discussion, Associate Professor Coleman praised the usefulness of the 1st Quarter PhD examination data, although he expressed concern regarding the length of some exams as captured in Table 6.1. He informed members that candidates who exceed four years of candidature are now unfunded, and modelling is underway to determine the effect of this; preliminary estimates suggest that this will have a significant impact on HDR revenue.

The measure of when a candidate is consider to have ‘completed’ was also raised, with a variety of completion points to be observed within the Go8, including the time of submission of the thesis for examination through to the issuance of a letter of award.

*Resolution GSC17/4-4*

That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the HDR Examinations Sub-Committee meeting of 26 April 2017 and the First Quarter 2017 report on PhD examinations.

### 3.4 Report of HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee

Associate Professor McCrystal informed members that the Sub-Committee had met twice since the previous meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee, including both a monthly meeting to award scholarships to outstanding applicants and the first full quarterly meeting to determine awards to other candidates. She reported that the timeframe from submission to decision has markedly improved, and that the process is thus far “moving well”.

*Resolution GSC17/4-5*

That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) on its meetings held on 7 April and 28 April 2017.

### 4 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

#### 4.1 Major Course Proposals

**Medicine: Master of Master of Medicine/Science in Medicine (Pain Management)**

The Faculty requested that this item be withdrawn from consideration

*Resolution GSC17/4-6*

That the Graduate Studies Committee note the withdrawal of this proposal.
4.2 **SCA: Deletion of Master of Film and Digital Image (MFDI), Master of Interactive and Digital Media (MIDM) and Master of Studio Art (MSA)**

Mr Trendall spoke to this proposal and advised that these three courses have been superseded and that all active students have graduated. Ms Fernandez advised that all of these courses have a small number of enrolled students who are currently suspended and that these students will need to exit (either by transfer, discontinuation or completion) before the courses can be deleted. Mr Trendall undertook to contact Ms Fernandez to obtain details for these students, and would bring the proposal back to the Committee once the matter had been resolved.

Associate Professor Masters advised that if these courses are not compliant with the AQF, this will need to be addressed if we need to retain the courses for the immediate future.

**Resolution GSC17/4-7**
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the withdrawal of this proposal.

**Minor Course Proposals**

4.3 **Business: Master of Business Administration**

Associate Professor Frost spoke to this proposal and advised that it has emerged from feedback received through the recent introduction of the Master of Business Administration (Leadership and Enterprise). The introduction of the new degree has enabled reflection on the full suite of MBA offerings, and the proposed changes reflect a consolidated MBA program.

In discussion, the repetition of the Graduate Certificate in the Executive Master of Business Administration was identified and the Faculty agreed to remove the reference to the Graduate Certificate in Clause 1. Subject to this amendment, the proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

**Resolution GSC17/4-8**
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the Executive Master of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration in Leadership and Enterprise, Graduate Diploma in Business Administration and Graduate Certificate in Business Administration;
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 amendment of course resolutions arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.4 **Conservatorium: Master of Music**

Associate Professor Nelson spoke to this proposal and advised that although the potential to record a grade against this degree is included in the course resolutions, it has rarely been used and so the Faculty has agreed to remove it from the resolutions. Grades will continue to be provided for coursework units of study completed during the degree.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

**Resolution GSC17/4-9**
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to amend the Master of Music; and
2. approve the amendment of course resolutions arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.5 **Health Sciences: Master of Exercise Physiology**

Associate Professor MacKenzie advised that this proposal will align entry requirements for the program with the requirements for accreditation. It will also open the program to a broader range of applicants.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.
Resolution GSC17/4-10
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 Exercise Physiology; and
(2) approve the amendment of course resolutions arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.6 Health Sciences: Master of Rehabilitation Counselling
Dr Millington was in attendance to speak to this proposal and advised that the entire course curriculum has been revised and restructured to enable the enrichment of education and to open the course to further employment opportunities. The new structure has also been re-mapped to the AQF, as presented.

In discussion, transitional arrangements for students currently in the program were discussed, and Dr Millington advised that all units of study either have a one-to-one correlation to units in the new curriculum or will continue to be offered in 2018 to enable current students to complete. The necessity of offering these subjects in subsequent years to accommodate suspended students was flagged, and Dr Millington informed the Committee that because this is a small discipline, the students are individually known and that this can therefore be managed directly.

Further discussion of transitional arrangements will occur and subject to this, the proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

Resolution GSC17/4-11
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation Counselling and Master of Rehabilitation Counselling; and
(2) approve the amendment of the table of units of study arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.7 Law: Juris Doctor
Associate Professor McCrystal advised that this proposal and Item 4.8 both bring efficiencies in content offering and clarification of unit of study titles.

The proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

Resolution GSC17/4-12
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Law to amend the Juris Doctor; and
(2) approve the amendment of unit of study tables arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.8 Law: Postgraduate Programs
This item was discussed with Item 4.7 above.

The proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

Resolution GSC17/4-13
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Law School to amend the Master of Laws, Master of Environmental Law, Master of Global Law, Master of International Law, Master of Law and International Development, Graduate Diploma in Law, Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law and Graduate Diploma in International Law; and
(2) approve the amendment of units of study tables arising from the proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.9 Medicine: Master of Brain and Mind Sciences
Associate Professor Kelly advised that this proposal is necessitated by a change of name for an individual unit of study, and that the content of the unit is not changing.

The proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

Resolution GSC17/4-14
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommends that the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Sydney Medical School to amend the Master of Brain and Mind Sciences and embedded courses; and
(2) approve the amendment of the unit of study tables arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

4.10 Medicine: Master of Medicine

Associate Professor Kelly advised that this proposal will clarify admission requirements to the Master of Science in Medicine, change the way in which a research project may be completed, and tidy up the course resolutions and course transfer approval processes for the suite of Master of Medicine / Science in Medicine streams.

In discussion, members were informed that the distinctiveness of the each stream is to be retained, alongside increased flexibility for movement between streams. Ms Fernandez advised that the change of name for the HIV STIs and Sexual Health stream to Sexual and Reproductive Health (as previously approved) will necessitate a new course code.

The proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

Resolution GSC17/4-15
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/Science in Medicine, as proposed; and
(2) approve the amendment of the course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from this proposal with effect from 1 January 2018.

Higher Degree by Research

4.11 Identifying, embedding and reporting graduate qualities for the Sydney PhD

Associate Professor Coleman advised that this paper has emerged from a long-term consideration at the University of what a PhD is, and how qualities and attributes for graduates might best be articulated. The current proposal is also informed by recent institutional discussion of undergraduate graduate attributes, and by the fact that the majority of PhD graduates do not enter careers in academia and potential employers desire additional information about the value of PhD graduates. It is therefore desirable to articulate the distinguishing features of a Sydney PhD and increase employment prospects for our doctoral graduates. Associate Professor Coleman informed members that the proposal will also be presented to the University Executive and to SUPRA for consultation, and he invited feedback from members, their colleagues and students.

In discussion, concern was expressed at the potential for additional work for supervisors through a requirement to ensure achievement of the qualities or otherwise administratively engage with tracking student progress towards a common set of qualities. Associate Professor Coleman advised that there was no intention to create additional coursework for HDR students, but rather to create value-adding opportunities for students during candidature. The creation of Online Learning Environments (OLEs) might also provide a mechanism for imparting these qualities.

The goal is to be as administratively ‘light touch’ as possible while ensuring that opportunities provide a real value-add and not a box-checking exercise. There is also no intention to prevent students who do not demonstrate all of the qualities from graduating, provided that their thesis is successfully examined. The challenge of students not taking advantage of opportunities provided or not benefiting from these opportunities will also need to be explored.

This proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

Resolution GSC17/4-16
That the Graduate Studies Committee:
(1) endorse the proposed draft graduate qualities for the University of Sydney PhD as presented, for broader consultation with the University community; and
(2) note this preliminary report on the issues to be addressed and next steps to be taken in finalising, embedding and reporting on graduate qualities for the University of Sydney PhD.
5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 Providing Extra Advice to Associate Deans (RE) with Respect to Theses containing Potential Issues of Academic Dishonesty

Associate Professor Coleman provided members with a brief overview of the process for checking theses for academic integrity and informed members that the number of theses that raise concerns regarding academic honesty is very small, with approximately twenty flagged in the past year for further investigation (out of approximately 250 submitted theses), of which five required some action. The Research Integrity Office wishes to ensure that the process is implemented equitably across the University, and has recommended that a risk assessment of each case be prepared by the Research Office and disseminated to Associate Deans who are affected by the cases raised. An academic staff member – ideally a former member of the HDR Examinations Sub-Committee – will be retained by the Research Office to complete these assessments, hopefully within the next month or two.

The Committee note the paper as presented.

Resolution GSC17/4-17
That the Graduate Studies Committee note changes in the process of considering theses with potential academic honesty issues.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Any Other Business

Mr Lovett sought advice as to how to address student concerns regarding the possible mal-administration of funds by the current 2016 SUPRA Council, and was advised to raise the matter with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar) in the first instance. On behalf of SUPRA, Mr Avery invited further communication on the matter.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3:32pm.

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

A full copy of the Graduate Studies Committee papers is available at sydney.edu.au/secretariat/pdfs/academic-board-committees/graduate-studies/2017/20170523-GSC-Agenda-Pack.pdf