CONFIRMED MINUTES

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
The Committee welcomed new members and noted apologies as recorded above.

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

Resolution GSC18/1-1
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolve that the minutes of meeting 8/2017, held on 7 November 2017, be confirmed as a true record.

2.2 Actions Arising
The Chair confirmed that 4.13 Medicine – Master of International Public Health and 4.14 Medicine – Master of Public Health had been circulated for consideration by the Committee Secretary immediately following the previous meeting.

Resolution GSC18/1-2
The Graduate Studies Committee noted the updates provided on outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

2.3 Revised Terms of Reference
The Committee was re-constituted at the 28 November 2017 meeting of the Academic Board, at which draft Terms of Reference were approved. The Terms of Reference was circulated to members and discussions took place to confirm that the changes made are to provide clarity around the Committee’s oversight of the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015 and minor tone/grammar corrections.

Notes from the Committee included the following suggestions:

- Clause 9: broadened to “…matters relating to the award of HDR Candidatures the degree of Doctor of Philosophy…”; and
- Clause 10: “…establish effective supervision policy and procedures for …”

The Committee also expressed a desire for confirmation from OGC on the interaction of these terms of reference with the terms of reference for the newly established AB Academic Quality Committee.
It was confirmed that these changes do not change the remit of the Committee or its delegation, which is outlined in University of Sydney (Delegations of Authority – Academic Functions) Rule 2016. Notes from the Committee will be communicated on its behalf by the Secretariat to the Office of General Council for incorporation into a final draft, with final approval anticipated at the 6 March 2018 meeting of the Academic Board.

The Committee will receive a copy of the final draft prior to submission to Academic Board, this will be actioned by the Secretariat.

3 STANDING ITEMS

3.1 Report of the Chair

The Chair’s report was taken as read and noted without further comment.

Resolution GSC18/8-3
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Chair.

3.2 Report of the Academic Board

The report of the Academic Board was taken as read and noted without further comment.

Resolution GSC18/8-4
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 28 November 2017.

3.3 Report of HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee

The Chair of the HDR Scholarship Sub-Committee provided the Committee with an update on the proceedings of the 2 February 2018 meeting.

The Committee was informed on the creation of 32 ‘super’ scholarships for the top ranked students across the University. It was noted that these would not be available until Semester 1, 2019 to ensure the largest potential marketing opportunity, and ensure the highest level of perceived equity across 2018 applicants. Data modelling for the exact make-up of the new scholarships is still underway, with the expected method to be an adaptation of the current ‘P’ model.

There is a review underway into the removal of the 3 monthly cycle for awarding scholarships, with more accurate modelling to allow for allocations each month without overspending. This will ensure high achieving students are not experiencing long wait times for scholarships. A full review of scholarships is pencilled for the second half of 2019.

International HDR Scholarships were discussed and it was noted that the Budget Review Committee did not support additional funding for international HDR students being awarded in 2018. This decision has resulted in less scholarships being offered to 2018 than 2017, and only a pool of 30 scholarships available for international students.

The Committee expressed its disappointment in the Universities’ decisions on reduced funding for international student scholarships. A disconnect between the communications received on strategic priorities to extend and promote international students and allocation of funds was noted by the Committee as undermining to credibility of the University. Concerns about how this is will impact on the Universities international reputation were also raised, with comments on the current offering from other Australian Universities in this space increasing, competitive offerings from the University will be required to secure high achieving students.

On the request of the Committee these comments will be forwarded to Academic Board by the Secretariat.

4 ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1 Education Portfolio: Proposed Revisions to Course Resolution Templates

In the absence of the Director, Educational Strategy, the Chair provided an outline of the proposed changes.
The ambiguity of Clause 2 was discussed with regards to attendance and delivery, assurance was provided that full-time, part-time, and face-to-face, and online or a combination of both were all available options. Confirmation was also given that Doctorates are covered under the HDR Rule.

Additionally, the Committee provided the following suggestion:

- Clause 8: “…the structure of the degree i.e. how many majors/ major specialisations/streams the candidate must complete…”;

These comments will be forwarded to the Director, Educational Strategy for consideration and amendment. The Committee will receive further updates as appropriate.

**Resolution GSC18/1-5**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board adopt the revised postgraduate course resolutions template, as presented, with noted amendments, with immediate effect.

**Major Course Proposals**

No items were considered.

**Minor Course Proposals**

4.2 **Medicine:** Doctor of Medical Science

The proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board without further comment.

**Resolution GSC18/1-6**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board rescind the course resolutions for the Doctor of Medical Science, as presented, with immediate effect.

4.3 **Science:** Master of Mathematics and associated degrees

The proposal was represented to the Committee with a new name that demonstrates the breadth of knowledge within the degree and will capitalise on the strong market demand for courses in this space.

The Deputy Registrar’s Nominee noted that there is a discrepancy in the CP additions and some tables from the initial proposal need to be included in the full proposal. The Committee was advised this would be corrected appropriately through communications of the Registrar’s Office and Faculty with the corrected version to be forwarded to the Secretariat.

The proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board pending these clerical changes.

**Resolution GSC18/1-7**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to change the name of the Master of Mathematics to the Master of Mathematical Sciences, and of the associated vertically integrated masters degrees eq. Bachelor of Science/Master of Mathematical Sciences;

(2) recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate for the Faculty of Science; and

(3) approve the amended course resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2019.

**Higher Degree by Research**

4.4 **Increasing engagement opportunities for HDR students**

In the absence of the Director, Graduate Research the Chair provided a detailed outline to the attached paper highlighting to the committee the recommendations.

A lengthy discussion was had by the Committee to digest the information presented within the report. The Committee commented on its unease of the collective ‘squeeze’ being placed on HDR candidates as a result of multiple initiatives and a need for shorter completion times. An increase in engagement opportunities for HDR students was encouraged however more information on the interactions with student’s projects should be seen as a priority. Discussion on the administration of ‘internships’ including possible ‘breaks’ or changes to enrolment status took place, with more information to be provided as decisions are processes are finalised. Members raised concerns...
about the terminology used within the document including “internships” connotations within Health Services industries and “intensive” in the University environment.

The Director, Graduate Research arrived to the meeting late due to a prior commitment, and provided members with further background information for the paper. He noted comments received and that further investigations needed to be completed to find the correct way to represent engagement for both students, industry, and potential employers. Concerns around insurance were also discussed, with further information to be provided as available.

The proposal was endorsed for presentation to the Academic Board.

Resolution GSC18/1-8
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board endorse the recommendations of the plan “Increasing Engagement Opportunities for HDR Students”, as presented.

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 Education Portfolio: Update on Master of Advanced Studies

An update was provided on research pathway degree programs. It was noted that the initial timeframe of implementation of the stand-alone Master of Advanced Studies in 2019 was determined to interact with the creation of government scholarships; these scholarships and the closing of an identified ‘loophole’ for CSP funding has been placed on the legislative backburner due to delay in the Senate, therefore implementation will not take place until 2020. The Education Portfolio will continue to progress these programs and keep the Committee informed of further developments.

Resolution GSC18/1-9
That the Graduate Studies Committee note the update on the Master of Advanced Studies, including the revised schedule for introducing the standalone degree.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Any Other Business

The new meeting time for 2018 was noted and information was provided to correct the error in the included pack.

The meeting closed at 11:20am.

Next meeting: 10:00am – 12:00pm, Tuesday 13 March 2018 (reserve)
Senate Room, Quadrangle