GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

10:00am – 12:00pm, Tuesday 11 September 2018
Senate Room, Quadrangle

Members Present: Associate Professor Patrick Kelly (Medicine) Acting Chair; Dr Matthew Beck (Business); Professor Jo-Anne Brien (Pharmacy); Dr Christopher Coady (Sydney Conservatorium of Music); Professor Ross Coleman (Director, Graduate Research); Associate Professor Steven Cumming (Nominee of Academic Board Representative) for Dr Peter Kench; Dr Hayley Fisher (Arts & Social Sciences); Ms Jacqui Fong (Nursing & Midwifery Representative) for Associate Professor Janice Gullick; Ms Edwina Grose (Nominee of the Deputy Registrar); Associate Professor Lynette MacKenzie (Health Sciences); Associate Professor Tony Masters (Chair of the Academic Board); Dr Petr Matous (Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies); Professor Peter McCallum (Director, Educational Strategy); Professor Shae McCrystal (Chair, HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee); Nicole Seebacher (nominee of the President, SUPRA); Professor Cameron Stewart (Law); Associate Professor Lee Stickells (Architecture, Design & Planning); and Dr Gareth Vio (Nominee of Academic Board).

Attendees: Dr Matthew Charet (Executive Officer to Academic Board); Ms Sally Hilton (Committee Officer); Ms Christine Lacey (School of Engineering and Information Technologies); Mr Peter Murlis (Portfolio Manager, Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre); and Dr Dong Yuan (School of Engineering and Information Technologies).

Apologies: Professor Michael Kertesz (Chair); Ms Sara Brown (General Manager, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)); Dr George Carayannopoulos (Head, HDR Administration Centre); Sinem Guletkin (Postgraduate Coursework Student); Associate Professor Janice Gulick (Nursing & Midwifery); Dr Peter Kench (Nominee of Academic Board); Sayan Mitra (Postgraduate Research Student); Associate Professor Nicole Mockler (Nominee of Academic Board); and Dr Munira Xaymardan (Dentistry).

2018/05

MINUTES

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Committee welcomed new members and noted the apologies as recorded above.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 June 2018 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Resolution GSC18/5-1

That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved that the minutes of meeting 4/2018 held on 17 June 2018 be confirmed as a true record.

2.2 Actions Arising

The Chair provided the Committee with an update on actions arising:

- The proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend course resolution and teaching dates for the Master of Speech Language Pathology was endorsed by the Committee out of session via email and listed for noting at Item 5.4.

- Previously withdrawn proposals from the School of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Philosophy (Architecture) and amend the Doctor of Philosophy are included on this agenda for action.
2.3 **2019 Meeting Schedule**

The 2019 Graduate Studies Committee (the Committee) dates, as approved by the Academic Board, were noted and a revised draft proposed 2019 timeline tabled.

There was detailed discussion regarding the:
- final 2019 meeting date for 2020 course amendments, with it proposed that this be moved back one (1) month to 12 March; and
- potential final 2020 meeting date for 2021 course amendments, with it suggested that this be two (2) months prior to the estimated timeline.

Members were requested to advise the Acting Chair of any concerns and advised that a draft proposed 2019 timeline would be circulated.

**Resolution GSC18/5-3**

*The Graduate Studies Committee noted the 2019 meeting schedule.*

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### 3 STANDING ITEMS

#### 3.1 **Report of the Chair**

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

**Resolution GSC18/5-4**

*That the Graduate Studies Committee noted 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 GSC18/4-5**

*That the Graduate Studies Committee noted the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 7 August 2018.*

#### 3.3 **Report of HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee**

The Chair of the HDR Scholarship Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) provided the Committee with an update on the proceedings of the meetings held on 20 July 2018 and 24 August 2018.

The Chair advised that the remaining 2018 scholarship funds are being awarded and that the funding of applications being received for 2019 will commence in September 2018. International Student Scholarship funding remains unconfirmed.

It was noted that significant concerns remain in relation to the Enhanced Scholarship scheme, with a lack of progression made in relation to the development and implementation of:
- a comprehensive policy, strategic direction and infrastructure;
- transparent eligibility criteria, a target audience and scholarship title; and
- a branding and marketing strategy.

The Director of Graduate Research advised that a review by the Strategic Scholarships Review Committee (SSRC) has recently concluded, with the resulting report under DVC consideration prior to progressing through the University Executive (UE) committees. The report proposes that the Enhanced Scholarship scheme not proceed as it is operationally overly complex and lacks adequate investment to function.

The Chair, HDRSSC, outlined a proposal to delay the awarding of Enhanced Scholarships until the implementation of a suitable infrastructure.

The Committee endorsed the proposal for submission to the Academic Board.
Resolution GSC18/5-56
That the Graduate Studies Committee discussed the report from the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) meetings held on 20 July 2018 and 24 August 2018; and recommended that the Academic Board approve the proposal from the HDRSSC to delay the award of Enhanced Scholarships.

4 ITEMS FOR ACTION

Major Course Proposals
Nil

Minor Course Proposals

4.1 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Minor amendment to the Master of Engineering, Master of Professional Engineering, Master of Professional Engineering (Accelerated)
Dr Dong Yuan presented the proposal to amend the Master of Engineering and Master of Professional Engineering, Master of Professional Engineering (Accelerated) to introduce a new major in Intelligent Information Engineering.

There was discussion regarding the use of the terms “major” and “specialisation”; with it taken on notice that the undergraduate definition of “major” differs to the proposal’s use of the term. It was therefore resolved to refer the postgraduate use of the term “major” to the Education Portfolio for clarification.

The proposal was endorsed as presented.

ACTION: The postgraduate definition of the term ‘major’ be referred to the Education Portfolio for consideration. Responsible: Professor Peter McCallum. Timing: Prior to next meeting.

Resolution GSC18/5-7
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to introduce a new major in the Master of Engineering, the Master of Professional Engineering, and the Master of Professional Engineering (Accelerated); and to amend unit of study tables arising from this proposal, with effect from 1 January 2020.

4.2 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Minor amendment to the Master of Music Studies (Conducting)
Dr Christopher Coady presented a proposal to suspend entry to the Master of Music Studies (Conducting) for 2019 as current admission rates to the degree are unsustainably low. The period of entry suspension would allow for a full review of the degree content and viability.

The proposal was endorsed in principle for 2019 implementation and submission to the Academic Board, subject to minor typographical amendments and confirmation of current student offers, suspensions and deferrals.

Resolution GSC18/5-8
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the proposal as amended from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to suspend entry to the Master of Music Studies (Conducting) for 2019; and amend the Resolutions of the Senate arising from this proposal, with effect from 1 January 2019.

4.3 School of Architecture, Design and Planning: Minor amendment to the Master of Philosophy (Architecture)
Associate Professor Lee Stickells presented a proposal to amend the Master of Philosophy (Architecture) to reflect the reclassification of the School of Architecture, Design and Planning from a Faculty to a School; the associated restructure of governance and management; and to ensure compliance with School and University policies.
Concern was raised that the proposed admission requirements would place undue responsibility on the student in gaining research supervisor approval. The proposed amendment was noted as being consistent with published University information, however, it was agreed that it posed potential for the misinterpretation of admission requirements.

The proposal was endorsed in principle for 2019 implementation and submission to the Academic Board, subject to minor typographical amendments to admission requirements and revision of examination requirements.

**Resolution GSC18/5-9**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the proposal as amended from the School of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Philosophy (Architecture) and approve the amendment of course resolutions arising from this proposal, with effect from 1 January 2019.

### 4.4 Faculty of Science

*Minor amendment to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Bachelor of Veterinary Science/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*

This proposal was not considered by the Committee due to lack of Faculty Representative.

#### Higher Degree by Research

### 4.5 Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning

*Minor amendment to the Doctor of Philosophy*

Professor Lee Stickells presented a proposal to amend the Doctor of Philosophy to reflect the reclassification of the School of Architecture, Design and Planning from a Faculty to a School; the associated restructure of governance and management; and to revise clauses relating to admission to candidature and degree requirements in line with School and University policies.

The proposal was endorsed in principle for 2019 implementation and submission to the Academic Board, subject to revision to the proposal recommendations and minor typographical amendments to admission requirements.

**Resolution GSC18/5-10**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the proposal as amended from the Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning to introduce resolutions of the University of Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning in relation to the Doctor of Philosophy; and rescind the course resolutions for the Doctor of Philosophy, with effect from 1 January 2019.

### 4.6 Proposed changes to the HDR Rule - Completions

The Director, Graduate Research, outlined the five (5) proposed changes to the *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011* (the Rule), advising members that the revised Rule is part of a larger project aimed at increasing the rate of on-time higher degree by research completions.

Members noted that the proposal has not formally been presented to Faculties and Schools for consideration and that this will be significant step in the consultation process. It was explained that the proposal will be provided to the UE Executive Research Committee, UE Research Education Committee and the HDR Examinations Subcommittee in parallel with the Committee.

**Resolution GSC18/5-11**

That the Graduate Studies Committee noted the proposal to amend the University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011.

### 4.7 Research Training Program Scholarships Policy 2018

The Director of Graduate Research explained to members that the *Research Training Program Scholarships Policy 2018* has been developed following formal advice received from the Department of Education and Training (DET).

The Policy provides information regarding the mechanisms for award and administration of the Research Training Program (RTP) scholarships.

This proposal was endorsed for submission to the Academic Board.
Resolution GSC18/5-11
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the introduction of the Research Training Program Scholarships Policy 2018.

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 Education Portfolio: Educational Integrity Trend Report, Semester 1 2018
Resolution GSC18/5-12
That the Graduate Studies Committee noted the Educational Integrity Trend Report for Semester 1 2018.

5.2 Education Portfolio: Outbound Student Mobility Policy 2018
Resolution GSC18/5-12
That the Graduate Studies Committee noted the Outbound Student Mobility Policy 2018.

5.3 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Minor amendment to the Master of Professional Engineering (Accelerated)
Resolution GSC18/5-13
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Master of Professional Engineering (Accelerated) IELTS requirements, with effect from 1 January 2019.

5.4 Faculty of Health Sciences: Minor amendment to the Master of Speech Language Pathology
Resolution GSC18/5-14
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board note the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Master of Speech Language Pathology; amend the unit of study tables and amend the course resolutions resulting from this proposal, with effect from 1 January 2019.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12:10pm

7 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6 November 2018
10:00am – 12:00pm
Function Room, Level 5, F23 Administration Building