1  WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair noted the apologies as recorded above, and welcomed new members:

- Associate Professor Catherine Hardy, incoming representative from Business, Semester 1 2019
- Dr Anrea Mcloughen, incoming representative from Nursing and Midwifery
- Professor Pauline Ross, incoming representative from Science
- Kelly Wang, incoming nominee of the President, SUPRA
- Dr Glenys Eddy, incoming Committee Officer

The Chair thanked the following people for their service to the Committee:

- Associate Professor Patrick Kelly, Acting Chair, Semester 2 2018.
- Professor Janice Gullick, outgoing representative from Nursing and Midwifery
- Nicole Seebacher, outgoing nominee of the President, SUPRA
- Sally Hilton, outgoing Committee Officer.

The Chair gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

2  PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 November 2018 as an accurate record of the meeting, pending two corrections being made:

Dr Hayley Fisher wished it noted that the proposal for the Master of Economics (Dual Pathway) minor course amendment had been held over due to time contraints at the last meeting.

After consultation between Acting Chair Associate Professor Patrick Kelly and EO to Academic Board Dr Matthew Charet subsequent to the meeting, the Acting Chair requested that the three
combined Masters proposals from the School of Public Health address issues raised during the meeting and re-submit them to the Graduate Studies Committee for its next meeting.

Resolution GSC19/1-1
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved that pending the corrections noted above being made, the minutes of meeting 2018/06 held on 6 November 2018 be confirmed as a true record of that meeting.

2.2 Actions Arising

The Chair reported:

- that no progress had been made on the meeting with Associate Professor McCallum concerning the definition of the term ‘specialization.’
- the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine item had already been approved by Academic Board.

Resolution GSC19/1-2
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved to note the updates provided on outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

2.3 Committee Forward Plan for 2019

The Chair observed that the Forward Plan outlined the structure of meetings to come in 2019. The Forward Plan was noted without comment.

Resolution GSC19/1-3
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved to note the Committee Forward Plan for 2019.

3 STANDING ITEMS

3.1 Report of the Chair

The Chair drew attention to the four thesis embargos and two erratum notices noted in his report, stating that as PhD theses are to be lodged in the library, students need to provide a strong reason for both the embargo request and why the embargo period requested is appropriate.

For the benefit of new members the Chair briefly outlined the main points of the Committee’s Terms of Reference and for the Committee briefly outlined the its new responsibility for the endorsement of changes to Table R.

The Chair also outlined some points of meeting protocol, emphasising:

- that requests for submission of late papers must be accompanied by a reason for the urgency of the paper and for its lateness; and
- that as Committee membership is determined by the Academic Board, members are representatives of their disciplines, and of faculties in terms of the embodiment of their disciplinary expertise.

Resolution GSC19/1-4
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved to note the report of the Chair.

3.2 Report of the Academic Board

The Chair of Academic Board did not wish to add to his report as submitted, which was noted by the Committee without further comment.

Resolution GSC19/1-5
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved to note the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 27 November 2018.
3.3 Report of HDR Scholarships Sub-Committee

The Chair of the HDR Scholarship Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) reported that problems with the rolling model (no longer fixed-date) for the HDR Scholarships Application process have been evident for some time, and have been significant this year as students have not been applying until February for 2019, resulting in the Scholarships Office being unable to process applications in time for the February meeting. The Office is expecting a large number of applications in March and need a process for encouraging students to apply sooner. It had been suggested that the website display an application deadline with the message that those students who apply on time will be guaranteed a response by a certain date. It was observed that a deadline was necessary in order to manage applicants’ expectations, and suggested that the University return to the historical practice of students applying even before receiving their undergraduate mark, given that the shift of semester dates might exacerbate the current problem.

Associate Professor McCrystal raised the matter of insurance for those students carrying projects over from Honours to their PHD, for example, wet lab projects, not being covered by insurance without having lodged their application.

In response to notification that some long-term HDRSSC members were stepping down, the Chair thanked these HDRSSC members for their contribution.

In response to discussion, Edwina Grose agreed to verify whether the University is unique in its use of the rolling date method.

Associate Professor McCrystal reported that the HDRSSC will submit a report on the 2018 allocation of scholarships to the next GSC meeting.

**Action Item GSC 19/1-1**

Edwina Grose to verify whether the University is unique in its use of the rolling date method and report to the Committee.

**Action Item GSC 19/1-2**

The HDRSSC to submit a report on the 2018 allocation of scholarships to the next meeting.

**Resolution GSC19/1-6**

That the Graduate Studies Committee discussed the report from the Higher Degree by Research Scholarships Sub-Committee (HDRSSC) meetings held on 28 September 2018 and 19 October 2018.

3.4 Report of the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2018

The report of the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies was noted without comment.

**Resolution GSC19/1-7**

That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved to note the 2018 report from the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies.

4 ITEMS FOR ACTION

**Major Course Proposals**

4.1 Faculty of Medicine and Health: Doctor of Medicine

Associate Professors Deborah O'Mara and Kellie Charles presented the proposal for the Doctor of Medicine to the Committee. The Doctor of Medicine is intended to provide graduates with more preparation for practice. The degree’s delivery will include more clinical immersion early in the student’s candidature, the clinical science component is to be condensed, with more time spent in the clinical school and in the community. A mentoring system has been devised, and students needing assistance will have a learning advisor mediation plan. Students will obtain a pass or fail for a year’s study rather than results for individual units. Each year will consist of two 24 credit-point units.

The question was raised concerning how the proposed staffing relates to University policy. Associate Professor O’Mara confirmed that the workload of current staff will not be increased.
The Chair complimented the faculty on its recording of the way in which feedback from the UE CCPC had been addressed.

It was noted that an outdated version of the proposal had been circulated with the agenda pack, and therefore the appropriateness of final changes to resolutions and the course structure outline for submission to Academic Board could not be verified at the meeting. In order to correct this, and to ensure that the proposal documentation for Academic Board reflect the exact nature of the proposed curriculum build, the Chair directed the Committee Officer to circulate to the Committee the documents for submission to Academic Board, for checking, prior to their submission.

The Committee agreed to the recommendation by the Chair, Academic Board, that it endorse the proposal on the condition that it sees the final version for submission to Academic Board.

**Action Item GSC 19/1-3**

The Committee Officer is to circulate the proposal documents for submission to Academic Board to the Committee ahead of their submission to AB.

**Resolution GSC19/1-8**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to introduce the Doctor of Medicine and the Master of Health Studies; and
2. approve the introduction of course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2020.

### 4.2 Faculty of Medicine and Health (School of Public Health): Master of Global Health/Master of Philosophy

Professor Tim Driscoll presented the three Public Health combined Masters proposals to the Committee (Items 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4), which had been endorsed at the previous meeting on 6 November 2018. Subsequent to the previous meeting, the Acting Chair requested that the three proposals be amended to address issues raised during the meeting and be re-submitted to the Committee for its next meeting.

Professor Driscoll noted that the main concern had been whether these courses could be made available to domestic students as well as international students, recounting that Public Health had originally intended to make the combined coursework and research degrees available to international students only, but after CCPC review, the question was raised as to whether these should be open to domestic students as well.

The Committee saw having these courses available to domestic students as potentially problematic as they can enrol in the equivalent coursework and research components separately, and many coursework Masters degrees contain a research component. Professor Driscoll observed that the advantage to international students was that both components could be offered within a two-year degree suitable for international students. Edwina Grose observed that whereas a market existed for international students, administering these courses for domestic students contained potential complications that would need to be resolved, noting also that domestic students’ details could be changed when progressing from the coursework to the research component.

It was also noted that domestic students might not be awarded RTP under these award conditions. Professor Driscoll suggested that the proposals progress to Academic Board on the basis that they are currently under consideration for international students only, with further work to be undertaken to develop them for the domestic market.

The Committee endorsed the three combined Masters proposals for submission to Academic Board.

**Resolution GSC19/1-9**

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to introduce the combined Master of Global Health / Master of Philosophy award course;
2. approve the introduction of course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal; and
(3) recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate for the Faculty of Medicine and Health, with effect from 1 January 2020.

4.3 Faculty of Medicine and Health: Master of Health Policy / Master of Philosophy

This item was discussed under Item 4.2.

Resolution GSC19/1-10

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to introduce the combined Master of Health Policy / Master of Philosophy award course;
2. approve the introduction of course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal; and
3. recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate for the Faculty of Medicine and Health, with effect from 1 January 2020.

4.4 Faculty of Medicine and Health: Master of Public Health / Master of Philosophy

This item was discussed under Item 4.2.

Resolution GSC19/1-11

That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board:

1. approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health to introduce the combined Master of Public Health / Master of Philosophy award course;
2. approve the introduction of course resolutions and unit of study tables arising from the proposal; and
3. recommend that Senate approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate for the Faculty of Medicine and Health, with effect from 1 January 2020.

4.5 Education Portfolio: Microcredentials at the University of Sydney

Associate Professor Peter McCallum presented the proposal to the Committee, which recommended the development of a 12 credit-point non AQF award. This paper built on a previous paper outlining a model for the introduction of micro-credentials as a 12 credit point ‘Professional Certificate’. The current paper proposes a small adjustment to policy and provides more details of the means of governance of the award. The Sydney Professional Certificate will act as a shell enabling individual faculties and University schools to offer pathways within the award. It is intended as a professional certificate that will build skills within a particular area of learning. As an AQF 8 post-bachelor qualification, it will contain units at 4000 level or above.

Associate Professor McCallum outlined two advantages to offering the award in this way: it facilitates broad coherence of titles, and will shorten the approval timeframe for faculties/University schools. Effective governance will be assured by delegating the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies with central governance responsibility and the faculties and University schools with quality assurance and delivery responsibilities.

It is intended that the Microcredential award be approved for a 2020 implementation. Feedback from this meeting will be incorporated into a full proposal to be submitted to the following meeting, for submission to the April meeting of Academic Board.

The following matters were raised by the Committee for consideration and/or clarification:

- The potential for the Microcredentials to be capped at 18 credit points rather than 12, giving students who wish to the opportunity of completing a little extra volume of learning. This would require the creation of two separate courses, for 12 and 18 credit points, in the back end of the system. This raised the matter of whether the award be limited to specific unit combinations or ‘any units’. As system set-up is determined by course-association rules, these matters need resolution before implementation can begin.

- Would it be possible for a candidate to be awarded the Professional certificate at two different points in their career, in order to gain specific skills and knowledge needed for career development?
• That consideration be given as to whether the 12 credit-point award can be used as credit for other qualifications.

• If the Microcredentials award is predicated on a condensed version of Level 8, is Level 7 material excluded?

• Caution was expressed with respect to the University’s badging of skills acquired elsewhere.

• To the question of whether OLE could be used in this way, Associate Professor McCallum suggested that this would undermine the OLE’s pedagogical rationale.

• The use of the term ‘award’ implies assessment; the need exists to consider this. It highlights the importance of the Knowledge and Skills table (Agenda pack, p. 352) in terms of how the knowledge and skills outcomes will be demonstrated.

The Microcredentials proposal was endorsed for development to full proposal for consideration by the Committee at a later meeting.

Resolution GSC19/1-12
That the Graduate Studies Committee resolved to welcome the re-submission of the proposal for the University of Sydney Microcredential Award course in full proposal form.

Minor Course Proposals

4.6 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Master of Economics (Dual Pathway)

Dr Hayley Fisher presented the Master of Economics (Dual Pathway) minor course amendment to the Committee. The proposal consisted of an amendment to the course resolutions for the Master of Economics to correctly reflect the credit point requirement for the Dual Degree Pathway. The degree is to be cross-credited with a Chinese Institution.

Dr Fisher also noted that Admissions is satisfied with the admissions requirements outlined in the resolutions and that Section 10, Dual Degree Pathway, has been corrected to clarify that the degree total is 96 credit-points rather than 72, and allows for 24 credit points of reduced volume of learning.

It was recommended that the resolutions contain a reference to the definition of ‘dual degree’. Hugh O’Dwyer reported that a policy is in draft to accommodate this. The Committee recommended that the course resolutions include a reference to the Dual Degree Pathway being in alignment with the new policy.

A typo in 5 (4) (a) needed correcting (removal of the superfluous ‘the’).

The Committee endorsed the proposal conditional upon the course resolutions being amended to state that they would be valid once the Dual Degree policy was prepared.

The Committee endorsed the proposal, acknowledging that a new dual degrees policy is being drafted and in the future dual degree resolutions will need to align with the provisions in this policy (if approved).

Action GSC19/1-4
The course resolutions to be amended to state that they would become valid once the Dual Degree Policy was in place. The superfluous ‘the’ to be removed from 5 (4) (a).

Note for the Record: post-meeting discussion resolved that no amendment to resolutions referring to a forthcoming policy was feasible, and therefore only the typo was corrected.

Resolution GSC19/1-13
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 Master of Economics (Dual Pathway); and
(2) approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from the proposal, with effect from 1 January 2020.

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING
There were no items for noting.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 PRSS Procedures 2019
Professor Ross Coleman presented the proposal to the Committee, observing that the University has experienced ongoing problems with the administration of the Postgraduate Research Support Scheme, namely, that its lack of consistency throughout the University has led to student dissatisfaction and the request for consistency and transparency. It is proposed that the faculties will be responsible for informing students about the application assessment process.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Clause 4 (1) needs clarification as to whether the term ‘school’ refers to University school or faculty-based school.
- Clause 5 (2) needs amendment to state ‘per award’.
- The PRSS is run centrally but the rules can be defined at school level. Professor Coleman reported that faculties have disagreed with the suggestion of having a centralised process for the University.
- The Chair was in agreement with faculties publishing their funding rules on their websites.
- Professor Coleman provided clarification as to the intent of 5 (1) (a), that PRSS committees need to know why any applicant is making marginal progress, and if they consider that a PRSS grant will help their performance, then this can be considered at their APR.
- The Procedures need to define ‘satisfactory progress’, to be consistent with the Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015.

The Committee endorsed the draft Procedures for submission to Academic Board, pending the requested amendments having been made.

Action GSC19/1-5
That the following amendments be made to the PRSS Procedures 2019:

- Clause 4 (1) needs clarification as to whether the term ‘school’ refers to University school or faculty-based school.
- Clause 5 (2) needs amendment to state ‘per award’.
- The Procedures need to define ‘satisfactory progress’, to be consistent with the Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2015.

Resolution GSC19/1-14
That the Graduate Studies Committee recommend that the Academic Board approve the Postgraduate Research Support Scheme Procedures 2019.

7 NEXT MEETING
Tuesday, 12 March 2019
10:00am – 12:00pm
Function Room, Level 5, F23 Administration Building