



The University of Sydney

Special meeting of Senate, 22 August 2002

Secretary to Senate: The Registrar (Dr W G Adams)

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A Special meeting of Senate will be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 22 August 2002 in the Senate Room.

- (1) Can top-up fees be introduced in such a way as not to unfairly burden students with debt, raise a reasonable amount for the university and be workable government policy, and if so how?
- (2) In particular
 - (a) What is the optimum mechanism to do this, and why better than other options, briefly stated, with their pros and cons.
 - (b) If it is via HECS, what specific adjustments to HECS would best achieve (1) above taking into account
 - (i) The range of possible student debts from top-up fees
 - (ii) The range of debt incurred by the student doing post-graduate study, and
 - (iii) The impact of that debt on students without adequate means
 - (c) What would be feasible and desirable by way of means tested assistance, and how might that best be integrated with the optimum mechanism in (a) above; in particular, should a minimum percentage of the extra funds raised by top-up fees be devoted to means-tested assistance, but so as to take into account the funds already devoted by the university to that end.

Dr W G Adams
Registrar