THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

ACADEMIC BOARD   16 SEPTEMBER 2015

Executive Officer: Megan Kemmis

University Secretariat
Quadrangle (A14)

**Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board
held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 16 September 2015 in the Professorial Board Room**

There were present: the Chair (Associate Professor P McCallum) presiding; the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Dr M Spence); the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Associate Professor S Cattle, Professor J Hanrahan, Associate Professor T Masters and Associate Professor D Traini); Associate Professor J Anderson, Associate Professor J Barrett (for Professor B Caine), Associate Professor S Barrie, Mr K Blakeney, Dr J Bloomfield, Dr R Bourne, Professor B Buckley, Professor T Carlin, Associate Professor W Davis, Associate Professor D Easdown, Professor S Garton, Professor M Graeber, Mr T Greenwell, Associate Professor T Grewal, Ms K Hartman-Warren, Professor M Hindson, Ms A Irish, Mr S Isaac, Professor D Ivison, Dr N Jarkey, Professor Y-H Jeon, Professor A Johnston, Mr C Jones, Dr P Knight, Associate Professor S van der Laan, Professor P Leong, Dr J Ma, Dr M Millington, Professor E Mpofu, Associate Professor L Nicholson, Professor P Pattison, Professor C Peck, Professor I Ramzan, Professor K Refshauge, Ms A Rose, Dr J Saleeba, Dr R Saunders, Professor J Shields, Associate Professor C Taylor, Professor G Tolhurst, Professor C Wade, Associate Professor R Walker, Associate Professor G White, Dr P White and Associate Professor T Wilkinson.

Present as observers: Associate Professor M Bohua (Taizhor Polytechnic Centre), Ms S Harrison (Office of the Provost) and Ms L Rose (Office of the Provost)

In attendance: Ms M Kemmis (Secretary to Academic Board).

The Chair welcomed Associate Professor Mu Bohua from Taizhor Polytechnic Centre in China, who is visiting the University of Sydney.

☆ **1.   Apologies**
Apologies have been received from: Dr R Bathgate, Ms A Bell, Dr T Bell, Dr B Church, Ms T Clement, Professor M Crock, Ms C Fahd, Associate Professor J Glister, Dr J Gullick, Professor N Gurran, Professor T Hambley, Professor S Houston, Dr D Larkin, Professor D Lowe, Ms D Mair, Dr S Matthew, Ms E May, Professor D Mayer, Professor A McBratney, Associate Professor S McGrath-Champ, Dr C Owens, Professor J Redmond, Professor J Riley, Professor B Robinson, Dr K Rooney, Ms J Smith, Professor R Stancliffe, Associate Professor C Sutton-Brady, Professor D Waters, Professor G Whitwell and Professor P Young.

☆ **2.   Arrangement of agenda**
2.1   Starring of items
The following item was starred: 4.1

2.2   Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution AB_6_208/15
That the Academic Board resolved as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

3.   **Minutes of previous meeting**

> **Resolution AB_6_209/15**
> That the Academic Board adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 August 2015 as a true record.

4.   **Business arising from Minutes** (not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda)

☆   4.1   **Coursework Policy and Procedure Amendments – Item 13.2.1, 19 August 2015**

> The Chair reminded members that there were extensive discussions at the last meeting on this item, particularly the removal of references to informal applications for special consideration (also known as simple extensions). While the amendments were approved by a majority of members, the Chair advised that he has met with student members to discuss their concerns regarding this change. A number of options have been canvassed, but the main proposal will be referred to the next Academic Standards and Policy Committee meeting before coming to the October meeting of the Academic Board. More details need to be developed, but he advised that the proposal will separate simple extensions from the special consideration process.

> **Resolution AB_6_210/15**
> That the Academic Board note the Chair's report on this matter.

☆   5.   **Presentation: Strategic Plan 2016-2020 – Organisational Design**

> The Chair invited Professor Garton to make his presentation. Professor Garton advised members that around twenty meetings have already been held regarding this part of the Strategic Plan and around fifty submissions have been received, with the discussion paper to be released by the end of the month. This has allowed a range of options to be discussed with faculties which will be narrowed down for the discussion paper which will also look at organisational design at the sub-faculty level, with a view to developing common structures to improve decision-making and governance. He pointed out that it is almost impossible to generate an authoritative list of the heads of schools, departments and other faculty units from any one database at the University. Additionally, students are dissatisfied with the impact of the existing structure on student administration and study choices, academic staff feel they spend too much time on administrative matters, and resources (including staff time) are wasted in supporting an overly complex structure. The University has the most faculties of any of the Group of Eight universities, and more than most comparable institutions overseas. The faculties themselves are highly variable, ranging in size from 680 academic staff to 35 academic staff, and from 8,800 EFTSL to 514 EFTSL. Some faculties experience a large volume of cross-faculty enrolments, while others are essentially "quarantined" by the nature of the courses they offer.

> Given the strong case in support of restructuring, what principles should the University use to determinate an appropriate structure? Professor Garton outlined the following: research and education synergies should be the underlying driver; improvement in student experience should be a priority; it must drive improvement in performance and accountability of services; it must generate savings for reinvestment in education and research; and there should be economies of scale, without losing identity and distinctiveness. He raised Pharmacy as a case study. This faculty could potentially become part of an expanded medical or science faculty, and there are potential research and teaching synergies in both options. However these need to be considered in terms of impact on the external accreditation of Pharmacy and the international student market. The faculty has suggested creating a School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in a medical faculty [CHECK].

> Professor Garton showed a range of possible structures to which the University's existing faculties can be mapped. Some of the more interesting suggestions are the creation of a Faculty of Professions (as currently exists at the University of Adelaide) embracing Architecture, Education and Law; or a faculty of biomedical sciences with a separate medical/health faculty focussed on clinical health. The merging of Agriculture, Science and Veterinary Science is already supported and initial steps have been taken via the creation of a School of Life and Environmental Sciences. However possible changes to Arts and Social Sciences need further consideration, particularly how much larger the existing faculty should become. Other issues include the location of Social Work (should it

move with Education or become part of a medical faculty), how large should any potential health or medical faculty become, and where is Architecture best located. He concluded by advising that a final structure should be determined by the end of this year and implemented in 2017.

Members commented on the presentation as follows:
- The Chair agreed that faculty structures needed clarification, mentioning that the review of teaching and learning policies has highlighted the current complexity;
- Ms Hartman-Warren pointed out that some of the smaller faculties have very distinctive identities, with Professor Garton noting that the implementation of any restructure will be a complex process;
- Professor Graeber asked how much of the restructure would be virtual, rather than physical; Professor Garton advised that the current focus is on the vertical structure of faculties, but there are horizontal and virtual structures outlined in the research discussion papers;
- the Chair noted that cross-faculty research requires the University to transcend the faculty structure, but curriculum is still focussed on individual faculties, adding that this could be circumvented by having degrees owned by boards of study instead of faculties; Professor Garton noted the rise of cross-faculty degrees and agreed that delegations of authority should be reviewed, however his main area of concern is the disciplinary communities which is where the duplication of units of study occurs;
- Associate Professor Masters asked if there are models which are more likely to meet the principles for restructuring, and Professor Garton advised that the discussion paper will outline how well each model meets the principles;
- Mr Isaac asked how the restructuring will take into account the accreditation requirements of the University's health disciplines and associated degrees, with Professor Garton agreeing that it will be a challenge to create teaching and research synergies while preserving and protecting the professional distinctiveness and accreditation requirements; the Vice-Chancellor pointed out that many of the University's currently accredited degrees exist within schools rather than faculties, with the Chair adding that the Faculty of Health Sciences has thirteen different degrees requiring accreditation;
- Professor Refshauge asked if an implementation group would be formed and how it would operate; Professor Garton confirmed that a group of academic and professional staff would be convened with different sub-groups looking at different implementation issues; the Vice-Chancellor added that implementation is also being considered as part of the broader suite of projects occurring at the University, including the Student Administrative Services review;
- Dr Jarkey asked if the current system of divisions would be realigned or removed, with Professor Garton advising that the divisions would be removed; the Vice-Chancellor added that the divisions had been introduced to address the issue of fragmentation at the University and to bring people together for strategic conversations regarding budget, planning and risk management; it had been a deliberate decision to not provide the divisions with any administrative structures to make it easier to remove them at an appropriate time.

The Chair thanked Professor Garton for his presentation.

Resolution AB_6_211/15
That the Academic Board note the presentation from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor on Organisation Design and the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

6. Report of the Chair
6.1 Report on Senate Matters
No Senate meeting has been held since the last Academic Board meeting

6.2 Honours and Distinctions
The Board noted and congratulated by acclamation the recipients of honours and distinctions, as set out in the agenda.

Resolution AB_6_212/15
That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on the honours and distinctions and congratulate the recipients, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair of the Academic Board to write to recipients congratulating them on their honours and distinctions.

6.3 General Report

6.3.1 Academic Board Standing Committees: Nominations for Membership
Members approved the nomination.

Resolution AB_6_213/15
That the Academic Board approve the nomination of Dr Wayne Cotton as the representative of the Faculty of Education and Social Work on the Undergraduate Studies Committee for a term of membership expiring 31 December 2015.

Action: Executive Officer to update membership list.

6.3.2 Coursework Policy and ESOS compliance
The Chair advised that this amendment has been put forward by the Office of General Counsel to ensure the timelines outlined in clause 101 are aligned with those in the ESOS National Code. The amendment will have immediate effect as the University needs to comply with the code. Members approved the amendment.

Resolution AB_6_214/15
That the Academic Board approve the proposed amendment to clause 101 of the Coursework Policy 2014 with immediate effect.

Action: Executive Officer to update the Coursework Policy 2014 on the Policy Register.

6.3.3 Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism Taskforce Report
The Chair advised that he had planned to bring the second report of the taskforce to this meeting, but it needs to be reviewed by Senate first. He advised that the report will include recommendations on staff training, HDR students (including recommendations that theses be submitted to Turnitin, and that policies related to academic misconduct and HDR students be collated in one document), sanctions and referrals to the Registrar (it is recommended that Chapter 8 of the By-Law be replaced by a Rule of Senate), and that the Student Code of Conduct be reviewed by a panel of students as part of building a culture of academic honesty amongst students. Members noted the report.

Resolution AB_6_215/15
That the Academic Board note the update report on the work of the Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism Taskforce.

6.3.4 2014 University of Sydney Indicators of Perceived Quality of Student Learning Experiences and Graduate Outcomes
The Chair invited Professor Pattison to present this item. She noted that there are some concerning aspects to these statistics, but also grounds for optimism. There have been improvement in learner engagement and on the generic skills scales, but teaching quality and employment outcomes are middling and the results for learning resources and student support are concerning. She reminded members that many of the initiatives outlined in the second education discussion paper relate to building student skills to improve graduate outcomes. She added that her office will make student feedback data as widely available as possible.

The Chair thanked Professor Pattison for this report, noting that the University's rankings compared with other Group of Eight universities needs to improve. The employability of undergraduate students is particularly concerning, more so when considered in the context of how disruptive technology changes will affect employment prospects in the future. Professor Pattison agreed that this is a sector-wide concern, but pointed out there are recommendations to revise the University's curricula

to address this. Professor Masters asked if it is possible to drill further down on the data to assess how effective teaching is in specific courses. He particularly noted Table 2B (coursework postgraduates in full-time employment) with respect to the Faculty of Science, and Professor Pattison pointed out that a significant number of science students go on to further research study. However the employment prospects are not good, and while there is a national push for more STEM graduates there is yet to be an increase in job opportunities.

Resolution AB_6_216/15
That the Academic Board note the 2014 University of Sydney Indicators of Perceived Quality of Student Learning Experiences and Graduate Outcomes.

6.3.5   Correspondence Register
There are no items to report to this meeting

6.3.6   Preparing more Indigenous teachers at the University of Sydney
The Chair advised that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) and the Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Work are requesting that the Academic Board facilitate a taskforce to look at the issue of training indigenous teachers. The Faculty had been preparing a course proposal in this area, but has had to abandon the course due to a range of external and internal issues. Members endorsed the proposal to form a taskforce.

Resolution AB_6_217/15
That the Academic Board endorse the formation of a taskforce to create an institution-wide discussion on optimal ways of delivering teacher education for Indigenous students as set out in the report presented.

6.3.7   Higher Education Policy updates
Members noted the two reports from the Higher Education Policy unit.

Resolution AB_6_218/15
That the Academic Board note the reports from the Higher Education Policy unit on the recent TEQSA provider roundtable, student fees and work integrated learning experiences for STEM students, as set out in the report presented.

The Chair advised members that elections for academic staff and student members of the Academic Board would commence in the following week, adding that any queries should be directed to the Executive Officer.

7.   Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal
7.1   Report on Senate Matters
No Senate meeting has been held since the last Academic Board meeting

7.2   General report
The Vice-Chancellor began by apologising for some of his comments regarding simple extensions at the previous meeting which had been misconstrued, explaining that he had wanted to highlight the variability of the current system. He spoke to members on the following matters:
• The development of the Strategic Plan: the next discussion paper to be released will be a short paper on culture based on the "Many Values" workshops, and he encouraged members to comment on this and the previous papers on education and research;
• Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism Taskforce: the Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair of the Academic Board for his work in chairing the working party and developing the two reports, adding that the Chair is also leading a review on continuing education;
• Survey on incidence of sexual harassment and assault: this survey will be released at the end of the month to obtain a base line on incidents of this nature in the student population; the University will also be reviewing its

policies and procedures and education (this would go beyond consent to cover such issues as respectful relationships); the University will also look at empowering people to protect themselves and the use of alcohol on campus; the Vice-Chancellor pointed out this is an issue for university campuses globally, and will be getting more attention next year with the release of the US documentary "The Hunting Ground"; the University will be speaking with the distributors about how the film could be screened on campus and what support can be provided to people for whom the film raises issues;

- Group of Eight: the Vice-Chancellor will be taking over chairing the Group of Eight from Professor Ian Young;
- The Quality Assurance Council of Hong Kong: he noted that his involvement with this organisation has proved useful as many of the universities of Hong Kong are exploring issues similar to those raised in our education strategy consultation papers; and
- The Athena SWAN program: the program was launched today in Canberra, and the University is also launching a sponsorship program for women from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds who have been identified as potential academic leaders.

Mr Blakeney noted the Vice-Chancellor's report regarding a survey on incidents of sexual harassment and assault, advising that the SRC has held discussions on campus security, lighting, access to the campus by people who aren't part of the University community, and other issues. Both the University of Sydney Union (USU) and SRC run a range of educational programs such as the USU's radical sex and consent week, and the SRC's Wom*n's Collective and self-defence training. He suggested the University increase their support for these initiatives. He added that assaults are more likely to happen after events on campus than at them, which is why the SRC supports doing more to improve security. He also recommended doing more to improve the culture in the residential colleges. The Vice-Chancellor agreed that after hours security is important, but more needs to be done to deal with people being attacked by people they know. He added that the University needs to work with the student organisations on this issue but the student organisations also need to continue their own work.

Resolution AB_6_219/15
That the Academic Board note the report presented by the Provost.

8. Question time

Mr Blakeney referred to the discussion at the previous Academic Board meeting regarding student accommodation and the Vice-Chancellor apologised that the promised report had not been forthcoming and undertook to chase it up.

Professor Masters advised member that the Decadal Plan for Chemistry, developed by the Australian Academy of Science's National Committee for Chemistry, contains a recommendation that the government mandate study of chemistry in Year 12 for admission to chemistry units at university. He expressed concern that inviting the government to be involve in the admissions criteria for university courses could lead to involvement in the curriculum, and he urged any staff involved with the academies to be cautious of such recommendations. The Vice-Chancellor agreed, noting that the government has already intervened in the area of teacher training. Professor Pattison advised that a Universities Australia group has been working with peak bodies in the professions to develop principles for accreditation which might address parallel issues in that context.

Resolution AB_6_220/15
That the Academic Board note the responses to the questions raised.

9. Reports of the Faculties
9.1 Board of Studies in Rural Management: Amendment to membership

Resolution AB_6_221/15
That the Academic Board approve the proposed change to membership of the Board of Studies in Rural Management with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to update the membership list.

9.2   Faculty of Science: Amendment to Faculty Constitution

Resolution AB_6_222/15
That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve the amendments to the Senate Resolutions relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Science with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair to recommend that Senate approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Constitution of the Faculty of Science.

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Resolutions of Senate related to the Constitution of the Faculty of Science.

10.   Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee
10.1   Oral report of the Chair
Associate Professor Cattle advised the committee had dealt with a number of minor course amendments at its last meeting. The Chair added that the proposal to amend the units of study in the Civil Engineering stream of the Bachelor of Engineering Honours had been contentious.

Resolution AB_6_223/15
That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

10.2   Report of the meeting held on 2 September 2015
10.2.1   Minor course amendment proposals
10.2.1.1   Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies
(1)   Bachelor of Engineering Honours (Civil Engineering)

Resolution AB_6_224/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Civil Engineering stream of the Bachelor of Engineering Honours; and
(2)   approve the amendment of the table of units of study arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Civil Engineering stream of the Bachelor of Engineering Honours.

(2)   Bachelor of Project Management

Resolution AB_6_225/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Bachelor of Project Management; and
(2)   approve the amendment of the table of units of study arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, to note the Academic Board's

approval of the proposal to amend the Bachelor of Project Management.

10.2.1.2 Faculty of Science: Resolutions of the Faculty of Science for coursework awards

Resolution AB_6_226/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to amend the Faculty Resolutions; and
(2)   approve the amendments to the Faculty Resolutions arising from this proposal
with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Faculty Resolutions and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_6_227/15
That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Admissions Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015, as set out in the report presented.

11.   Report of the Graduate Studies Committee
11.1   Oral report of the Chair
Professor Masters referred to the ranking guidelines approved under item 11.2.3, and advised that there were questions from some faculties regarding the operation of the guidelines which have been referred back to the Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee with the request that they work with the faculties to address their issues. The Chair noted that the major review of the ranking guidelines performed by Professor Carroll had led to the revisions approved late last year and that it would be worthwhile reviewing the operation of the guidelines in another year.

Resolution AB_6_228/15
That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee.

11.2   Report of the meeting held on 2 September 2015
11.2.1   Minor course amendment proposals
11.2.1.1 University of Sydney Business School: Master of Business Administration

Resolution AB_6_229/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the University of Sydney Business School to amend the Master of Business Administration; and
(2)   approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, University of Sydney Business School, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Business Administration and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2.2 Faculty of Medicine

(1) Master of Medicine, Master of Medicine (Advanced), Master of Science in Medicine, Master of Science in Medicine (Advanced), Graduate Diploma in Medicine, Graduate Diploma in Science in Medicine, Graduate Certificate in Medicine, Graduate Certificate in Science in Medicine

Resolution AB_6_230/15

That the Academic Board:

(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Master of Medicine, Master of Medicine (Advanced), Master of Science in Medicine, Master of Science in Medicine (Advanced), Graduate Diploma in Medicine, Graduate Diploma in Science in Medicine, Graduate Certificate in Medicine and Graduate Certificate in Science in Medicine; and

(2) approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from this proposal

with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Medicine, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Medicine, Master of Medicine (Advanced), Master of Science in Medicine, Master of Science in Medicine (Advanced), Graduate Diploma in Medicine, Graduate Diploma in Science in Medicine, Graduate Certificate in Medicine and Graduate Certificate in Science in Medicine and amend the resolutions in CMS.

(2) Changes to Tables of Units of Study

Resolution AB_6_231/15

That the Academic Board:

(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend tables of units of study for the study areas of Clinical Epidemiology, Genetic Counselling, Public Health and Qualitative Health Research; and

(2) approve the amendment of the table of units of study arising from this proposal

with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Medicine, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend tables of units of study for the study areas of Clinical Epidemiology, Genetic Counselling, Public Health and Qualitative Health Research.

11.2.2 English Standards for Admission to Higher Degrees by Research

Resolution AB_6_232/15

That the Academic Board:

(1) approve the amendment of the Schedule of approved Faculty variations, above the University minimum requirements with immediate effect, and

(2) note the future amendment of the *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule* 2011

as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to update Schedule on website.

11.2.3 Ranking Guidelines for the Award of Postgraduate Scholarships

Resolution AB_6_233/15
That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the ranking guidelines with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Head, Scholarships and Financial Support Service, to note the Academic Board's approval of the revised guidelines for the award of postgraduate research scholarships.

11.2.4 Intellectual Property Policy 2015

Resolution AB_6_234/15
That the Academic Board endorse the Intellectual Property Policy 2015.

11.2.5 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_5_235/15
That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015, as set out in the report presented.

12.   General Business

The meeting finished at 3:46 pm

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date