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## ACADEMIC BOARD 19 AUGUST 2015

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### Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 19 August 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 S Barrie, Ms A Bell, Dr T Bell, Dr J Bloomfield, Dr R Bourne, Professor B Buckley, Professor B Caine, Professor T Carlin, Ms T Clement, Associate Professor W Davis, Associate Professor D Easdown, Ms C Fahd, Professor S Garton, Professor M Graeber, Mr T Greenwell, Associate Professor T Grewal, Professor N Gurran, Professor T Hambley, Ms K Hartman-Warren, Professor D Ivison, Dr N Jarkey, Professor Y-H Jeon, Professor A Johnston, Mr C Jones, Professor P Leong, Professor D Lowe, Dr J Ma, Dr M MacKenzie, Professor E Mpofu, Dr C Owens, Professor P Pattison, Associate Professor N Peres da Costa, Professor I Ramzan, Professor K Refshauge, Dr K Rooney, Dr J Saleeba, Dr R Saunders, Professor R Stancliffe, Mr J Tong, Professor D Waters, Associate Professor G White, Dr P White, Associate Professor T Wilkinson and Dr R Wilson.

Present as observers: Ms S Brown (SAS Project), Professor A Fekete (EIT), Ms L Rose (Office of the Provost) and Mr T Smithers (SAS Project)

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

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The Chair welcomed Mr Greenwell and Ms Hartman-Warren as the two new student members nominated by SUPRA.

#### ★ 1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from: Associate Professor J Anderson, Associate Professor T Ancev, Dr R Bathgate, Dr B Church, Dr S Colmar, Dr J Gao, Associate Professor J Glister, Dr J Gullick, Associate Professor M Halliwell, Professor M Hindson, Professor S Houston, Ms A Irish, Mr S Isaac, Dr P Knight, Associate Professor S van der Laan, Dr D Larkin, Ms D Mair, Dr S Matthew, Ms E May, Professor D Mayer, Associate Professor S McGrath-Champ, Dr M Millington, Associate Professor L Nicholson, Professor C Peck, Professor J Redmond, Professor C Rhodes, Professor B Robinson, Ms A Rose, Associate Professor P Seltsikas, Professor J Shields, Associate Professor C Sutton-Brady, Dr C Taylor, Professor G Tolhurst, Professor C Wade and Professor P Young.

#### ★ 2. Arrangement of agenda

##### 2.1 Starring of items

The following items were starred: 9.1, 12.2.1.1

##### 2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

##### **Resolution AB\_5\_170/15**

That the Academic Board resolved as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

#### Resolution AB\_5\_171/15

That the Academic Board adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 July 2015 as a true record.

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

### ★ 5. Presentation: Education and Research in the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan

The Chair welcomed Professors Pattison and Ivison to speak on this issue. Professor Pattison began with the feedback received to her first discussion paper (*Developing a distinctive undergraduate education*), from internal focus groups and external parties (such as school principals, career counsellors, business people, recruiters, prospective students, members of alumni council, educational agents, etc.). The feedback has been consistent with broad support for the proposals covering graduate qualities, curriculum framework, common definitions and course rules and more vertical double degrees. Some respondents queried the resources required for the curriculum framework proposal, and some are seeking more detail on how proposals will work. The fourth proposal to introduce a four year liberal studies degree has generated the widest range of views, with some respondents expressing enthusiasm for the concept and others voicing strong concerns regarding the cost to students of a lengthened degree.

The second discussion paper (*Building a culture of educational excellence*) looks at how teaching occurs at the University rather than what is taught, including how good teaching is supported and recognised and how the University can assure that contact time with students has as much impact as possible. The University's retention rates are high for the sector but could be improved, and survey data indicates areas that can be worked on. The discussion papers look at the characteristics of education excellence based on education experience, educational outcomes and the environment for learning and teaching. She outlined the propositions in the paper as follows:

- *Proposition 1:* Educational approaches, including coordination and support for industry and community engagement; use of authentic contextualised disciplinary and multi-disciplinary issues and problems in class learning activities; project funding stream for 2016-2019 to support curriculum renewal and educational redesign projects; 'Sydney Research Seminar' as a research-intensive educational opportunity for staff and students (joint with Research portfolio); development of an Open Learning Environment; Summer and Winter experiential learning opportunities; and Summer and Winter mobility and fieldwork experiences;
- *Proposition 2:* Enabling and recognising teaching excellence by a refreshed professional learning framework for learning and teaching to optimise its use and effectiveness, and a single suite of awards for outstanding performance in all aspects of academic and professional staff work;
- *Proposition 3:* Evidence for learning and teaching: assessment, feedback and analytics, including a University-wide rubric for assessment of graduate qualities; exploring the potential of learning analytics by implementing effective enterprise tools and facilitating research and innovation in learning analytics; policy options for high integrity, integrated assessments across units of study; and a policy for streamlining summative assessment at unit of study level;
- *Proposition 4:* Environment for learning and teaching, including a single, integrated state-of-the-art suite (including a single learning management system) to support enquiry-based and collaborative learning designs, the development of high quality learning resources, the capacity for an interactive virtual extension of every University of Sydney class, and the Open Learning Environment; and ensuring that the ICT TechLab, the Educational Technology Incubator (ETI) and the enterprise suite of educational technologies provide a coordinated and effective system for technology assessment and development, uptake and access;
- *Proposition 5:* The co-curriculum and broader student experience and support, including investing effectively in careers support as part of an integrated framework of activities that develop, assess and demonstrate the Sydney graduate qualities and support graduate transition to employment or further study; and
- *Proposition 6:* Measuring excellence in learning and teaching, including an effective alumni tracking mechanism to support Alumni and Development initiatives as well as an understanding of alumni career trajectories; and a systematic means of obtaining

timely feedback from staff (and students) on all aspects of the educational environment and opportunities for improvement.

She acknowledged that implementing the propositions from both education discussion papers will require a lot of work with careful project management and appropriate resourcing and will effectively involve the entire University community.

Professor Ivison introduced the research discussion papers by stating the underlining ambition for this section of the strategic plan, which is to be the leading research (and education) institution in Australia and among the best in the world as defined by the quality and impact of our research, the quality of our research culture and the quality and impact of our engagement with our partners and relevant communities. There are four pillars to the strategy: research excellence, harnessing our research to address some of the grand challenges of our time through multidisciplinary innovation and collaboration, new initiatives to develop and support our researchers (building a research culture for excellence), and deeper engagement with local, national and global partners for whom our research has significant consequences and from whom we can learn (community, government, industry). The first discussion paper (*Investing in research excellence*) contained four propositions: criteria for strategic investment in research, criteria and weightings for investment in disciplinary and cross-disciplinary excellence, new investment in disciplinary and multidisciplinary excellence, and criteria and weightings for multidisciplinary initiatives that will tackle national and global challenges. He advised that the feedback to these propositions has generally been positive.

The second discussion paper (*Building a culture of research excellence*) has sixteen propositions in three broad clusters: innovation, experimentation and collaboration (creating opportunities for new, emergent and cutting edge research); researcher development (new proposals for HDR training, and for ECR, MCR and professoriate development and recognition); and engagement (with industry, community and global engagement). Some of the issues explored include the HDR student experience, awarding of scholarships, developing researchers' careers, recognizing and supporting senior researchers, breaking down the basic/applied research dichotomy, explaining to the community how we do research and building global partnerships. The paper includes proposals for more funding and more targeted investment in outstanding and emerging domains of research, better focus on external engagement and better alignment between the DVC (Research), DVC (Education) and International portfolios, and more investment into researcher development (students and staff, research groups and networks). As well as supporting the University's mission, the proposed changes are vital to the success of the University as the status quo is not sustainable. Current research data shows that the University is doing well but has strong competition from the universities of Melbourne and Queensland in ERA, lag behind those two universities in terms of research income and ranks between third and fifth in the major rankings tables (but he noted that other Australian universities are improving).

He concluded by summarising the feedback received so far to the first research discussion paper as focussing on the issues of where will the money come from, how will the decisions for investment be made and by whom, concerns about "picking winners", applied vs. basic research, and multidisciplinary vs. disciplinary research. In summary, the University needs to balance the use of research metrics against academic judgements when making funding decisions, and both need to support the University's pursuit of research excellence.

Members made the following comments on both presentations:

- in response to a question on whether the survey data in her presentation could be disaggregated to the course level to help determine what action should be taken on teaching activities, Professor Pattison advised that there is some breakdown of the survey data available, but disaggregation to the course level is still being done on some of the University's major degrees; she added that students are more likely to look at the top level statistical information;
- members noted the research discussion paper looked at quality and impact, but not the quantity of research output or the breadth of engagement; Professor Ivison responded that the emphasis on research quality was deliberate, but agreed that the recognition and reward system at the University needs to deal with researchers who

have strong industry and community partnerships in a better way, and that aligning the University's research ambitions with its reward and recognition system is crucial;

- Professor Ivison responded to a question on how to best utilise the potential of the University's research "hunters" by agreeing that the criteria for recognising and funding research needs to do justice to the research being done at the University; the Vice-Chancellor added that the University wants to identify, promote and foster excellent research whatever its category, and that will require a co-ordinated approach to making funding decisions.

The Chair thanked Professors Ivison and Pattison for their presentations and urged members to provide feedback.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_172/15**

That the Academic Board note the presentations from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) on their respective discussion papers for the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.



### **6. Report of the Chair**

#### **6.1 Report on Senate Matters**

##### **6.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 3 August 2015**

The Academic Board noted this report.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_173/15**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting of 3 August 2015.

#### **6.2 Honours and Distinctions**

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

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_174/15**

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 membership**

Members approved the nomination of Mr Greenwell and Ms Hartman-Warren by SUPRA.

#### **Resolution AB\_4\_175/15**

That the Academic Board approve the nomination of Mr Thomas Greenwell and Ms Kylee Hartman-Warren by SUPRA under clause 5.1.3.10 of the *University of Sydney (Academic Governance) Rule 2003* (as amended).

*Action:* Executive Officer to update membership list.

##### **6.3.2 Academic Board Standing Committees: Nominations for Membership**

Members approved the nomination of Dr McCloughen to membership of the Graduate Studies Committee.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_176/15**

That the Academic Board approve the nomination of Dr Andrea McCloughen as the representative of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery on the Graduate Studies Committee for a term of membership expiring 31 December 2015.

*Action:* Executive Officer to update membership list.

### 6.3.3 Reframing the PhD for Australia's future universities

The Chair advised members he was bringing this to their attention as the Academic Board will be a partner in this research which looks at the role of PhDs in the stewardship of disciplines. He added that he has also shared the project with Academic Boards at other Australian universities via the network of Board chairs. Members expressed support for being involved in the project.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_177/15**

That the Academic Board note the report on the OLT-funded project "Reframing the PhD for Australia's future universities" and agree to participate in the project as necessary.

### 6.3.4 Correspondence Register

Members noted the report.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_178/15**

That the Academic Board note the register of correspondence, as set out in the report presented.

The Chair added that he is chairing a review of continuing education and welcomed input from members.

## ★ 7. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

### 7.1 Report on Senate Matters

#### 7.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 3 August 2015

The Academic Board noted this report.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_179/15**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting of 3 August 2015.

### 7.2 General report

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the meeting on the following issues:

- Strategic planning: Professor Garton is conducting discussions on organisational design, looking at eleven options. These will be discussed with Senate at its retreat, and a discussion paper will be released next month. A paper on the culture of the University will also be released, looking at issues such as how to disagree well, and valuing people's contributions more than who they are and the positions they hold. He encouraged members to respond to these and the four education and research discussion papers;
- UNSW partnerships: the University has held discussions with the University of NSW on forming partnerships in the areas of mental health, neuroscience, paediatrics and electrical engineering;
- Athena SWAN pilot program: the University has been chosen to pilot this program, which supports the advancement of women in STEM research); the program started in the UK, and funding bodies there have made Athena SWAN certification mandatory for some grants;
- INSPIRED: this program is set to achieve its goal of raising \$600 million two years before its end date, and a new target is being discussed;
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement): this position has been advertised. He advised it will be part-time and he encouraged current staff to consider applying.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_180/15**

That the Academic Board note the report presented by the Provost.

Mr Blakeney referred to discussions at the previous meeting regarding student accommodation, and the Vice-Chancellor's advice that a decision had not yet been made regarding subsidising accommodation for international students. He also sought advice about any plans to increase the number of beds available to 6000 and planned investment in bursaries. The Vice-Chancellor undertook to present a report on student accommodation to the next meeting of the Academic Board.

The Vice-Chancellor raised the recent media reports regarding the failure of 32% of a class to pass a unit offered by the University of Sydney Business School. He stressed the importance of understanding the context for this event, and the work the School has done and continues to do to support its students. The unit, on critical thinking, requires adequate English skills, and students are assessed on these at the beginning of the unit and offered support if needed. The cohort in question included a significant number of students who did not pass the diagnostic test, and the school offered a range of support activities, including face-to-face learning opportunities and online training. Student response was low with under 4% of the class attending the writing course and only 20% using the online forum.

Social media sites accessed by students provided misleading information about the unit and assessment of the unit, including answers to previous exam questions which students tried to recycle in the recent examination paper, even though the questions were different. The Vice-Chancellor emphasised the commitment of staff at the School to ensuring students have every opportunity to succeed in their studies, adding that allegations that high failure rates benefit the School by making students pay fees to repeat their units is deeply offensive. He advised that the University has held discussions with staff from the Chinese Consulate to address their concerns about this incident, and other discussions will be held with the Chinese and Australian departments of education. He assured the Academic Board that this is first and foremost an issue of academic standards, exacerbated by students not availing themselves of opportunities for academic support. The School is looking at further support measures, including a possible compulsory practice examination.

Professor Whitwell thanked the Vice-Chancellor for this overview of the incident, adding that he found the suggestion that his staff have set students up to fail to make them pay more course fees highly offensive. He advised that a practice examination will be run this semester at additional cost to the faculty and that his staff will continue to provide students with support.

*Action:* The Vice-Chancellor and Principal to provide a report on student accommodation to the next meeting of the Academic Board.

★ 8. **Question time**  
No questions were raised.

★ 9. **Reports of the Faculties**  
9.1 **Faculty of Agriculture and Environment: Amendment to 2016 Semester Dates**

Mr Blakeney referred to this proposal and asked for more information on the impact on students, such as whether the resulting semesters will be thirteen weeks or longer, the impact on discontinue dates and examination periods. Associate Professor Cattle advised that the faculty has a range of field trips and these have been in use for some years. It's not possible to offer them during normal teaching weeks as this would limit students' ability to attend classes for other units run by other faculties. It does extend the length of the semester, and examinations are held at the normal time, but there is reduced teaching time in the relevant units to compensate. He explained that this proposal will allow the faculty to advise students in advance that their semester could start early if their unit involves a field trip. Members approved the proposal.

**Resolution AB\_5\_181/15**

That the Academic Board approve the request from the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment to amend its semester dates for 2016, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend its semester dates for 2016.

**9.2 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Amendment to Faculty Constitution**

**Resolution AB\_5\_182/15**

That the Academic Board recommend that Senate approve the amendments to the Senate Resolutions relating to the Constitution of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 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 Arts and Social Sciences.

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

**10. Report of the Admissions Committee**



**10.1 Oral report of the Chair**

Professor Hanrahan advised she had nothing to add to the report but was happy to take questions. The Chair noted that the change to the Coursework Policy, while a small amendment, was not trivial and will allow international students to defer admission.

**10.2 Report of the meeting held by circulation on 29 July 2015**

**10.2.1 Amendment to the Coursework Policy 2014**

**Resolution AB\_5\_183/15**

That the Academic Board approve the proposed amendment to the Coursework Policy 2014 with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

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

**11. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee**



**11.1 Oral report of the Chair**

Professor Cattle advised the committee had considered some proposals for minor amendments, but also considered honours data from the past seven years. This data (included in the committee's report) show that six faculties (Arts & Social Sciences, Science, Engineering & IT, Law, Veterinary Science and Education & Social Work) produce close to 80% of the university's honours students. The data is reasonably steady over the seven years, and indicates that first class honours is awarded to approximately 20-25% of the total student cohort, and approximately 50-75% of all honours students. He advised that he will be approaching the University of Queensland to obtain its honours data for benchmarking. The Chair thanked him for this work, adding it is highly relevant to the strategic planning discussions.

**Resolution AB\_5\_184/15**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

**11.2 Report of the meeting held on 5 August 2015**

**11.2.1 Minor course amendment proposals**

**11.2.1.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences**

**Resolution AB\_5\_185/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the requirements for award for the Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences; 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 Arts and Social Sciences, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the requirements for award for the Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences and amend the resolutions in CMS.

**11.2.1.2 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies  
(1) Bachelor of Engineering Honours combined degrees**

**Resolution AB\_5\_186/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies relating to the Bachelor of Engineering Honours combined degrees; 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 Engineering and Information Technologies, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Bachelor of Engineering Honours combined degrees and amend the resolutions in CMS.

**(2) Bachelor of Information Technology/Bachelor of Medical Science**

**Resolution AB\_5\_187/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies relating to the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor Medical Science; 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 Engineering and Information Technologies, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor Medical Science and amend the resolutions in CMS.

**11.2.1.3 Faculty of Health Sciences: Resolutions of the Faculty of Health Sciences for coursework awards**

**Resolution AB\_5\_188/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences relating to coursework awards; and
  - (2) approve the amendments to the Faculty 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 Health Sciences, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Faculty Resolutions and amend the resolutions in CMS.

**11.2.1.4 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery: Bachelor of Arts/Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing**

**Resolution AB\_5\_189/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery relating to the Bachelor of Arts/Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing and Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing; and
- (2) approve the amendment to the course resolutions arising from this proposal

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

*Action:* The Deans and Faculty Managers, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Bachelor of Arts/Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing and Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing and amend the resolutions in CMS.

**11.2.2 Honours data**

**Resolution AB\_5\_190/15**

That the Academic Board note the report on Honours data.

**10.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee**

**Resolution AB\_5\_191/15**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Admissions Committee meeting held on 5 August 2015, as set out in the report presented.

**12. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee**



**12.1 Oral report of the Chair**

Professor Masters advised that he had nothing further to add to the report.

**12.2 Report of the meeting held on 5 August 2015**



**12.2.1 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses**

**12.2.1.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Master of China Studies, Graduate Diploma in China Studies, Graduate Certificate in China Studies**

Professor Masters advised that this item had been confirmed by circulation following further advice from the China Studies Centre. Members approved the proposal.

**Resolution AB\_5\_192/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to delete the Master of China Studies, Graduate Diploma in China Studies and Graduate Certificate in China Studies;
- (2) recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; and
- (3) approve the deletion of the course resolutions arising from this proposal

with effect from 1 January 2019 (for the Graduate Certificate in China Studies), 1 January 2020 (for the Graduate Diploma in China Studies) and 1 January 2022 (for the Master of China

Studies) in accordance with clause 12.2 of the Coursework Rule, as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* Chair to recommend that Senate note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to delete the Master of China Studies, Graduate Diploma in China Studies and Graduate Certificate in China Studies and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to delete the Master of China Studies, Graduate Diploma in China Studies and Graduate Certificate in China Studies and amend the resolutions in CMS.

## 12.2.2 Minor course amendment proposals

### 12.2.2.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Graduate Certificate in Political Economy

#### Resolution AB\_5\_193/15

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the Graduate Certificate in Political Economy; 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 Arts and Social Sciences, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Graduate Certificate in Political Economy and amend the resolutions in CMS.

### 12.2.2.2 Faculty of Medicine

#### (1) Master of Health Policy, Graduate Diploma in Health Policy, Graduate Certificate in Health Policy

#### Resolution AB\_5\_194/15

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Master of Health Policy, Graduate Diploma in Health Policy and Graduate Certificate in Health Policy; 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 Health Policy, Graduate Diploma in Health Policy and Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and amend the resolutions in CMS.

#### (2) Master of Qualitative Health Research, Graduate Diploma in Qualitative Health Research

#### Resolution AB\_5\_195/15

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the Master of Qualitative Health Research

and Graduate Diploma in Qualitative Health Research; 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 Qualitative Health Research and Graduate Diploma in Qualitative Health Research and amend the resolutions in CMS.

### **(3) Changes to Tables of Units of Study**

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_196/15**

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.

### **12.2.2.3 Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery**

#### **(1) Faculty Resolutions**

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_197/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend its English language proficiency requirements; 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 Nursing and Midwifery, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend its English language proficiency requirements and amend the resolutions in CMS.

- (2) **Master of Advanced Nursing Practice, Master of Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Master of Emergency Nursing, Master of Intensive Care Nursing, Master of Mental Health Nursing, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner), Master of Primary Health Care Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Advanced Nursing Practice, Graduate Diploma in Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Emergency Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Intensive Care Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Primary Health Care Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Practice, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Intensive Care Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care Nursing**

**Resolution AB\_5\_198/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Master of Advanced Nursing Practice, Master of Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Master of Emergency Nursing, Master of Intensive Care Nursing, Master of Mental Health Nursing, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner), Master of Primary Health Care Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Advanced Nursing Practice, Graduate Diploma in Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Emergency Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Intensive Care Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Primary Health Care Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Practice, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Intensive Care Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care Nursing; and
- (2) approve the amendment of the table of units of study and specialisations 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 Nursing and Midwifery, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Advanced Nursing Practice, Master of Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Master of Emergency Nursing, Master of Intensive Care Nursing, Master of Mental Health Nursing, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner), Master of Primary Health Care Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Advanced Nursing Practice, Graduate Diploma in Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Emergency Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Intensive Care Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Primary Health Care Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Practice, Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Intensive Care Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care Nursing and amend the resolutions in CMS.

### **(3) Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry)**

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_199/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry); 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 Nursing and Midwifery, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry) and amend the resolutions in CMS.

### **(4) Master of Philosophy**

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_200/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Master of Philosophy; 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 Nursing and Midwifery, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Philosophy and amend the resolutions in CMS.

### **12.2.3 Use of the UQI factor in awards ranking scheme**

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_201/15**

That the Academic Board approve an amendment to the use of the UQI factor with respect to applications from members or fellows of medical colleges.

*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.

### **12.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee**

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_202/15**

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 5 August 2015, as set out in the report presented.

## **13. Report of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee**



### **13.1 Oral report of the Chair**

Associate Professor Traini noted that two items in this report have been starred for discussion. She particularly noted that the proposed removal of simple extensions, as part of amendments to the processing of special consideration applications, has been widely discussed.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_203/15**

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee.



## 13.2 Report of the meeting held on 29 July 2015

### 13.2.1 Coursework Policy and Procedure Amendments

Dr Owens pointed out the reduction in time for students to lodge a special consideration application from 5 to 3 days, pointing out that this and other changes are reliant on an appropriate system being developed by the time the policy comes into effect and suggested the amendments be approved subject to the availability of the system. Mr Smithers advised that the shorter time will allow students to be scheduled into a replacement examination, and prevent delays in progression. Professor Carlin added that the policy framework is needed to provide specifications to develop the system and that he was confident it will be available in time. The Chair suggested that Professor Carlin advise the Academic Board of alternative arrangements should the system be delayed, and that the team provide regular reports so that faculties will have early warning of any delays.

The Chair advised that the issue of simple extensions had been raised in this week's Honi Soit and invited Mr Blakeney to speak on the issue. Mr Blakeney advised members that the SRC has received numerous comments from students about the proposed amendment to remove references to simple extensions, however there is support for centralising special consideration processes. He expressed concern that removing references to simple extensions will lead to academic staff assuming they can no longer offer them. The current system works well and is particularly useful for students who experience anxiety dealing with university administration, but students also need the assurance that they can access appeals processes with respect to these extensions. He pointed out that the University currently ranks last amongst the Group of Eight on student support, adding he could not support the amendments if simple extensions are removed.

Professor Carlin acknowledged the concerns raised and advised that the amendment is part of providing a single, transparent and simple process for special consideration applications. He pointed out most faculties do not provide simple extensions, and that the project had decided it did not want to regulate the informal transactions between students and academics. He stressed that simple extensions are not being removed but could not be regulated by the policy. He added that the Honi Soit article had also commented about the reduced time for applications, and he pointed out that late applications will not be refused but students would need to provide an explanation. The Chair asked whether faculties could make local provisions covering simple extensions and Professor Carlin responded that it would be a decision for the faculties.

Members discussed the issue as follows:

- Dr Jarkey expressed support for Mr Blakeney's concerns, particularly that academics will assume that simple extensions are not allowed if there is no reference in the policy or in local provisions;
- Professor Riley advised that the Faculty of Law allows simple extensions of up to seven days on the basis of a written request but acknowledged that the process is inconsistently applied across the University, leading to student appeals;
- Mr Tong asked if students will be advised they can still apply for special consideration after the three day deadline, and Professor Carlin advised this would be explained to students as clearly as possible, and that reasonable explanations for late applications will be accepted;
- The Vice-Chancellor expressed concern at the potential for unfairness in the current simple extension system, adding that students have advised him that the current special consideration process is not consistent and students are unsure whether or not applications will be approved;
- Mr Blakeney expressed concern that student objections to the amendment were not being addressed and proposed reinstating the

deleted references; Ms Hartman-Warren supported his comments adding the process is important for students suffering from anxiety;

- Professor Stancliffe advised that the system works well at the Faculty of Health Sciences and that it should remain available.

Mr Blakeney moved that the proposed deletion of clause 67(6) in the Coursework Policy and clauses 14(4)(a), 14(4)(b), 14(4)(c), 14(4)(d) and 14(5) in the Assessment Procedures be reversed. The motion was seconded. Members raised the following comments regarding the motion:

- The Vice-Chancellor asked what the grounds would be for a simple extension and whether the extension period would vary for different issues;
- Professor Masters expressed concern at the term “informal application” and proposed “applications for special consideration in the form of simple extensions”;
- Professor Hanrahan pointed out that the process should be backed up by local provisions and information in unit of study outlines;
- Professor Carlin advised that if the amendment is approved members should note that applications would not be handled by the central system, which will only deal with formal applications for special consideration.

14 members voted for the amendment and 17 voted against. The Chair advised that he would now ask the Board to vote on the original proposal but added that he would meet with the student members to explore their concerns further. Professor Refshauge asked that it be noted that many members abstained from voting on the amendments.

Dr Saleeba asked for clarification on the automatic application of credit for students who change courses at the University via allowable transfer, particularly for courses where transfers from some other courses are not explicitly allowed. Both Professor Carlin and the Chair assured her that the process would work with the relevant course resolutions.

The Chair put the original proposal to the vote. 22 members for and 5 against, with some abstentions.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_204/15**

That the Academic Board approve the amendments to the Coursework Policy 2014, the Assessment Procedures 2011 and the introduction of the Coursework Credit Procedures 2015 with effect from 1 January 2016 as set out in the report presented.

*Action:* Executive Officer to update the Coursework Policy 2014, the Assessment Procedures 2011 and the Coursework Credit Procedures 2015 on the Policy Register.



#### **13.2.2 Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism Taskforce Report**

The Chair asked the meeting to endorse the recommendations in this report and note that the Academic Standards and Policy Committee has formed a working group to review the related policy. Members endorsed the recommendations.

#### **Resolution AB\_5\_205/15**

That the Academic Board:

- (1) note the report of the Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism Taskforce “An Approach to Minimising Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism at the University of Sydney - Part 1: Prevention and Detection”;
- (2) endorse the recommendations of the report and undertake the review of assessment strategy and policy outlined in that recommendation; and

- (3) note that the Academic Standards and Policy Committee has established a working party to undertake the policy reviews outlined in recommendation (5).

*Action:* Chair to undertake the review of assessment strategy and policy outlined in the report.

**13.2.3 Hague Declaration on Knowledge Discovery in the Digital Age**

**Resolution AB\_5\_206/15**

That the Academic Board endorse the University becoming a signatory to the Hague Declaration on Knowledge Discovery in the Digital Age.

**13.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee**

**Resolution AB\_5\_207/15**

That the Academic Board note the proceeding of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee meeting held on 29 July 2015, as set out in the report presented.

**14. General Business**

**14.1 Membership of the Level E Central Promotions Committee 2015**

**Resolution AB\_5\_208/15**

That the Academic Board approve the amendment to the membership of the Central Promotions Committee Level E for 2015.

The meeting finished at 4:29 pm

Signed as a correct record

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*Chair*

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Date