THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

ACADEMIC BOARD   2 DECEMBER 2015

Executive Officer: Megan Kemmis

University Secretariat
Quadrangle (A14)

T 9351 3306
F 9351 3572
E megan.kemmis@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/ab

**Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board
held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 2 December 2015 in the Professorial Board Room**

There were present: the Chair (Associate Professor P McCallum) presiding; the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Professor S Garton); the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Associate Professor S Cattle, Professor J Hanrahan, Associate Professor T Masters and Associate Professor D Traini); Associate Professor T Ancev, Professor E Anderson (for Professor G Whitwell), Associate Professor J Barrett (for Professor B Caine), Dr R Bathgate, Dr T Bell, Dr J Bloomfield, Professor B Buckley, Professor T Carlin, Mr L Carment, Dr J Gao, Professor M Graeber, Mr T Greenwell, Associate Professor T Grewal, Dr J Gullick, Professor N Gurran, Professor T Hambley, Professor M Hindson, Professor S Houston, Ms A Irish, Professor D Ivison, Dr N Jarkey, Professor Y-H Jeon, Mr C Jones, Associate Professor S van der Laan, Professor D Lowe, Ms E May, Associate Professor L Nicholson, Dr C Owens, Professor P Pattison, Professor I Ramzan, Professor A Reid, Professor J Riley, Dr J Saleeba, Professor J Shields, Professor R Stancliffe, Associate Professor C Sutton-Brady, Associate Professor C Taylor, Professor G Tolhurst, Ms S Vimalarajah, Professor D Waters, Associate Professor G White, Dr P White, Associate Professor T Wilson, Dr R Wilson and Professor C Wight (for Dr M McKenzie).

Present as observers: Professor R Benitez (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Ms I Brook (SRC), Mr C Caccamo (SRC), Professor C Cusack (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Professor A Fekete (Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies), Mr S French (Office of the DVC Education), Dr C Hartney (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Ms K Henderson (Office of General Counsel), Associate Professor P Marks (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Associate Professor M McEntee (Faculty of Health Sciences), Ms L Rose (Office of the Provost), Professor P Russell (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Mr T Smithers (SAS Project), Mr A B Suhaib (SUPRA), Mr A Tsothas (Student, Faculty of Health Sciences), Mr L Ward (SRC), Mr D Williams (SRC).

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

☆ 1.   Apologies

Apologies have been received from: Associate Professor J Anderson, Dr T Balle, Ms A Bell, Dr J Bloomfield, Dr R Bourne, Professor B Caine (Associate Professor J Barrett attending in her stead), Dr B Church, Ms T Clement, Associate Professor W Davis, Associate Professor D Easdown, Ms C Fahd, Associate Professor J Glister, Mr S Isaac, Professor A Johnston, Dr D Larkin, Professor P Leong, Dr J Ma, Professor D Mayer, Associate Professor S McGrath-Champ, Dr M McKenzie (Professor C Wight attending in her stead), Dr M Millington, Professor E Mpofu, Professor C Peck, Associate Professor N Peres da Costa, Professor K Refshauge (Professor M Lincoln attending in her stead), Professor C Rhodes, Professor B Robinson, Dr K Rooney, Dr R Saunders, Associate Professor P Seltsikas, Dr M Spence, Professor R Taylor, Professor G Whitwell (Professor E Anderson attending in his stead) and Dr Y Zhang.

The Chair advised that Professor Garton had sought to deal with the Vice-Chancellor's report as soon as possible, and that he proposed moving item 7 to just before the focus topic. Members agreed to this rearrangement of the agenda. The Chair also acknowledged the attendance of several staff members from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, student members of both the SRC and SUPRA and Professor Fekete from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and advised members that he has granted permission to these observers to speak to a number of items.

✩ **2.** **Arrangement of agenda**
    2.1 **Starring of items**
        The following items were starred: 10.2.2, 10.2.3.1(2), 10.2.3.2, 13.2.1, 13.2.2.

    2.2 **Adoption of unstarred items**

        Resolution AB_8_287/15
        That the Academic Board resolved as recommended with respect to all unstarred items.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

        Resolution AB_8_288/15
        That the Academic Board adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 October 2015 as a true record.

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

At this point the meeting dealt with item 7.

✩ **5.** **Presentation: Proposed undergraduate degree profile**
    Professor Pattison advised members her presentation would outline the next phase built on the main propositions in her two earlier discussion papers: graduate qualities; curriculum framework; common definitions, components and rules for liberal studies degrees; a move to a four-year liberal studies degree, with an elite option for a high-achieving cohort; and exploring the potential for vertical Bachelor/entry-to-profession Master degrees. There is ample research evidence indicating that educational challenge, interdisciplinary study and intercultural experiences have a high positive impact on student's learning experiences. This, together with research and debate on the knowledge and skills future graduates will require and feedback from current students on areas where curriculum could be improved have fed into the proposed undergraduate curriculum reforms.

    Of the five proposals set out in the earlier discussion papers all but the fourth, the move to a 4-year degree structure, received strong support. She gave an overview of the groups canvassed and the qualitative market research undertaken on the 4-year degree proposal, noting that the graduate outcomes of the proposed degree structure received strong support, but some prospective students (mainly international students) were deterred by the extra year of study. The features that enhanced employment prospects, such as industry and community based learning, also received support. The vertical double degree (bachelor and master degrees) structure has support, but so too do the University's existing combined bachelor degrees.

    Professor Pattison advised that instead of the original proposal to expand existing 3 year liberal arts degrees to 4 years, a new proposal involving the development of a Bachelor of Philosophy was suggested, with the Bachelor of Philosophy offered as part of a combined or double degree structure. This will deliver the same graduate outcomes as the original 4 year degree proposal, with learning outcomes pitched at AQF Level 8 (honours equivalent). She gave examples of how such a degree structure would work and outlined some of the advantages of the degree model, including improving graduate employability. She also outlined some options for attracting high achieving students, adding that these are still under discussion, and stressed that there are no plans at this point to cease offering honours degrees.

    The review of undergraduate curriculum will also look at the naming of existing degrees, and Professor Pattison gave examples of how existing degrees may be grouped together

under a "parent" degree. Again, this issue is still subject to discussions with faculties. She added that discussions are also being held regarding which current majors might be offered within the Bachelor of Philosophy. With respect to the new degree, further market research has recently been undertaken which indicates support for the graduate outcomes and the proposed educational experiences, but some confusion regarding the proposed name. Items that still require discussion in the proposal are the nomenclature of the new degree, the nomenclature for double degree offerings, the impact of specific proposed changes to degree nomenclature, the likely uptake rate of the combined BPhil degree and details of the high-achiever programs. She asked the Academic Board to endorse the development of the new degree and double degree architecture, noting that the course proposals and other matters such as the high achiever programs and the full undergraduate degree profile would come back to the Board before the middle of next year.

She acknowledged that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in particular has raised a number of concerns regarding the profile, and advised that the proposal was consistent with the work the faculty had already done on standardising its majors, that majors will be offered in both the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Philosophy, and that the proposed structure will not reduce student flexibility. She offered to work with individual departments in the faculty to address their concerns, particularly with respect to resources for curriculum review.

The Chair invited comments, reminding members that he has authorised observers from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to speak to the meeting. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Professor Benitez (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) spoke for a number of departmental chairs from his faculty, expressing concern that insufficient information has been provided to support in principle approval for the proposal; he also expressed concern that the academic resources required to redesign programs and majors for the new double degree structure has been under-estimated, in particular the impact on small departments; he also raised doubts regarding the University's ability to explain the new structure to prospective students; Professor Pattison pointed out that much of the background research for the proposal had been referenced in the footnotes of the two discussion papers, and that there is clear evidence available of the steps that can be taken to improve graduate outcomes; she agreed that resources will be required as part of the curriculum structure, adding that this would occur regardless of whether or not the Bachelor of Philosophy is approved, as the curriculum framework for the University's liberal arts degrees would still require revision; she advised that her portfolio will provide support, including administrative support and opportunities for teaching relief;
- Professor Wight (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) expressed concern that the sample size for the market research and feedback is too small to give confidence in the results; he added that the Bachelor of Philosophy has a chequered history and suggested focussing on the double major instead; Professor Pattison reiterated that much of the research supporting the proposal comes from journal-published research papers, not just market research and focus groups;
- Associate Professor Ancev expressed support for the original 4 year degree proposal adding that the BPhil combined degree proposal is a compromise; he asked if there was suggestion that students would end up grouped into 3 year and 4 year degree cohorts, and what impact the proposal will have on honours degrees; Professor Pattison responded that the current proposal will still provide students with a significant choice at the end of their 3rd year which will include the option of honours or the Bachelor of Philosophy;
- The SRC expressed concerns that the proposal does not detail the postgraduate options and pathways leading from the proposed double degree structure or how the new degree and structures will be marketed to prospective students; SRC members suggested focussing on the restructure of the undergraduate curriculum and how this could fit within the existing degree structures, including honours; the future of honours, particularly appended honours, was also questioned; the Chair pointed out that in principle approval simply means that development of a full proposal can proceed and that it did not bind the Academic Board to approving the degree; Professor Garton added that there is a national conversation regarding honours programs, particularly their role as a pathway to the PhD, with a strong push from some universities to only use research masters degrees for PhD admission; he advised that until such time as

the federal government makes a decision on this issue the University will continue to support the use of honours degrees;

- Professor Fekete supported having a choice of 3 year or 4 year degrees for students, but expressed concern at some of the possible amendments to degree rules flagged in the proposal, adding that not all of the University's liberal arts degrees have the implied minor/major structure; he also expressed concern that the proposal implies the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences will be phased out, and he expressed support for retaining the degree; Professor Pattison acknowledged that there are some issues regarding the use of minors which needed more thought, but added that the intention is to simplify degree resolutions so that students understand what is required in order to complete the degree;

- Professor Redmond queried whether approving the proposal would mean the list of combined degrees in the proposal will be the full list of combined degrees offered by the University, and Professor Pattison assured him that there is no proposal to delete any existing degrees or combined degrees at this stage;

- Students expressed concern that the proposed model will be a disincentive to international students, who prefer 3 year to 4 year courses given the costs involved (both fees and living expenses), and may also lock out some students from a low-SES background; they also expressed concern regarding the emphasis on consulting with industry and business, and urged that staff and students' views be prioritised; Professor Pattison assured them that staff and students had been the dominant group in consultations on the proposal, but added that the external world also needs to be consulted; Professor Garton agreed that the most important stakeholders are the University's staff and students, but pointed out that research on employment outcomes for 3 year degrees shows a continued and national decline, which is a major concern to the sector given the continued rise in student admissions; pass degrees are increasingly viewed as run-of-the-mill and graduates will need more and higher level credentials to enter their chosen profession; the University needs to ensure its graduates have what they need to thrive in an increasingly competitive work environment, by maintaining the depth of disciplinary knowledge provided and adding interdisciplinary experience; the University also needs to be clear on communicating its vision; he agreed that more research is required on whether to call the proposed degree a Bachelor of Philosophy or some other title.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input and reminded the meeting that approval in principle simply allowed work to proceed on these issues, and that the proposed degree would need to come back to the Academic Board for final approval. A majority of members voted in favour with six votes against.

Resolution AB_8_289/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   note the paper on A Distinctive Undergraduate Education: Next Steps;
(2)   endorse, in principle, the development of a new degree, the Bachelor of Philosophy (tentative title), and the double degree architecture through which it will be offered in conjunction with University of Sydney Bachelor degrees;
(3)   note that a full degree resolution will be presented for approval in 2016; and
(4)   note that full proposals for the new double degrees will be presented for approval by early 2017.

Action: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) to note the Academic Board's endorsement in principle of the development of the Bachelor of Philosophy and the double degree architecture through which it will be offered in conjunction with University of Sydney Bachelor degrees.

⭐ **6.   Report of the Chair**
6.1   Report on Senate Matters
Members noted that the Senate meeting scheduled for 16 November 2015 was not held.

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 noted that six academics (Dr Olivier Ansart, Professor Peter Anstey, Professor Nick Enfield, Professor Annamarie

Jagose, Professor Bonnie McDougall and Associate Professor John Schuster) have been appointed to the Australian Academy of Humanities.

Resolution AB_8_290/15
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   **2015 Academic Board elections**
6.3.1.1 **Student elections**
Members approved the nomination of Ms Jaime Painter to fill the vacant position of student member for the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, for a term of membership expiring 31 December 2016.

Resolution AB_8_291/15
That the Academic Board accept the nomination of Ms Jaime Painter to fill the vacant position of student member for the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, for a term of membership expiring 31 December 2016.

Action: Executive Officer to update membership list.

6.3.1.2 **Election of Chair of Academic Board**
The Chair asked members to formally note the election of Associate Professor Tony Masters as Chair, pointing out the enormous experience he has with the Academic Board.

Resolution AB_8_292/15
That the Academic Board note:
(1)   the election of Associate Professor Tony Masters to the position of Chair of Academic Board for a term expiring 31 December 2017; and
(2)   the appointment of Associate Professor David Easdown as an elected representative of the Faculty of Science for a term expiring 31 December 2017.

Action: Executive Officer to update membership list.

6.3.2   **Academic Board Standing Committees**
The Chair advised members that a call has gone out for nominations to the Board's standing committees. He reminded members that the Board appoints the representative members to the standing committees and that the Board will be asked to approve the various nominations early in the new year.

Resolution AB_8_293/15
That the Academic Board note the report on the Board's standing committees.

6.3.3   **Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2016**
The Chair reminded members that the policy had been endorsed at the previous meeting, but that it had been planned to present a revised policy and associated procedures to this meeting. He advised that further work is required on the procedures, particularly those for research students, and he asked the Board to approve the policy in its current form. Members approved the policy.

Resolution AB_8_294/15

That the Academic Board approve the introduction of the Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2016 with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to register the Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2016 on the Policy Register.

6.3.4   Learning and Teaching Policy 2016

The Chair advised members that this draft policy is the result of a joint Academic Board/SEG Education Committee working party and will replace twelve existing policies under a single framework. It clarifies the responsibilities of the Board and faculties, and outlines the role of unit of study co-ordinators. Some of the elements in the proposed curriculum framework are included (such as graduate qualities) and a revised version based on feedback from across the University was circulated with the supplementary agenda. He reassured the Board that the framework outlined in the draft policy is compatible with professional degrees, and noted that issues such as the title of the relevant delegated person (associate dean, pro-dean) will be addressed once details of the strategic plan are finalised.

Dr Saleeba queried the reference in clause 11 (2-4) requiring that, for each degree, there be an award course committee or standing committee responsible for standards and quality (a single committee may have responsibility for more than one award course) and the optional capacity to also establish program committees (11 (5-6)). The Chair clarified that each faculty is to have a standing committee of it faculty board responsible for monitoring curriculum standards and quality. Such committees must include representatives of staff involved in teaching and representatives of students enrolled in the programs. However, it was not necessary to have a different representative for each program, nor that the representative be actually enrolled in the program represented, as long as the representative was able to represent those students. Faculty boards or their standing committees may also establish separate committees for individual degrees or groups of degrees, in which case there ought to be appropriate representation by staff and by students actually enrolled in the program. Dr Saleeba suggested merging clauses 11(5) and 11(6) to clarify the issue of when it is necessary for the student representative to be enrolled in the actual program and when not, and the Chair agreed to do this.

Professor Fekete queried the definition of majors in clause 18, pointing out that the requirements for a major often extend beyond the number of units of study required. The Chair explained that individual course resolutions would still be used to detail these extra requirements, and that the definition in the policy is a place holder, pending agreement of a university-wide definition of a major, as foreshadowed in the first Education Strategy discussion paper. Professor Fekete also commented on clause 18(11) adding that there is some discrepancy in how the standard hours are calculated in this section. The Chair advised that this section is a direct transfer of the equivalent section from the Creation, Variation and Deletion of Award Courses and Units of Study policy and offered to discuss this further following the meeting. He pointed out that it is a broad guide, not a rigid rule. Professor Fekete also noted that stream is defined under clause 18 but not program, with the Chair advising this would be amended following further work by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) in 2016.

Mr Greenwell asked when the procedures would be presented, and the Chair advised these are still under development with the aim of presenting them to the Academic Board early in 2016. He added that the procedures will outline the course approval process amongst other issues, and that parts of the draft policy may also be moved into the procedures.

Members approved the draft policy. The Chair thanked Ms Kerrie Henderson, the members of the working party and all those who had commented on the policy.

Resolution AB_8_295/15
That the Academic Board approve the introduction of the Learning and Teaching Policy 2016 with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to register the Learning and Teaching Policy 2016 on the Policy Register.

6.3.5   USFP University of Sydney High Achievers Program
The Chair advised that he and Professor Hanrahan, as Chair of the Admissions Committee, had given in-principle approval to a new stream of the University of Sydney's Foundation Program offered at Taylors College by Study Group. The new stream is an accelerated program for high achieving students and provides the same outcomes, with the same standards and quality assurance processes as the existing program. Members recognised the new stream.

Resolution AB_8_296/15
That the Academic Board recognise the USFP University of Sydney High Achievers Program as an addition to the admissions pathway programs offered by Taylors College for the University of Sydney.

Action: Director, Admissions to note the Academic Board's recognition of the USFP University of Sydney High Achievers Program as an addition to the admissions pathway programs offered by Taylors College for the University of Sydney.

6.3.6   Authority of the Chair of the Academic Board
Members authorised the current and incoming Chair as outlined in the resolution.

Resolution AB_8_297/15
That the Academic Board authorise:
(1)   Associate Professor Peter McCallum as current Chair to act on its behalf in respect of any urgent matters that may arise between the Board meeting on 2 December 2015 and 17 December 2015; and
(2)   Associate Professor Tony Masters as Chair-elect to act on its behalf in respect of any urgent matters that may arise between 1 January 2016 and the Academic Board meeting on 24 February 2016,
as set out in the report presented.

6.3.7   2015 National Meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates
The Chair advised members that he attended the 2015 national meeting of Australian Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates in Cairns. A proposal to establish a national educational integrity network is proceeding, with an OLT grant application already submitted. The planned network will promote national standards, collate and share information from universities for benchmarking and take action that it is not feasible for individual institutions to undertake. It may, for example take co-ordinated action on behalf of member universities against cheat sites (as an example), monitor and advise on regulatory and legislative issues. The aim is to send a strong message on the centrality of integrity in the Australian higher education system.

Resolution AB_8_298/15
That the Academic Board note the report on the 2015 National Meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates.

6.3.8   **2015 Wentworth Medal**
The Chair advised members that the 2015 Wentworth Medal will be awarded following the meeting to Mr Athanasias Eskander.

Resolution AB_8_299/15
That the Academic Board note the report on the awarding of the 2015 Wentworth Medal as set out in the report presented.

6.3.9   **Correspondence Register**
Members noted the report.

Resolution AB_8_300/15
That the Academic Board note the register of correspondence, as set out in the report presented.

6.3.10   **End of Year Party**
The Chair noted that this item represents the invitation to join other members following the meeting for an end of year celebration.

Resolution AB_8_301/15
That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair on the Academic Board End of Year Party, as set out in the report presented.

6.3.11   **Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy and Procedures 2015**
The Chair reminded members that the Academic Board approved the introduction of the Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Student Policy and Procedures 2015 at its last meeting, but advised them that a minor amendment is proposed to introduce transitional arrangements to the policy for continuing students. He advised that the transitional arrangements will not apply to students due to finish their degree by 1 July 2016. Members approved the amendment.

Resolution AB_8_302/15
That the Academic Board approve the proposed amendment to the Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy and Procedures 2015 with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to register the Progress Planning and Review for Higher Degree by Research Students Policy and Procedures 2015 on the Policy Register.

6.3.12   **Requirement to review the Academic Board in the Higher Education Standards (Threshold Standards) Framework 2015**
The Chair advised members that the recently approved Higher Education Standards (Threshold Standards) Framework 2015 not only requires universities to review their courses with external reference every 7 years (with reports to the academic governance body), it also requires the Academic Board to be reviewed independently every 7 years. He pointed out that the most recent review was a self-review with some external moderation and would not meet this requirement. There had been a proposed external review in 2008/9 but this had been replaced by an internal review due to time constraints. It would therefore be necessary to conduct an independent review of the Academic Board during the next two years.

Resolution AB_8_303/15
That the Academic Board note the advice on review requirements in the Higher Education Standards (Threshold Standards) Framework 2015.

6.3.13   **Honorary Titles Policy**
Members noted the amended Honorary Titles Policy.

Resolution AB_8_304/15
That the Academic Board note the recent amendments to the Honorary Titles Policy.

6.3.14 Academic Promotions Policy and Procedures
Members noted the amended Academic Promotions Policy and Procedures.

Resolution AB_8_305/15
That the Academic Board note the recent amendments to the Academic Promotions Policy and Procedures.

6.3.15 Student Appeals Body Annual Report 2014
Members noted the 2014 Annual Report of the Student Appeals Body.

Resolution AB_8_306/15
That the Academic Board note the Student Appeals Body Annual Report 2014.

The Chair finished his report by thanking the members of the Academic Board, the members of the Board's standing committees and their individual chairs, praising each of them in turn for their efforts over the past few years. He also thanked Professor Fekete as the first chair of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee for his work in establishing the committee and defining its role, and thanked the chairs (Associate Professor Ross Coleman and Professor Gail Pearson) of the Postgraduate Awards and PhD Award Sub-committees as well as Associate Professor Jennifer Barrett as Deputy Chair of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee and for her work with the Taskforce on Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism. He also acknowledged the work and assistance provided by Ms Sarah Heesom, Ms Kerrie Henderson, Mr Simon French and Ms Rachel Symons with the many policies reviewed and developed by the Academic Board, and thanked the staff of the University Secretariat, particularly Mr Matthew Charet, Dr Jacqueline Rule and Ms Sarah Hepworth. Lastly he extended his deep thanks to the Executive Officer, Ms Megan Kemmis for her work, support and valuable advice over the past few years.

Associate Professor Masters moved a vote of thanks to Professor McCallum for all he had achieved, adding the Board owed Professor McCallum a tremendous debt, and that a concern for the University had underpinned everything he had done. Members acknowledged the Chair by acclamation.

7. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal
7.1 Report on Senate Matters
Members noted that the Senate meeting scheduled for 16 November 2015 was not held.

7.2 General report
The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Garton advised members that Senate has approved the establishment of an office in China at Suzhou, to be opened in mid 2016. More importantly, he expressed the University's thanks to Associate Professor McCallum as he finishes his last term as Chair of the Academic Board. Professor Garton noted the remarkable job done by Professor McCallum, adding that Professor McCallum had demonstrated the significance of the Board and its work across the University community. Amongst the notable achievements during his three terms were the simplification of course resolutions for Sydney Student, confirming the University's compliance with the revised Australian Qualifications Framework and the recent report on Academic Misconduct. Professor Garton stated it had been a pleasure to work with Professor McCallum and wished him all the best for the future. Professor Garton also congratulated Associate Professor Tony Masters on his election as Chair, noting that Professor Masters has been involved with the Academic Board over the past 25 years, and brings a depth of experience and knowledge to the role. He wished Professor Masters all the best.

Resolution AB_8_307/15
That the Academic Board note the report presented by the Acting Vice-Chancellor.

Mr Greenwell advised that students from the Sydney College of the Arts have written to the Vice-Chancellor and asked if he has responded. The Acting Vice-Chancellor advised he was unaware of this correspondence, adding that the Vice-Chancellor is currently travelling in China and India.

At this point the meeting reverted to item 5 on the agenda.

☆ 8. Question time
Mr Greenwell asked for information on proposed changes to the University's policy on dealing with bullying and harassment. The Chair advised that this is not an Academic Board policy but agreed to seek information on the policy.

Resolution AB_8_308/15
That the Academic Board note the responses to the questions raised.

9. Reports of the Faculties
9.1   2016 Semester Dates
9.1.1   Faculty of Medicine

Resolution AB_8_309/15
That the Academic Board approve the request from the Faculty of Medicine to amend its semester dates for 2016 with immediate effect, 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 its semester dates for 2016.

9.1.2   Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Resolution AB_8_310/15
That the Academic Board approve the request from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to amend its semester dates for 2016 with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

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

10.   Report of the Admissions Committee
☆ #### 10.1   Oral report of the Chair
Professor Hanrahan noted that a number of items in the report had been starred for discussion.

Resolution AB_8_311/15
That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Admissions Committee.

10.2   Report of the meeting held on 11 November 2015
10.2.1   Dux Entry Scheme

Resolution AB_8_312/15
That the Academic Board approve the proposed amendment to the Coursework Policy 2014, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

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

☆ ##### 10.2.2   Prerequisites for Admission
Professor Hanrahan advised this proposal will reintroduce Mathematics (that is, the subject formerly known as 2 Unit Mathematics) as a prerequisite for admission to some undergraduate courses, adding that

some disciplines have had an ongoing issue with a small but significant number of students admitted without HSC mathematics who then struggle with their studies. She noted that the proposal would not take effect until 2019 to ensure there is sufficient time for students to choose the necessary subjects for their HSC. The proposal will also signal to the community the value the University places on mathematics. She added that the admission of non-recent school leavers requires further thought, and there is a further proposal to offer a free course in the Summer School period to prospective students unable to study 2 Unit Mathematics at their high school.

Associate Professor Ancev asked whether students would need to study 2 Unit Mathematics or HSC Mathematics, and asked that any advice to students be clear as to the course that needs to be taken. The Chair agreed with Professor Hanrahan adding that communication strategies would start next year. Consideration will also need to be given to students entering with a tertiary record but without the pre-requisite Mathematics at the HSC. Dr Wilson suggested clarifying which units in interstate secondary exams are equivalent, and it was agreed that this would be done. Members approved the proposal.

Resolution AB_8_313/15
That the Academic Board approve the introduction of HSC 2 Unit Mathematics as an admission prerequisite to specified undergraduate degree programs, with effect from 1 January 2019, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Director, Admissions to note the Academic Board's approval of the introduction of HSC 2 Unit Mathematics as an admission prerequisite to specified undergraduate degree programs and associated comments.

10.2.3 Faculty Admission Requirements
10.2.3.1 Faculty of Dentistry
(1) Bachelor of Oral Health

Resolution AB_8_314/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to amend the English language requirements for admission to the Bachelor of Oral Health;
(2)   approve the amended course resolutions arising from the proposal; and
(3)   approve the amendment of the schedule of Undergraduate English Language Requirements arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Dentistry, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the English language requirements for admission to the Bachelor of Oral Health and amend the resolutions in CMS.

Executive Officer to amend the schedule of Undergraduate English Language Requirements.

(2) Doctor of Dental Medicine
Dr Saleeba sought clarification on this proposal and the related proposal in item 10.2.3.2, particularly whether the related double degrees would be affected. She advised that the Faculty of Science is concerned that there may be confusion regarding the admission requirements for the undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in the combined

degree programs. The Chair clarified that the proposal, as presented, related only to the stand-alone Doctor of Dental Medicine. The entry requirements for the combined programs were different and any change to entry requirements for those programs would need to be the subject of a separate proposal. The Chair recommended that the Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Medicine liaise with their partner faculties to discuss this issue.

Professor Carlin added that the proposals related more to professional entry standards for registration to practice in these fields. Dr Saleeba agreed but added that the number of years of continuous study required to demonstrate English competency should be clarified. Dr Gao from the Faculty of Dentistry advised that the Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Authority (AHPRA) has exempted the Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Dental Medicine from the requirement referred to by Dr Saleeba. Dr Saleeba noted this but expressed concern that the Faculty of Dentistry could decide to prevent some students in the double degree from progressing to the Doctor of Dental Medicine. The Chair pointed out that the course resolutions provide a guarantee of enrolment, provided the undergraduate degree is completed satisfactorily, and suggested that the Faculties of Dentistry and Medicine discuss these issues further with the Faculty of Science and other partner faculties. Members approved this proposal and the related proposal in item 10.2.3.2.

Resolution AB_8_315/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry to amend the English language requirements for admission to the Doctor of Dental Medicine; and
(2)   approve the amendment of the schedule of Postgraduate English Language Requirements arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Dentistry, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the English language requirements for admission to the Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Executive Officer to amend the schedule of Postgraduate English Language Requirements.

☆   **10.2.3.2 Faculty of Medicine: Doctor of Medicine**
This item was dealt with and approved under item 10.2.3.1(2).

Resolution AB_8_316/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to amend the English language requirements for admission to the Doctor of Medicine; and
(2)   approve the amendment of the schedule of Postgraduate English Language Requirements arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, 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 English language requirements for admission to the Doctor of Medicine.

Executive Officer to amend the schedule of Postgraduate English Language Requirements

10.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_8_317/15
That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Admissions Committee meeting held on 11 November 2015, as set out in the report presented.

11. Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

11.1 Oral report of the Chair
Associate Professor Cattle noted that the Committee had dealt with a number of new course proposals and minor amendments at its last meeting.

Resolution AB_8_318/15
That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 18 November 2015
11.2.1 Proposals for new and amended undergraduate courses
11.2.1.1 Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning: Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honours) / Master of Architecture

Resolution AB_8_319/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to introduce the Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honours) / Master of Architecture;
(2)   recommend that Senate note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning; and
(3)   approve the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions and the introduction of course resolutions arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair, Academic Board, to recommend that Senate note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to introduce the Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honours) / Master of Architecture and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning.

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce the Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honours) / Master of Architecture and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.1.2 Sydney College of the Arts: Bachelor of Visual Communication

Resolution AB_8_320/15
That the Academic Board:

(1)   approve the proposal from the Sydney College of the Arts to introduce the Bachelor of Visual Communication;

(2)   recommend that Senate note 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 Sydney College of the Arts; and

(3)   approve the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions and the introduction of course resolutions arising from this proposal

with effect from 1 January 2017, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair, Academic Board, to recommend that Senate note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Sydney College of the Arts to introduce the Bachelor of Visual Communication and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in the Sydney College of the Arts.

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Sydney College of the Arts, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce the Bachelor of Visual Communication and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2 Minor course amendment proposals

11.2.2.1 University of Sydney Business School: Bachelor of Commerce (and combined programs)

Resolution AB_8_321/15

That the Academic Board:

(1)   approve the proposal from the Business School to amend the Bachelor of Commerce (and combined programs); and

(2)   approve the amendment of 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, University of Sydney Business School, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Bachelor of Commerce (and combined programs) and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2.2 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies
(1)   Bachelor of Engineering Honours, Bachelor of Engineering Honours combined degrees

Resolution AB_8_322/15

That the Academic Board:

(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Bachelor of Engineering Honours, Bachelor of Engineering Honours combined degrees and the Faculty Resolutions; and

(2)   approve the amendment of the Faculty Resolutions and 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, Bachelor of Engineering Honours

combined degrees and the Faculty Resolutions and amend the resolutions in CMS.

(2) Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology, Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology (Advanced), Bachelor of Information Technology

Resolution AB_8_323/15
That the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology, Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology (Advanced) and Bachelor of Information Technology; 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 Computer Science and Technology, Bachelor of Computer Science and Technology (Advanced) and Bachelor of Information Technology and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2.3 Faculty of Health Sciences
(1) Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Pass and Honours

Resolution AB_8_324/15
That the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Pass and Honours degrees; and
(2) approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, 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 Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Pass and Honours degrees and amend the resolutions in CMS.

(2) Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) / Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology), Bachelor of Health Sciences

Resolution AB_8_325/15
That the Academic Board:
(1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the assumed knowledge and special entry requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) / Master of Nutrition and Dietetics,

Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology), Bachelor of Health Sciences; and

(2)   approve the amendment of the schedule of assumed knowledge and special entry requirements arising from this proposal

with effect from 1 January 2017, 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 assumed knowledge and special entry requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) / Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology), Bachelor of Health Sciences.

Executive Officer to amend the schedule of assumed knowledge and special entry requirements.

(3)   Bachelor of Applied Science (Diagnostic Radiography), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology)

Resolution AB_8_326/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to amend the Flexible Entry Scheme Criteria for the Bachelor of Applied Science (Diagnostic Radiography), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology); and
(2)   approve the amendment of the schedule of flexible entry scheme criteria arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, 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 Flexible Entry Scheme Criteria for the Bachelor of Applied Science (Diagnostic Radiography), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology).

Executive Officer to amend the schedule of flexible entry scheme criteria.

11.2.2.4 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_8_327/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery to amend the Bachelor of Arts / Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing and the Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing; and
(2)   approve the amendments to 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 Bachelor of Arts / Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing and the Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2.5 Sydney College of the Arts: Faculty Resolutions

Resolution AB_8_328/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Sydney College of the Arts to amend the requirements for suspension, discontinuation and lapse of candidature, credit for previous study and WAM calculations; 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, Sydney College of the Arts, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the requirements for suspension, discontinuation and lapse of candidature, credit for previous study and WAM calculations and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.3 Honours Data 2014

Resolution AB_8_329/15
That the Academic Board note the Honours Data for 2014.

11.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_8_330/15
That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Admissions Committee meeting held on 18 November 2015, as set out in the report presented.

12.   Report of the Graduate Studies Committee

12.1   Oral report of the Chair
Associate Professor Masters thanked the members of the committee for their work over the past couple of years, adding that the review of postgraduate courses for compliance with the revised Australian Qualifications Framework was the most comprehensive review of postgraduate courses undertaken by any university. He also thanked Mr Simon French and the staff of the Graduate Studies Office for their assistance with the work of the committee.

Resolution AB_8_331/15
That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee.

12.2   Report of the meeting held on 18 November 2015
12.2.1   *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research)* Rule 2011

Resolution AB_8_332/15
That the Academic Board endorse the proposed amendments to the *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research)* Rule 2011 and recommend that Senate approve these amendments with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair, Academic Board, to recommend that Senate approve the proposed amendments to the *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research)* Rule 2011.

12.2.2   Supervision of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2013

Resolution AB_8_333/15
That the Academic Board approve the amended Supervision of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2013 with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to register the amended Supervision of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy 2013 on the Policy Register.

12.2.3   Final Thesis Lodgement Guidelines for Students

Resolution AB_8_334/15
That the Academic Board approve the introduction of the Final Thesis Lodgement Guidelines for Students with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Head, Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre, to note the Academic Board's approval of the Final Thesis Lodgement Guidelines for Students.

12.2.4   Learning and Teaching Policy 2016
Members noted that this item was dealt with under item 6.3.4.

12.2.5   Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses
12.2.5.1   Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning: Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honours) / Master of Architecture
Members noted that this item was dealt with under item 11.2.1.1.

12.2.5.2   Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Graduate Certificate in Economic Analysis

Resolution AB_8_335/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to introduce the Graduate Certificate in Economic Analysis.
(2)   recommend that Senate note 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.
(3)   approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, 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 introduce the Graduate Certificate in Economic Analysis 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 introduce the Graduate Certificate in Economic Analysis and amend the resolutions in CMS.

12.2.5.3   Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Master of Complex Systems, Graduate Diploma in Complex Systems

Resolution AB_8_336/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies proposal to introduce the Master of Complex Systems and Graduate Diploma in Complex Systems;
(2)   recommend that Senate note 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 Engineering and Information Technologies
(3)   approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, 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 Engineering and Information Technologies proposal to introduce the Master of Complex Systems and Graduate Diploma in Complex Systems and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce the Master of Complex Systems and Graduate Diploma in Complex Systems and amend the resolutions in CMS.

12.2.6   Minor course amendment proposals
12.2.6.1   Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Master of Economics dual degree

Resolution AB_8_337/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the Master of Economics; and
(2)   approve the amendment of the course resolutions arising from this proposal
with effect from 1 January 2017, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Arts and Social Work, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Master of Economics and amend the resolutions in CMS.

12.2.6.2 Sydney College of the Arts: Faculty resolutions

Resolution AB_8_338/15

That the Academic Board:
(1)   approve the proposal from Sydney College of the Arts to amend the Faculty resolutions; 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, Sydney College of the Arts, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to amend the Faculty Resolutions and amend the resolutions in CMS.

12.2.7 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_8_339/15

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 18 November 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 a number of items in the report had been starred for discussion.

Resolution AB_8_340/15

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 11 November 2015

13.2.1 *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006 (as amended)*

The Chair advised members that the proposed amendments to the Student Appeals Rule support the planned centralised student administration centre and its role in processing applications for special consideration. He noted that further amendments had been made in response to concerns regarding the operations of the Academic Panel. He proposed circulating these to members after the meeting, seeking their endorsement to then forward the amendments to the Senate meeting on 14 December 2015. The revised version to be circulated includes a clause requiring the Registrar to report annually to the Board's Academic Standards and Policy Committee on appeals and decisions, and states that the academic panel will comprise academics of Level C or above who will be nominated to the panel by the dean and/or the registrar every two years, with the nominations to be noted by the Academic Board.

Mr Greenwell queried clause 2.8 noting that the Academic Standards and Policy Committee had agreed this be amended. It was noted that the correct version of this clause would also be circulated. Professor Carlin asked that it be noted that the Committee had held in-depth discussions on the amendments and that the circulation of an earlier version with the Board papers was no reflection on the discussion taken but instead indicated the amount of work that took place both at the meeting and afterwards. The Chair thanked both Ms Rose and Mr Greenwell for noting that the final version had not been provided to Board members. Members endorsed the proposed amendments, noting that the final version would be circulated following the meeting.

[Secretary's note: following the meeting the amendments were circulated, with 34 members endorsing the final version and 2 members voting against endorsing the amendments. Accordingly, the final version was referred to Senate for its approval.]

Resolution AB_8_341/15
That the Academic Board endorse the proposed amendments to the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions)* Rule 2006 (as amended) and recommend that Senate approve these amendments with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Chair, Academic Board, to recommend that Senate approve the proposed amendments to the *University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions)* Rule 2006 (as amended).

13.2.2 Assessment Procedures 2011: Simple Extensions

Mr Greenwell advised that he and the other students in attendance had brought a petition with 540 signatures in support of the letter circulated with the supplementary agenda. Ms Smith read the letter to the meeting, and Mr Greenwell added that the student members recommended further revising clause 6(2) of the Assessment Procedures to delete the reference to exceptional circumstances, as follows:

> Changes to the nature, weighting or due date of assessment tasks ~~including simple extension~~ made after the publication of unit of study outlines may only be made in exceptional circumstances. <u>Simple extensions may be granted in circumstances deemed appropriate by the relevant academic.</u>

Mr Ward, the Education Officer of the SRC, spoke in favour of the amendment, stressing the importance of simple extensions to students with mental health and anxiety concerns. Ms Henderson queried whether the proposed amendment required the addition of a definition of the period to be covered by a simple extension, noting that the current version of the procedures allows for extensions of up to five working days. The Chair suggested that, if the motion was approved, this issue be referred back to the Committee for its advice.

Professor Cattle expressed some support for the students' concerns but suggested the proposal would lead to inequities, with some students using simple extensions to gain an advantage. Students responded that a small number of students taking advantage of the system would be preferable to seeing students fail because an extension is not available. Dr Owen stated his concerns that the simple extension process would prevent students being registered via the central special conditions system, which could prevent the University from properly identifying that the student needs support services. Professor Riley asked whether the amended clause should stay in that section of the procedures, or even be moved to the Coursework Policy, and the Chair suggested this also be referred to the Committee if the motion was successful. He asked members to vote on whether to accept the student's motion to amend clause 6(2) of the Assessment Procedures 2011 as outlined above. There were 19 votes in favour and 13 against.

The Chair then asked members to vote on amending clause 6 of the procedures, including the revised wording to clause 6(2) proposed by the students. There were 19 votes in favour and 14 against. The Chair reminded members that the clause would go back to the first meeting of the Committee in 2016 for further advice on whether the time period for extensions should be defined and where the revised clause 6(2) should be placed, and whether this should be in the Procedures or the Coursework Policy.

Resolution AB_8_342/15
That the Academic Board approve the proposed amendment to clause 6 of the Assessment Procedures 2011 with effect from 1 January 2016.

Action: Executive Officer to refer the proposed revisions to this proposal to the first meeting of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee in 2016.

13.2.3 Special Consideration Decisions Matrix

Resolution AB_8_343/15
That the Academic Board approve the Special Consideration Decisions Matrix, with effect from 1 January 2016.

Action: Program Manager, Student Administration Services Program, to note the Academic Board's approval of the Special Consideration Decisions Matrix.

13.2.4 Academic Board Nominees on Level A Selection Committees

Resolution AB_8_344/15
That the Academic Board:
(1)   note the 'Academic Board nominees on Level A Selection Committees' report; and
(2)   recommend the proposed amendments to the Recruitment and Selection policy and the Appointment on Nomination policy to the Vice-Chancellor with effect from 1 January 2016
as set out in the report presented.

Action: Director (Human Resources), to note the Academic Board's endorsement of amendments to the Recruitment and Selection policy and Appointment on Nomination policy.

13.2.5 Learning and Teaching Policy 2016
Members noted that this item was dealt with under item 6.3.4.

13.2.6 Student Misconduct Report 2014

Resolution AB_8_345/15
That the Academic Board note the Student Misconduct Report 2014.

Action: Chair, Academic Board, to recommend that Senate note the Student Misconduct Report 2014.

13.2.7 2014 Annual Report of the Learning Centre

Resolution AB_8_346/15
That the Academic Board note the 2014 Annual Report of the Learning Centre.

13.2.8 Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015

Resolution AB_8_347/15
That the Academic Board note the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015.

13.2.9 Academic Board/SEG Faculty Reviews
13.2.9.1 Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning

Resolution AB_8_348/15
That the Academic Board approve the report of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning Review and advise SEG of its decision.

Action: Chair, Academic Board to advise SEG that the Academic Board has approved the report of the review of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning.

13.2.9.2 Faculty of Medicine

Resolution AB_8_349/15
That the Academic Board approve the report of the Faculty of Medicine Review and advise SEG of its decision.

Action: Chair, Academic Board to advise SEG that the Academic Board has approved the report of the review of the Faculty of Medicine.

13.2.10 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_8_350/15
That the Academic Board note the proceeding of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee meeting held on 11 November 2015, as set out in the report presented.

14.   General Business
14.1   Report on promotion of academic staff to Level B

Resolution AB_8_351/15
That the Academic Board note the report on the promotion of academic staff to Level B in 2015, as set out in the report presented.

14.2   Report on promotion of academic staff to Level C

Resolution AB_8_352/15
That the Academic Board note the report on the promotion of academic staff to Level C in 2015, as set out in the report presented.

The meeting finished at 4:23 pm.

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date