



ACADEMIC BOARD 25 MARCH 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 25 March 2015 in the Professorial Board Room

There were present: the Chair (Associate Professor P McCallum) presiding; the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Dr M Spence); the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Associate Professor S Cattle, Professor J Hanrahan, Associate Professor T Masters and Associate Professor D Traini); Associate Professor J Anderson, Dr T Balle, Associate Professor S Barrie, Dr J Bloomfield, Professor T Carlin, Dr B Church, Professor M Collins, Associate Professor W Davis, Ms C Fahd, Dr J Gao, Professor S Garton, Professor M Graeber, Associate Professor T Grewal, Dr J Gullick, Professor N Gurrán, Professor T Hambley, Professor M Hindson, Professor S Houston, Professor D Ivison, Dr N Jarkey, Professor P Leong, Professor D Lowe, Ms G Luck, Dr J Ma, Dr S Matthew, Professor D Mayer, Professor E Mpofu, Associate Professor L Nicholson, Dr C Owens, Professor P Pattison, Professor C Peck, Professor J Redmond, Professor C Rhodes, Dr J Saleeba, Dr R Saunders, Associate Professor P Seltsikas, Professor J Shields, Professor R Stancliffe, Associate Professor C Sutton-Brady, Associate Professor C Taylor, Professor G Tolhurst, Professor J Trehwella, Professor C Wade, Associate Professor R Walker, Associate Professor G White, Dr P White, Professor G Whitwell and Associate Professor T Wilkinson.

Present as observers: Mr M Charet (University Secretariat), Professor A Fekete (School of Information Technology), Ms M McMahon (Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal), Ms R Murray (Director of Strategy).

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

★ 1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from: Associate Professor T Ancev, Ms E Arcioni, Dr R Bathgate, Ms A Bell, Dr T Bell, Mr K Blakeney, Dr R Bourne, Professor B Buckley, Ms T Clement, Dr S Colmar, Associate Professor J Conomos, Professor M Crock, Associate Professor T Gerzina, Associate Professor J Glistler, Associate Professor M Halliwell, Ms A Irish, Mr S Isaac, Professor Y-H Jeon, Professor A Johnston, Dr P Knight, Dr K Kramer, Associate Professor S van der Laan, Dr D Larkin, Ms D Mair, Ms E May, Associate Professor S McGrath-Champ, Dr M Millington, Professor I Ramzan, Professor K Refshauge, Professor J Riley, Professor B Robinson, Mr T Scriven, Ms J Smith, Professor R Taylor, Mr J Tong, Professor D Waters, Dr R Wilson, Professor P Young and Dr Y Zhang.

★ 2. Arrangement of agenda

2.1 Starring of items

The following items were starred: 4.1, 11.2.3

2.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution AB_2_30/15

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

The Chair sought members' agreement to defer discussion of item 4.1 until after the presentation on the new Strategic Plan.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolution AB_2_31/15

That the Academic Board adopted the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 February 2015 as a true record.

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



4.1 Amendments to Coursework Policy 2014

Dr Saleeba queried the reading of the amendment to clause 78 of the policy, and suggested the changed phrase be further amended to say "twice or more". The Chair responded that the Office of General Counsel has argued against this proposed change on the basis that it is redundant, and that a student who is identified three times as not meeting progression requirements will also have been identified twice as not meeting requirements. Dr Saleeba also asked that clause 78(3)(c) include the phrase "without an intervening period of satisfactory progress as prescribed in clause 82". The Chair advised that this would actually alter the existing policy as reversion does not currently apply in the case of the trigger described in that clause. Dr Saleeba also advised that processes in Sydney Student do not currently align with the use of barrier and compulsory units of study as a progression trigger, as described in the Coursework Policy. The Chair advised that he was aware of this issue and will be pursuing the matter further.

Members approved the amendments outlined in the supplementary agenda without further change.

Resolution AB_2_32/15

That the Academic Board approve the proposed amendments to the Coursework Policy 2014 with effect from 1 July 2015 as set out in the enclosed report.

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

5. Overview of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan



The Vice-Chancellor spoke briefly regarding the all-staff forum held on 20th March and recommended members view the recording of the forum (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwDE2-lx06g>) if they had been unable to attend. He advised members that he had spent the previous day in Canberra meeting with the Minister for Education and Training, the Shadow Minister for Higher Education and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The Minister remains optimistic that the government's proposal for the deregulation of student fees will be passed by Senate at the next attempt. The Opposition has not yet released its higher education policy, but the indications are that it will be based on the mission-based compacts introduced under the Rudd-Gillard governments.

He outlined the main themes for the next Strategic Plan as follows:

- Education (values, curriculum coherence, first-year experience, capstone, teaching quality, co-curricular program) – the University has a large number of degrees which prospective students find difficult to navigate, and Professor Pattison would be discussing how the University could refocus its undergraduate generalist degrees and the first year and final year experiences;
- Research (strategy, disciplinary strength, continued multidisciplinary effort, income diversity) – there is a lot of support for the work already done in establishing multidisciplinary areas such as the Charles Perkins Centre, and an appetite for investing in disciplinary excellence, however he emphasised that any such investment strategy would need to be carefully thought out, transparent and defensible in terms of how areas are selected for such investment;
- Underpinning education and research are the areas of community (civil society, industry and government), indigenous strategy and internationalisation;
- Culture (workplace, organisational, "heritage to hungry") – the engagement survey of staff returned low scores in leadership and some associate areas, however a more detailed analysis of the results showed that the poor scores related to a small number of units within the University; a closer look at those units had identified issues with

bullying behaviour, particularly peer-to-peer bullying which needs to be addressed; the University is also developing strategies to empower female staff and to improve its diversity profile, and has just launched the “Racism Stops With Me” campaign; he explained the “heritage to hungry” dot point as the need for the University to challenge some of its traits as a heritage institution, such as complacency, an inward focus and self-criticism;

- Organisational Design (divisions, faculties and sub-faculty; wholesale organisational change or incremental change; governance – operational and strategic) – is the University’s current structure the right one?; the internal structures of the faculties are very varied, and it’s currently difficult to accurately identify all the academic managers at the University or describe their responsibilities; in terms of governance, the current strategic plan included the establishment of the Senior Executive Group which has been dealing with both strategic and operational decision making; it may be time to move to a more nuanced form of governance which deals with strategic and operational matters separately;
- Both Culture and Organisational Design will rest on the University’s capabilities (people, money, buildings and ICT).

The Vice-Chancellor advised that a survey will be going out to staff and students on Monday. The next steps in developing the new Strategic Plan will involve a series of forums and discussion papers, with a draft document to be developed by October and going to Senate for final approval in December.

Professor Pattison provided further detail on the issues to be considered regarding education at the University, building from her “Towards a distinctive Sydney education” discussion paper. That paper had looked at the curriculum framework (including the possibility of common structures), degree profile and educational approach at the University. Feedback has generally been positive with broad support for a more distinctive and coherent educational offer, a revised set of graduate attributes, contextualising disciplinary expertise in broader interdisciplinary frameworks, increasing experiential learning opportunities and an enriched PhD. Respondents also affirmed the perceived value of double degrees and the importance of lifting the value of teaching in the University. Cautions were raised regarding the cost and logistics of a larger scale commitment to student projects/experiential learning, the potential need to compromise on disciplinary content and the transaction costs of collaboration across boundaries and the problem of ‘load logic’. Some additional ideas included four-year undergraduate degrees, a new approach to credit points, pre-requisites, a re-think of Honours and “STEAM is better than STEM” (i.e. adding Arts with Science and technology understanding for all).

The next steps will be to look at:

- graduate attributes (taking into account work to be done under the Culture section on the University’s values); what additional graduate values and qualities do we want, including personal qualities;
- the curriculum framework (for generalist undergraduate degrees, specialist/professional undergraduate degrees and postgraduate degrees) and the degree profile; several SEG working groups will be developed to look at the two types of undergraduate degrees, postgraduate coursework degrees and higher degrees by research; the SEG retreat supported offering fewer undergraduate generalist degrees and making it easier for students to transfer between them; a range of potential curriculum design principles will also be discussed;
- development of a learning strategy.

Professor Trehwella advised members that the section on research will build on the achievements of the current strategic plan and continue to build on the University’s research strengths, with a focus on ongoing investment in infrastructure and developing alternative sources of research income. One key issue to be determined is the type of institution the University wants to be in terms of research diversification, volume and external opportunity. There is general agreement that the University should be placed as a prestige institution (with high scale research in a large number of fields), and a pre-eminent institution (with high quality and high volume research), but there is still a discussion to be had as to whether the University is a meritocratic institution (investing in the best people regardless of their area of research) or a strategic institution (investing strategically in researchers with the greatest probability of maximising external opportunities). If the University decides to strategically invest in research then it will be

important to develop a set of transparent and defensible criteria for making investment decisions.

Members raised the following points in discussion:

- the Chair advised that the Academic Board had held a special meeting on the current strategic plan in 2010 and something similar might be arranged for this year; he also reminded members that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences had been rated fifth in the Times Higher Education rank in 2006 and he asked what might have happened had the faculty received the same funding as, for example, the Charles Perkins Centre; Professor Rhodes noted out that the Times Higher Education rankings take into account a range of issues other than research performance including student experience, teaching and academic culture, and the strategic plan should also focus on these issues;
- the Vice-Chancellor added that decisions to fund infrastructure are also decisions to fund specific areas of research, and these decisions need to be academically informed and take into account other issues such as appropriate recruitment of staff and students; strategic investment in a specific discipline might be the difference in lifting research performance in that area from good to excellent but it would be crucial to have sound, defensible criteria to support any such decision;
- Associate Professor Masters pointed out that any focus on research excellence should take into account the amount of research undertaken by our students; he added that Australian tertiary students are not very mobile so the University is responsible for creating many of its own research students, and this in turn has implications for teaching quality;
- Dr Gullick commented that small faculties such as her own (Nursing and Midwifery) often become nervous when strategic investment is raised, adding that it was important for such faculties to understand what it is the University values so that they can position themselves appropriately; the Vice-Chancellor reassured Dr Gullick that the focus would not be on reducing the number of disciplines at the University but looking at whether the University should be more strategic about how it invests in disciplines;
- Professor Ivison asked whether the review of degree structures and profile will influence the discussion on institutional structure, and whether it would also be necessary to look at the governance structure for degrees; Professor Pattison agreed the issue should be considered, together with how the University deals with student load across faculties, and the Vice-Chancellor added that it would be good to reduce the level of confusion about our structures experienced by prospective students; he added that generalist degrees are developed centrally at some other institutions, however that might not work for this University; he concluded that any change to the institutional structure should be based on delivering clear benefits to the University's education and research goals;
- Professor Lowe expressed support for reviewing the University's engagement with the broader community; the Vice-Chancellor agreed, adding the University could benefit from improving the co-ordination of its dealings with industry and by developing long-term institutional partnerships;
- Professor Wade suggested the University also develop a co-ordinated approach to identifying "big issues" which could provide opportunities for multidisciplinary research and education, and which would have obvious benefits for the broader community; the Vice-Chancellor agreed that thematic responses to important issues are crucial.

The Chair thanked everyone for the discussion on the new Strategic Plan and advised that the contact information on the last slide would be distributed to members.

Resolution AB_2_33/15

That the Academic Board note the overview of 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 23 February 2015

The Academic Board noted this report. The Chair added that Senate has created an Education and Research Committee which will meet tomorrow, and that Emeritus Professor Alan Robson and Thomas Barlow have been appointed as the external members on the committee.

Resolution AB_2_34/15

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on academic matters considered by Senate at its meeting of 23 February 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_2_35/15

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 – Filling of vacancies

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Professor Will Christie for his work with the Academic Board. Members approved the nomination of Dr Megan MacKenzie to replace Professor Christie.

Resolution AB_2_36/15

That the Academic Board approve the nomination of Dr Megan MacKenzie to membership of the Academic Board as a representative of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for a period of membership expiring 31 December 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to update the membership lists.

6.3.2 Academic Board Standing Committees: Nominations for Membership

Members approved the nomination of various members to the Academic Board's standing committees as outlined in the resolution.

Resolution AB_2_37/15

That the Academic Board approve:

- (1) the nomination of Dr Rob Saunders (as the representative of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning) and Ms Emily Mas (as the undergraduate student member) on the Academic Standards and Policy Committee;
- (2) the nomination of Mr Sami Isaac (as the undergraduate student member) on the Admissions Committee;
- (3) the nomination of Mr Jun Tong (as the student member) on the Graduate Studies Committee; and
- (4) the nomination of Associate Professor Wendy Davis (as the representative of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning) on the Undergraduate Studies Committee

for a period of membership expiring 31 December 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to update the membership lists.

6.3.3 Assessment Procedures 2011: Amendment

The Chair advised members that the proposed amendment to the Assessment Procedures 2011 is required to regularise the inclusion of the new clause in the Coursework Policy regarding the award of degrees *aegrotat* and posthumously. Members approved the amendment.

Resolution AB_2_38/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Assessment Procedures 2011 with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to update the Assessment Procedures 2011 on the Policy Register.

6.3.4 Change of Residency: Amendment to Coursework Policy 2014

The Chair pointed out that the agenda includes three separate sets of amendments to the Coursework Policy 2014 (items 4.1, 10.2.1 and this item). The amendments outlined in items 4.1 and 10.2.1 will come into effect from 1 July 2015, and in future all changes to this policy will take effect from either 1 January or 1 July. This particular amendment is recommended for immediate effect on the advice of the Office of the General Counsel. He added that the distinction between an applicant and a student is deliberate. Members approved the amendment.

Resolution AB_2_39/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of Part 10 of the Coursework Policy 2014 with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

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

6.3.5 Higher Education Policy updates

The Chair recommended members read the policy updates from the Higher Education Policy unit.

Resolution AB_2_40/15

That the Academic Board note the reports from the Higher Education Policy unit on the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill, TEQSA, the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014 and the Research Infrastructure Review, as set out in the report presented.

6.3.6 Correspondence Register

Members noted the report.

Resolution AB_2_41/15

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

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

7.1 Report on Senate Matters

7.1.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 23 February 2015

The Academic Board noted this report.

Resolution AB_2_42/15

That the Academic Board note the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its meeting of 23 February 2015.

7.2 General report

The Vice-Chancellor advised that he had nothing further to report.

★ **8. Question time**

No questions were asked.

9. Reports of the Faculties

9.1 Faculty of Dentistry: Amendment to Faculty Constitution

Resolution AB_2_43/15

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

Action: Chair, Academic Board to recommend that Senate approve the proposed amendments to the constitution of the Faculty of Dentistry.

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Dentistry, to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to the constitution of the Faculty of Dentistry.

★ 10. **Report of the Admissions Committee**
10.1 **Oral report of the Chair**

Professor Hanrahan advised that this report outlined further changes to the Coursework Policy 2014 and some changes to the University's admissions schedules. The Chair noted that one issue covered in the policy changes is the admission of students on the basis of AQF diploma results. Students under 21 will now be expected to have attempted the HSC if they wish to apply on the basis of their diploma results and Professor Hanrahan added that any application using diploma results will be processed in-house, and the UAC conversion table will no longer be used. The Chair thanked Professor Hanrahan for her work on this issue.

Resolution AB_2_44/15

That the Academic Board note the report of the Chair of the Admissions Committee.

10.2 **Report of the meeting held on 4 March 2015**

10.2.1 **Changes to the Coursework Policy 2014**

10.2.1.1 **ATAR or Equivalent Secondary Studies**

Resolution AB_2_45/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Coursework Policy 2014, with effect from 1 July 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Coursework Policy 2014 in the Policy Register.

10.2.1.2 **AQF Diplomas as entrance qualifications to University courses**

Resolution AB_2_46/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Coursework Policy 2014, with effect from 1 July 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Coursework Policy 2014 in the Policy Register.

10.2.1.3 **Deferment of Offers**

Resolution AB_2_47/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Coursework Policy 2014, with effect from 1 July 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Coursework Policy 2014 in the Policy Register.

10.2.1.4 **Definition of Recent School Leaver**

Resolution AB_2_48/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Coursework Policy 2014, with effect from 1 July 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Coursework Policy 2014 in the Policy Register.

10.2.1.5 Diploma of Tertiary Preparation

Resolution AB_2_49/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Coursework Policy 2014, with effect from 1 July 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Coursework Policy 2014 in the Policy Register.

10.2.1.6 Special Consideration for Admission

Resolution AB_2_50/15

That the Academic Board approve the amendment of the Coursework Policy 2014, with effect from 1 July 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Coursework Policy 2014 in the Policy Register.

10.2.2 Changes to Admissions Criteria

10.2.2.1 English Language Proficiency Requirements

Resolution AB_2_51/15

That the Academic Board approve the revised English Language concordance tables, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board's Standards and Guidelines webpages.

10.2.2.2 Singapore A levels revised Schedule

Resolution AB_2_52/15

That the Academic Board approve the application of existing GCE A levels Schedule to Singapore A levels, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board's Standards and Guidelines webpages.

10.2.2.3 Indian Higher Secondary School Certificate

Resolution AB_2_53/15

That the Academic Board approve the revised assessment process for applicants presenting the Indian Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) which entails the adoption of two schedules, with immediate effect, as set out in the report presented.

Action: Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board's Standards and Guidelines webpages.

10.2.3 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_2_54/15

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Admissions Committee meeting held on 4 March 2015, as set out in the report presented.

11. Report of the Graduate Studies Committee



11.1 Oral report of the Chair

Professor Masters advised that he had nothing further to report.

11.2 Report of the meeting held on 11 March 2015

11.2.1 Proposals for new and amended postgraduate courses

11.2.1.1 Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning: Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts (Specialisation)

Resolution AB_2_55/15

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts to add a 96 credit point Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts (Specialisation);
- (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 Architecture, Design and Planning; and
- (3) 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: Chair to recommend that Senate note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning to amend the Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts to add a 96 credit point Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts (Specialisation) and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate 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 amend the Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts to add a 96 credit point Master of Interaction Design and Electronic Arts (Specialisation) and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.1.2 Faculty of Science: Master of Philosophy

Resolution AB_2_56/15

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Science to introduce the Master of Philosophy;
- (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 Science; and
- (3) approve the introduction of the course resolutions arising from this proposal

with effect from 1 January 2016, 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 Science to introduce the Master of Philosophy and approve amendments to the Resolutions of Senate related to the Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate in the Faculty of Science.

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Science, to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce the Master of Philosophy and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2 Minor course amendment proposals

11.2.2.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia-Pacific)

Resolution AB_2_57/15

That the Academic Board:

- (1) approve the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia-Pacific);
 - (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 Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia-Pacific) and amend the resolutions in CMS.

11.2.2.2 Faculty of Dentistry: Doctor of Dental Medicine

Resolution AB_2_58/15

That the Academic Board approve the English language requirements for the Doctor of Dental Medicine as an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band 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 English language requirements for the Doctor of Dental Medicine as an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band.

Executive Officer to amend the Academic Board's Standards and Guidelines webpages.



11.2.3 Guidelines for HDR Scholarship Allocations

Professor Collins expressed concern that the draft guidelines had already been used and would be used in the near future without addressing issues related to the assessment of graduates holding a Master of Philosophy (or other research master degree). She pointed out that under the previous guidelines such graduates were deemed to be equivalent to Honours Class 1 students, but this equivalency has been removed and these applicants will now be significantly disadvantaged. She added that the use of the undergraduate WAM in ranking applicants needs to be clarified, particularly for students who have completed an embedded honours degree.

The Chair reminded members that the guidelines had been reviewed last year in response to concerns that graduates from prestigious universities were being ranked lower than those from mid-rank institutions due to differences in marking. He agreed that the treatment of applicants with research master degrees needs to be reviewed. Professor Masters added that this issue had been discussed by the Committee and the Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee has been asked to revise the guidelines to address this. He recommended that Professor Collins also raise her concerns directly with the chair of the sub-committee, Associate Professor Coleman. The Chair advised that he would also look at the issue of how WAMs for embedded honours are assessed, adding that the previous guidelines did have a way of mapping marks from embedded honours against those for appended honours.

Members noted the report.

Resolution AB_2_59/15

That the Academic Board note that the Committee has endorsed the use of the draft guidelines for HDR scholarship allocations at the Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee meetings of 11 December 2014 and 9 April 2015 and that a final version of the guidelines would be submitted to the Academic Board meeting of 13 May 2015.

11.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_2_60/15

That the Academic Board note the proceedings of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 11 March 2015, as set out in the report presented.

 **12. Report of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee**

12.1 Oral report of the Chair

Associate Professor Traini advised she had nothing to add to the report.

12.2 Report of the meeting held on 4 February 2015

12.2.1 Learning and Teaching Policy Framework

Resolution AB_2_61/15

That the Academic Board note the Committee's report on its discussion of the Learning and Teaching Policy Framework Working Party.

12.2.2 Professional Placement Policy Working Party

Resolution AB_2_62/15

That the Academic Board note the Committee's report on its discussion of the Professional Placement Policy Working Party.

12.2.3 2015 Guidelines for managing the Opt-Out process for lecture recordings in University-managed lecture theatres

Resolution AB_2_63/15

That the Academic Board note the Committee's report on its discussion of the 2015 Guidelines for managing the Opt-Out process for lecture recordings in University-managed lecture theatres.

12.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

Resolution AB_2_64/15

That the Academic Board note the proceeding of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee meeting held on 4 March 2015, as set out in the report presented.

13. General Business

13.1 Academic Promotions Policy and Procedures 2015

Resolution AB_2_65/15

That the Academic Board endorse the Academic Promotions Policy and Procedures 2015, as set out in the report presented.

Action: The Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor to note the Academic Board's endorsement of the Academic Promotions Policy and Procedures 2015.

13.2 Membership of 2015 Level D and Level E Central Promotions Committees

Resolution AB_2_66/15

That the Academic Board approve the membership of the 2015 Level D and Level E Central Promotions Committees, as set out in the report presented.

The meeting finished at 3:39 pm

Signed as a correct record

Chair

Date