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## ACADEMIC BOARD

2:00 pm, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Level 6 Seminar Room, Charles Perkins Centre (D17)

**Members Present:** The Chair (Associate Professor T Masters), the Vice-Chancellor (Dr M Spence), the Chairs of the Standing Committees (Associate Professor W Davis, Professor J Hanrahan and Associate Professor T Wilkinson); Mrs H Agus, Dr D Auld, Miss R Badiyan, Dr T Balle, Ms A Bell, Dr J Bloomfield, Professor P Brennan, Associate Professor T Buckley, Professor B Caine, Dr J Carrigan, Ms A Catterson, Associate Professor A Chaves, Associate Professor R Codd, Associate Professor R Coleman, Mr D Cross, Dr P Crossley, Dr J S Curwood, Dr F Di Lauro, Associate Professor A Elias, Mr A Fayad, Professor A Fekete, Professor R Gallagher, Professor S Garton, Associate Professor T Gerzina, Professor M Graeber, Mr T Greenwell, Professor N Gurrán, Mr M Hall, Professor I Haq, Ms K Hartman-Warren, Dr A Honey, Professor S Houston, Dr N Jarkey, Professor A Johnston, Professor C Jones (for Professor A Conigrave), Mr C Jones, Ms P Kamvounias, Ms R Kwa, Associate Professor C Lei, Dr S Loschke, Professor D Lowe, Dr A Maddox, Professor D Mayer, Associate Professor M McEntee, Associate Professor S McGrath-Champ, Ms L Michaelowska, Dr L Munoz, Associate Professor J O'Byrne, Dr R Orr, Ms J Painter, Associate Professor S Park, Professor P Pattison, Associate Professor M Peat, Professor I Ramzan, Professor K Refshauge, Professor C Rhodes, Professor J Riley, Ms A Rose, Associate Professor J Rowley, Dr J Saleeba, Professor B Singh, Mr O Smith, Dr I Spandagou, Ms P Specker, Professor R Stancliffe, Dr R Suter, Associate Professor C Taylor, Professor G Tolhurst, Associate Professor M Valix, Ms S Vimalarajah, Professor C Wade, Professor D Waters, Associate Professor G White, Professor G Whitwell and Associate Professor H Woo.

**Attendees:** Ms K Calhau (University Secretariat), Mr M Charet (University Secretariat), Ms T Gerrie (University Secretariat), Ms T Hayward (University Secretariat), Mr D Pacey (Secretary to Senate), Ms P Scott (University Secretariat), Ms N Zawerucha (University Secretariat).

**Apologies:** Associate Professor J Anderson, Associate Professor T Bell, Professor K Belov, Professor A Bridgeman, Mr M Butler, Professor T Carlin, Professor A Conigrave (Professor C Jones attending in his stead), Dr E Crawford, Associate Professor D Easdown, Professor D Emery, Ms L Fouani, Dr J Gao, Associate Professor J Glistler, Professor A McBratney, Professor R McConchie, Associate Professor K McKenzie, Professor J Redmond, Professor A Reid, Ms I Revell, Mr B Ross, Ms C Smith and Professor R Taylor.

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## MINUTES

### ☆1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members to the Seminar Room of the Charles Perkins Centre and reminded them that any additional apologies should be provided to the Executive Officer. On a sadder note, he asked the Board to note the recent passing of Honorary Professor Paul Brock from the Faculty of Education and Social Work. As well as an Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Education and Social Work, Paul was also an Honorary Associate in the Centre for Values Ethics and Law in Medicine within the University's Faculty of Medicine, an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of New England, and Vice Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, NSW.

### 2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

#### ☆ 2.1 Starring of agenda and adoption of unstarred items

The following items were starred: 11.1 and 12. The Chair advised that he had asked Associate Professor Susan Park to review the meeting under item 12.

##### AB16/2-1

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

#### 2.2 Minutes of Meeting 2016/1, 24 February 2016

Members confirmed the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 February 2016.

##### AB16/2-2

The Academic Board resolved that the minutes of meeting 2016/1, held on 24 February 2016, be confirmed as a true record.

### 2.3 Actions Arising (Correction of resolution)

The Chair advised that the Faculty of Science has asked that the Academic Board amend its resolution from the previous meeting to clarify that the amendments to the Master of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Bachelor of Science/Master of Nutrition and Dietetics will take effect on different dates as outlined below.

#### AB16/2-3

The Academic Board amended the resolution made at its meeting of 24 February 2016 to allow the Faculty of Science to introduce amendments to the Master of Nutrition and Dietetics from 1 January 2018, and changes to the Bachelor of Science/Master of Nutrition and Dietetics from 1 January 2017.

#### Action:

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Science to note the Academic Board's amendment of the resolution made at its meeting of 24 February 2016 to allow the Faculty of Science to introduce amendments to the Master of Nutrition and Dietetics from 1 January 2018, and changes to the Bachelor of Science/Master of Nutrition and Dietetics from 1 January 2017.



## STRATEGIC ITEMS OF BUSINESS

### 3.1 Focus Topic: The Composition of the Academic Board under the University's Proposed New Organisational Structure

The Chair advised that at today's Academic Board meeting, he planned to divide the Board into groups to "workshop" proposals for the electorate of the Board under the University's new governance structure. While there was no intention to arrive at a preferred model today, the ideas and comments generated will form the basis of the Board's submission to the Review Committee towards the end of this year. He advised members that the Higher Education Standards require the University to ensure there is a clear distinction between academic and corporate governance, and reminded them that at the last Board meeting it was resolved that any future version of the Board would be representative and able to function effectively. The meeting broke up into ten discussion groups. The groups reconvened and presented their thoughts as follows:

- Group 1 – the group agreed that representation from the schools is important, but pointed out that the suggested model from the Chair shows non-proportional representation from the schools (e.g. the Business School has four representatives but Law has five) and that the health faculties are inconsistently represented in the data table (it includes both Medicine and the Sydney Medical School); also, school representation does not account for faculties with disciplines, rather than schools; the group also discussed the function of the Academic Board in the University and, therefore, what composition continues to be important to support its role in the light of organisational change;
- Group 2 – this group suggested representation should cover discipline and faculties, but this is difficult to establish while faculty internal structures under the new framework remain unclear; the group was also concerned that deans currently on the Board could lose their positions under the new structure, which would rob the Board of some very specialised knowledge; it was also suggested that centres could be represented, particularly if there is a new emphasis on interdisciplinary education and research at the University;
- Group 3 – the group expressed concern regarding the number of representatives and whether this overshadowed the purpose of the Board and what it should be doing; they suggested working out an optimal number of members for the Board before looking at the structure, but pointed out that students in their group were supportive of the Chair's model;
- Group 4 – members of the group questioned whether Board members are representative of (their faculties/schools) or representatives on (the Board), i.e. are academic units represented on the Board or are the decisions of the Board represented back to the units; they suggested looking at the Board afresh to ensure that it provides the University with what is needed for the future;
- Group 5 – this group started by considering strict proportional representation with slight variations between the faculties and the independent schools, and suggested including one undergraduate and one postgraduate student from each faculty and independent school; they suggested a smaller Board (than its current size) would be more efficient and could encourage more participation from members, however this needs to be balanced against the Board's

workload and the advantages of a larger membership in reporting back to faculties and other units on the Board's decisions;

- Group 6 – members of the group generally agreed with the Chair's proposed model and supported the representation of schools on the Board, but raised similar issues to those of Group 1 regarding proportionality and some duplication of faculties/schools;
- Group 7 – this group also expressed some confusion regarding the tables used in the Chair's model, particularly whether representation would be determined at the faculty level or the school level; they also suggested that the size of a faculty or school could vary depending on the metrics used; the uncertainty of how the health and medicine faculties will be structured also made it difficult to come up with a clear model; the group also suggested more thought be given to student elections, suggesting that direct elections to the Academic Board would be preferable;
- Group 8 – the group suggested that clarification of the model would be helpful; they supported school representation, but suggested that representation should also support diversity, e.g. ensuring academics from different levels are represented, that there is ethnic, gender, ATSI and LGBT representation, etc.; the group suggested that some representational places could be reserved to ensure diversity and representation and pointed out that diversity might also be better achieved by ensuring a reasonable number of early career academics are included on the Board; there was some concern expressed regarding the number of positions currently filled by nomination rather than election;
- Group 9 – this group reiterated some of the concerns from other groups regarding proportional representation and the role of representatives on the Board i.e. should members report back to their faculties or are they on the Board simply to express their views; they supported representation at the school level and agreed with Group 8 that more should be done to ensure representatives are elected rather than nominated and appointed; the group also suggested that student representation should be built upon the internal structures of schools to ensure student representatives can report back on Board matters; they also recommended clarifying the status of ex officio members and their voting rights;
- Group 10 – members of this group supported many of the recommendations from the other groups but also recommended clarifying the role of elected members, particularly student members, and expressed concern that the number of student members would decrease under the Chair's proposed model.

The Chair thanked members for their input and advised that these ideas will be combined into a single report.

#### **AB16/2-4**

The Academic Board noted the presentation by the Chair on the composition of the Academic Board under the University's proposed new organisational structure.



### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

#### **4.1 Nomination of Committee members and amendment of committee terms of reference**

Members approved the appointments and the change to the terms of reference for the Admissions Committee.

#### **AB16/2-5**

The Academic Board approved:

- (1) the appointment or co-option of academic staff and student members to the Academic Standards and Policy Committee, Admissions Committee, Graduate Studies Committee and Undergraduate Studies Committee, noting that the term of membership will be until 31 December 2016 for student members and until 31 December 2017 for staff members; and
- (2) the amendment of the terms of reference for the Admissions Committee, with immediate effect.

#### **Action:**

Executive Officer to update membership lists and terms of reference.

#### **4.2 Inherent Requirements 2016 Renewal**

Members noted the report.

**AB16/2-6**

The Academic Board noted the report on the Inherent Requirements 2016 Renewal, and the invitation to faculties to make recommendations to the Inherent Requirements Advisory Committee (IRAC) by 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**4.3 Equity and Diversity Working Group**

The Chair invited Dr Saleeba to advise the meeting of her work to establish the Equity and Diversity Working Group. She advised the group has been formed and involves herself, Ms Georgia Mantel from the SRC, Associate Professor Rae Cooper from the Business School and Mr Alastair Cowie from the USU. She invited members to contact herself or any of the other members with issues, adding that the group is currently establishing a working plan for the rest of the year.

**AB16/2-7**

The Academic Board noted the report from Dr Saleeba on the formation of the Equity and Diversity working group.

**4.4 Student members' report**

Mr Hall advised members that a report had been circulated the day before from the student members and thanked the Chair and the Board for the opportunity to discuss issues such as anonymous marking and simple extensions. Members noted the report.

**AB16/2-8**

The Academic Board noted the report of the student members of the Academic Board on anonymous marking, simple extensions, the centralised University phone line and the NTEU and Student Rally.

**4.5 Report of the Senate meeting held on 18 March 2016**

The Chair advised that this meeting had occurred in two parts, the second being a retreat. The items from the Board's previous meeting in February were accepted by the Senate.

**AB16/2-9**

The Academic Board noted the report of the Chair of the Senate meeting held on 18 March 2016.

**4.6 Honours and Distinctions**

In addition to the honours and distinctions listed in the agenda, the Chair advised that Professor Duncan Ivison has been appointed to the Performance and Incentives Working Group of the 2018 Excellence for Research in Australia project.

**AB16/2-10**

The Academic Board noted the report of the Chair of the Academic Board on the honours and distinctions and congratulate the recipients.

**Action:**

The Chair, Academic Board to write to recipients congratulating them on their honours and distinctions.

**4.7 Correspondence Register**

Members noted the report.

**AB16/2-11**

The Academic Board noted the correspondence register.



**REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL**

**5.1 Report of the Senate meeting held on 18 March 2016**

The Vice-Chancellor advised members that Senate has approved the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, endorsing it as an exciting vision for the future of the University. The plan will be released tomorrow and will be available to download from the University's website, with a formal launch on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Academic units will be asked to think about their responses to the plan and how they

will implement it e.g. how they will identify new areas of research strength which should be supported. He added that the formal launch will include information on the implementation timetable and will provide staff with an opportunity to ask questions about the plan. He stressed the need to engage with the final plan as the issues raised in the discussion papers have evolved in response to feedback from across the University community. Ms Hartman-Warren asked whether students would be invited to the launch, and the Vice-Chancellor advised that a separate event is being arranged for students.

#### **AB16/2-12**

The Academic Board noted the report from the Vice-Chancellor and Principal on matters considered by Senate at its 18 March 2016 meeting.

### **5.2 Other matters**

The Vice-Chancellor also spoke briefly on the current national debates in the higher education sector. The federal government will be releasing an options paper in the next couple of months, which will consider issues such as the changes to the HECS repayments framework raised by the Grattan Institute. On the issue of innovation, the ARC is holding discussions on research engagement and research impact. There is little appetite for the research impact statement model introduced in the UK, but no alternative model has been proposed. However the ARC is adamant that research impact should not influence funding.

The debate on the use of ATARs for admissions continues, with a lot of discussion regarding transparency but no information on how this will be achieved e.g. would institutions be asked to publish the median ATAR for admission to specific courses, or the number of students admitted above or below the published cut-off. Professor Peter Shergold, Chancellor of Western Sydney University, is chairing a standing committee on this issue. Finally, discussion continues regarding the recommendations from the Watt Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements. He advised that the Go8 continues to send the message to government that research is underfunded, which is not in keeping with the government's current emphasis on innovation, and that distortions in education funding identified in the 2011 Lomax-Smith review still need to be addressed.

Professor Fekete asked what steps were being taken by the University to mitigate against the distortions in the government's current funding model. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the strategic realignment levy and teaching to research levy used in the UEM are both aimed at correcting anomalies in the distribution of funding.

#### **AB16/2-13**

The Academic Board note the report presented by the Vice-Chancellor.



### **QUESTION TIME**

There were no further questions asked.

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### **REPORTS FROM FACULTIES**

#### **7.1 University of Sydney Business School: Amendment to Semester Dates for 2017**

##### **AB16/2-14**

The Academic Board approved the request from the University of Sydney Business School to amend its semester dates for 2017 for the Master of Business Administration.

##### **Action:**

The Dean and Faculty Manager, University of Sydney Business School to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to its semester dates for 2017 for the Master of Business Administration.

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### **REPORT OF THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The Admissions Committee met on Wednesday, 9 March 2016.



#### **Report of the Chair**

Associate Professor Wilkinson noted that the changes to the Dux Entry Scheme have already been

approved, but briefly outlined the rationale for altering the scheme to increase the University's contact with schools not previously represented in the University's admissions.

**AB16/2-15**

The Academic Board received and noted the report from the Admissions Committee meeting of 9 March 2016.

**8.1 Amendments to the Coursework Policy: Dux Scheme**

**AB16/2-16**

The Academic Board approved amendments to the Coursework Policy 2014 relating to the Dux Entry Scheme with effect from 1 July 2016.

**Action:**

The Director of Admissions to note the Academic Board's approval of the amendments to the Coursework Policy 2014 relating to the Dux Entry Scheme.

The Executive Officer to update the Coursework Policy 2014 in the Policy Register.

**8.2 Minor Course Amendment Proposal: Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies**

**AB16/2-17**

The Academic Board approved the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to correct the assumed knowledge details for the Bachelor Information Technology/Bachelor of Commerce combined degree, with immediate effect.

**Action:**

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to correct the assumed knowledge details for the Bachelor Information Technology/Bachelor of Commerce combined degree.

The Executive Officer to update the Assumed Knowledge Schedule.

**9 REPORT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

The Undergraduate Studies Committee met on Wednesday, 16 March 2016.



**Report of the Chair**

Associate Professor Davis gave a brief outline of the items considered by the Committee.

**AB16/2-18**

The Academic Board received and noted the report from the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting of 16 March 2016.

**9.1 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Bachelor of Engineering Honours – proposal to introduce new majors (Internet of Things and Humanitarian Engineering)**

**AB16/2-19**

The Academic Board approved the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to amend the Bachelor of Engineering Honours to introduce new majors (the Internet of Things and Humanitarian Engineering) and the consequent amendments to the course resolutions with effect from 1 January 2017.

**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 to introduce new majors (the Internet of Things and Humanitarian Engineering) and amend the course resolutions in CMS.

## 9.2 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Faculty Resolutions

### AB16/2-20

The Academic Board approved the proposal from the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to clarify the provision of credit involving units of study for majors in undergraduate courses and the consequent amendment of the faculty resolutions with immediate effect.

#### **Action:**

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to clarify the provision of credit involving units of study for majors in undergraduate courses and amend the Faculty Resolutions in CMS.

## 10 REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

The Graduate Studies Committee met on Wednesday, 16 March 2016.

### ☆ *Report of the Chair*

The Chair noted that Associate Professor McKenzie had provided her apologies. He added that in addition to the items in the report, the Board should note that Associate Professor Kathleen Nelson (Sydney Conservatorium of Music) has been appointed Chair of the PhD Award Sub-Committee and Associate Professor Shae McCrystal (Faculty of Law) has been appointed as Chair of the Postgraduate Awards Sub-Committee.

### AB16/2-21

The Academic Board received and noted the report from the Graduate Studies Committee meeting of 16 March 2016.

#### 10.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Master of Development Studies – proposal to amend requirements for award of the degree

### AB16/2-22

The Academic Board approved the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the Master of Development Studies, and approve the consequent amendment of the course resolutions with effect from 1 January 2017.

#### **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 Development Studies and amend the course resolutions in CMS.

#### 10.2 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Master of US Studies – proposal to amend requirements for award of the degree

### AB16/2-23

The Academic Board approved the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to amend the Master of US Studies, and approve the consequent amendment of the course resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2017.

#### **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 US Studies and amend the course resolutions in CMS.

#### 10.3 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies: Master of Engineering – proposal to introduce a new major in Risk Management

### AB16/2-24

The Academic Board approved the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to introduce a Risk Management major in the Master of Engineering, and approve the consequent amendment of the course resolutions, with effect from 1 January 2017.

**Action:**

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies to note the Academic Board's approval of the proposal to introduce a Risk Management major in the Master of Engineering and amend the course resolutions in CMS.

**10.4 Faculty of Science: Graduate Diploma in Psychology – proposal to alter the date of effect of amendment to course**

**AB16/2-25**

The Academic Board amended the resolution made at its meeting of 2 July 2014 to allow the Faculty of Science to continue offering the Graduate Diploma in Psychology with its existing table of units of study until 2018.

**Action:**

The Dean and Faculty Manager, Faculty of Science to note the Academic Board's amendment of the resolution made at its meeting of 2 July 2014 to allow the Faculty of Science to continue offering the Graduate Diploma in Psychology with its existing table of units of study until 2018.

**11 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Academic Standards and Policy Committee met on Wednesday, 9 March 2016.



**Report of the Chair**

Professor Hanrahan advised she had nothing further to add to report of the meeting.

**AB16/2-26**

The Academic Board received and noted the report from the Academic Standards and Policy Committee meeting of 9 March 2016.



**11.1 Simple Extensions Working Group report**

Mr Hall advised that the SRC would like to discuss the implications of the amendments to clause 57(1) at the next Academic Standards and Policy Committee.

Members approved the proposed amendments to the Coursework Policy 2014 and the Assessment Procedures 2011.

**AB16/2-27**

The Academic Board:

- (1) accepted the findings of the Simple Extensions Working Group outlined in the attached report and
- (2) approved the related amendments to the Coursework Policy 2014 and the Assessment Procedures 2011 with immediate effect.

**Action:**

The Executive Officer to update the Coursework Policy 2014 and the Assessment Procedures 2011 in the Policy Register.

**11.2 Anonymous Marking**

**AB16/2-28**

The Academic Board noted the Academic Standards and Policy Committee's advice that it supports the use of anonymous marking for examinations.



**12 GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Chair thanked members for attending the meeting in a new venue, adding that he would like to try others as well. He invited Associate Professor Park to review the meeting. Professor Park advised that this had been her first Academic Board meeting, and that she had noted the comments in the minutes of the last meeting about problems with the previous venue. She added that she had heard most of what

was said at the meeting, and while she would rather not do group work again it was a reasonable way to obtain a variety of views in a short time. Professor Stancliffe advised that he had experienced difficulties hearing some people and that he would prefer a table. The Chair invited members to provide their feedback on the venue.

The meeting closed at 3:31 pm.

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2016

2:00 pm Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016

2:00 pm Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

2:00 pm Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016

2:00 pm Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

2:00 pm Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

2:00 pm Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

A full copy of the Academic Board Minutes is available at: <http://sydney.edu.au/ab/about/agendas.shtml>