MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL HELD IN THE OLD SENATE ROOM, IN THE IRWIN STREET BUILDING, ON TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2006

PRESENT:

Professor Craig Atkins as Chair
Nominee of the Chair of the Academic Board (Associate Professor Annette George)
Graduate Education Officer (Dr Krystyna Haq)
Postgraduate Students’ Association President (Mr Benjamin Jardine)
Professor Mike Anderson
Professor Arun Dharmarajan
Professor Norman Etherington
Associate Professor Judith Johnston
Professor Matthew Knuiman
Associate Professor Ian McArthur
Dr Allan McKinley
Associate Professor Brett Nener
Associate Professor Susan Prescott
Associate Professor Robert Stuart
Professor Jim Whelan

Executive Officer (Mr Chester Cutinha)

BY INVITATION:

Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships (Dr Sato Juniper)
Graduate Education Officer (Dr Michael Azariadis)

OBSERVERS:

Graduate Research Coordinator, School of Physics (Dr Paul Abbott)

APOLOGIES:

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) (Professor Robyn Owens)
Professor Ken Clements
Professor Kevin Croft
Director, Research Services (Dr Campbell Thomson)
Graduate Research Coordinator, School of Psychology (Associate Professor Murray Maybery)

Professor Craig Atkins, the Deputy Chair of the Board, chaired the meeting in the absence of Professor Robyn Owens.

Dr Sato Juniper advised the Chair that she would be leaving early due to other commitments and left the meeting prior to the discussion of item 9(a)(ii)

Professor Arun Dharmarajan had advised the Chair prior to the meeting that he would be arriving late due to other commitments and arrived after the discussion of item 9(a)(i).

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Dr Paul Abbott, Graduate Research Coordinator of the School of Physics, to the meeting.
1. **CALL FOR DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members and invitees were requested to declare any conflicts of interest that they may have with respect to any items on the agenda.

Associate Professor Annette George declared a perception for conflict of interest with respect to the candidates referred to in items 9(a)(iii) and 10(b).

Professor Norman Etherington declared a conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 10(d) and left the room during the discussion of this item.

Associate Professor Judy Johnston declared a conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 9(a)(ii) and left the room during the discussion of this item.

Professor Matthew Knuiman declared a perception for conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 10(e) and did not speak to this item.

Dr Allan McKinley, in his capacity as acting Head of School, declared a perception for conflict of interest with respect to item 6.

Associate Professor Brett Nener declared a perception for conflict of interest with respect to the candidates referred to in items 10(j) and 10(k) and left the room during the discussion of these items.

Associate Professor Susan Prescott declared a conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 10(a) and left the room during the discussion of this item.

Professor Jim Whelan declared a perception for conflict of interest with respect to items 5 and 7.

Associate Professor Robert Stuart declared a perception for conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 10(d) and did not speak to this item.

Dr Sato Juniper declared a conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 9(a)(ii) and left the room during the discussion of this item.

2. **MINUTES – REF: F36**

RESOLVED – 124

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School held on Tuesday, 10 October 2006 be confirmed.

3. **WITHDRAWAL OF MID-COST HDR GROUP FROM THE BUDGET MODEL**

Members had before them for noting a spreadsheet detailing the funding arrangements in the 2007 Faculty Funding Model for Teaching and Research. Members recalled that the Board was advised at its October 2006 meeting that the mid-cost discipline category will be withdrawn from the Research and Research Training component of the Faculty Funding Model in 2007. Members also had before them an outline of the implications for research training funding (in 2007 $) of two hypothetical candidates who commence a PhD in 2007 in low and high cost disciplines respectively, who finish after exactly 4 years, and who each publish 2 single-authored journal papers in that time.

There was a brief discussion, in which the following main points were made:
- It is unrealistic to expect a candidate to produce two single-authored papers in the course of a PhD. Therefore, the expected income is overstated.
- A member commented that historically the cost band of a candidate's research was inferred from the school in which they were enrolled. That is, there were high, mid and low-cost schools. However, this is now not appropriate because a candidate might be enrolled in a low cost school but be undertaking high cost research. The Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships, acknowledged that this is a problem, and advised members that shortly the Graduate Research Coordinators in schools that were formerly mid-cost and are now low-cost will be asked to provide
a list of candidates whose enrolments need to be tagged as high-cost. This adjustment will be made in time for re-enrolments in 2007. Other adjustments will be made as required once the review of research unit sets has been completed.

Noted.

4. COMPLETION DATA

Members had before them for noting a summary of the mean candidature of research candidates 2001 – 2005, by faculty and school. Members were advised that the information in the summary had been extracted from Socrates, software that is currently being developed in the University. Socrates is designed to extract and integrate data from the University's main corporate databases (Callista, Research Master and Alesco) and derive information that will be used to address the requirements of the Research Quality Framework. Socrates will be formally launched on Monday 20th November.

The Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships, explained that the information presented had been calculated from the EFTSL-equivalent of candidates' enrolment. The calculation subtracted time on suspension and halved time spent on part-time enrolment. It did not take into account transfer of candidates from other universities or from other courses. Thus, the information is not a perfect measure of time to completion and should not be interpreted as such, merely as an indicator. The information on Socrates differs from that on the Executive Information System because the basis of calculation is different, and neither gives a perfect measure of actual time to completion.

It was noted that one school had been included in the wrong faculty, which calls into question the validity of the inter-faculty comparison presented. Socrates is a work-in-progress, and the validity of the information it contains will improve with time.

Noted.
ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE UNIVERSITY SECRETARIAT FROM THE BOARD OF THE GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2006

5. PROPOSED CO-TUTELLE WITH THE UNIVERSITE LOUIS PASTEUR (STRASBOURG 1)

Members had before them a proposal from the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences to establish a Co-tutelle agreement with the Universite Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg 1) (ULP). Members had for consideration an annotated explanatory letter from the Faculty, a Memorandum of Agreement for a general exchange programme and the Checklist for the Joint/Double-Badged Agreement plus a draft agreement. Members were advised that the other documents listed in the explanatory letter from the Faculty were available on request.

The following main points were raised:

− Grievance/Appeal procedures: Currently, the only reference is to the grievance and appeal processes at ULP. The Agreement will need to include a note to say that UWA's standard procedures will apply while the student is at UWA.

− Graduation and Testamur: As this is a proposed joint programme the logos of both institutions should be included on the testamur, as per UWA's policy. This needs to be agreed before final approval.

− A member commented that since the thesis is to be written in French it is likely that the examiners' reports will also be in French, and asked how the Board will be able to evaluate them confidently. The Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships, responded that in this case the reports will be translated before they come to the Board.

− A member commented on the note in the agreement that UWA's "language staff" are expected to ensure that each candidate going to ULP has the required level of achievement in French. Staff in European Studies would be ideally placed to assist with this.

RESOLVED – 125

to recommend that the Academic Board/Council approve the proposal to establish a Cotutelle agreement with ULP, subject to agreement between the universities that UWA's standard procedures for dealing with grievances and appeals will apply while the candidate is at UWA and that the testamur should include the logos of both universities, as per UWA's policy.

(Item for the attention of the Development Officer, Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences)

6. PROPOSED CO-TUTELLE WITH THE UNIVERSITE DES SCIENCES ET TECHNIQUES DU LANGUEDOC MONTPELIER II

Members had before them a proposal from the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences to establish a Co-tutelle agreement with the Universite des Sciences et Techniques du Languedoc Montpelier II (UM2). Members had for consideration an annotated explanatory letter from the Faculty, a Memorandum of Agreement for a general exchange programme and the Checklist for the Joint/Double-Badged Agreement plus draft agreements in the format preferred by each university. Members were advised that other documents listed in the explanatory letter from the Faculty were available on request.

The following main points were raised:

− Ethics approvals: The Chair advised that, all enrolled UWA candidates are required to obtain approvals from the relevant UWA committees, regardless of where the work is to be conducted. Thus, the assumption in the proposal that UWA Ethics approval would not be required as it has been given elsewhere is an error. It is possible that there is a reciprocal agreement between UWA and the French authority that approved the work, and that endorsement by the UWA committee will be automatic. However, this needs to be established. The Board requested the
Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships, to seek advice from the Chair of the relevant UWA Ethics Committee.

− Administration: The Checklist outlines UM2’s requirements for an Annual Progress Report but does not note that UWA will also require an Annual Progress Report each year as per standard process. This needs to be agreed.

− Graduation and Testamur: As this is a proposed joint programme the logos of both institutions should be included on the testamur, as per UWA’s policy. This needs to be agreed before final approval.

RESOLVED – 126

to recommend that the Academic Board/Council approve the proposal to establish a Cotutelle agreement with UM2, subject to agreement between the universities that UWA Ethics approval as well as that of UM2 is required, that UWA’s standard procedures for Annual Progress Reports will apply in addition to those of UM2 and that the testamur should include the logos of both universities, as per UWA’s policy.

(Item for the attention of the Development Officer, Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences)

7. PROPOSED CO-TUTELLE WITH THE UNIVERSITE D’EVRY D’ESSONNE

Members had before them a proposal from the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences to establish a Cotutelle agreement with the Universite d'Evry/Val D'Essonne that was approved by the Board in March 2006. At its March meeting the Board had expressed concern with some aspects of the proposal and had asked for some changes. As the paperwork was received too late for analysis and inclusion in the agenda, a letter from the Faculty, Checklist, and draft agreements in the format preferred by each university, and an extract from the minutes of the March 2006 meeting of the Board were tabled at the meeting. The Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships advised that she had studied the papers, and drew members’ attention to the following points:

− The Board’s original concern with this proposal was that it appeared that the candidate is to be guaranteed a resubmit if the thesis is unsatisfactory. The Board had requested that the wording be changed from “…the student will be invited to rewrite and represent the work…” to “…the student may be invited to rewrite and represent the work…”. In the paperwork received, the wording remains will, and the same concerns therefore apply.

− Graduation and Testamur: As this is a proposed joint programme the logos of both institutions should be included on the testamur, as per UWA’s policy. This needs to be agreed before final approval.

RESOLVED – 127

to recommend that the Academic Board/Council approve the proposal to establish a Cotutelle agreement with Universite d'Evry/Val D'Essonne, subject to agreement between the universities that the wording of the agreement will be amended to "...the student may be invited to rewrite and represent the work..." and that the testamur should include the logos of both universities, as per UWA's policy.

(Item for the attention of the Development Officer, Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences)