MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL HELD AT THE
OSTERIA DEI SAPORI RESTAURANT, 151 BROADWAY, NEDLANDS, ON TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2006

PRESENT:

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) (Professor Robyn Owens) as Chair
Nominee of the Chair of the Academic Board (Associate Professor Annette George)
Graduate Education Officer (Dr Krystyna Haq)
Professor Craig Atkins (Deputy Chair)
Professor Kevin Croft
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:

Director, Research Services (Dr Campbell Thomson)
Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships (Dr Sato Juniper)
Graduate Education Officer (Dr Michael Azariadis)
Chair of the Academic Board (Professor Graeme Martin)

OBSERVERS:

Ms Nellie Au-Yong, Personal Assistant to Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training)
Ms Sue King, Administrative Officer, Graduate Research and Scholarships Office
Mrs Barbara Telfer, Acting Administrative Officer, Graduate Research and Scholarships Office

APOLOGIES:

Postgraduate Students’ Association President (Ms Bronwyn Crowe)
Professor Mike Anderson
Professor Ken Clements
Professor Arun Dharmarajan

Professor Norman Etherington was delayed due to other commitments and arrived during the
discussion of item 10(d).

Professor Graeme Martin was delayed due to other commitments and arrived after the conclusion of
item 12. The meeting was recessed for a short break and recommenced to discuss the final item on
the agenda, item 13, after the arrival of Professor Martin.

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Ms Nellie Au-Yong, Ms Sue King and Mrs Barbara Telfer to the meeting.

The Chair thanked the outgoing Postgraduate Students’ Association President, Mr Benjamin Jardine
and the retiring member, Professor Mike Anderson for their contribution to the Board.
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.

Professor Robyn Owens declared a conflict of interest with respect to one of the candidates referred to in item 12 and left the room during the discussion of this item.

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

Dr Krystyna Haq declared a conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 10(a) and did not participate in the discussion of this item.

2. MINUTES – REF: F36

RESOLVED – 142

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School held on Tuesday, 14 November 2006 be confirmed.

3. BOARD OF THE GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL MEETING DATES – REF: F35

Members and guests were requested to note the dates for meetings of the Board of the Graduate Research School for 2007. Members were advised that except for the December 2007 Board meeting, the details of which were to be advised at a later date, all meetings were scheduled for 2.15 pm in the Old Senate Room, in the Irwin Street Building adjacent to James Oval.

February 13 February 2007
March 13 March 2007
April 10 April 2007
May 8 May 2007
June 12 June 2007
July 10 July 2007
August 14 August 2007
September 11 September 2007
October 9 October 2007
November 13 November 2007
December 11 December 2007

Noted.

4. CHANGES TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF THE GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL – REF: F34

Members and guests were requested to note the following changes to the composition of the Board:

Associate Professor Judith Johnston had advised the Chair that she would be on leave for the greater part of 2007 and consequently unavailable for Board duties from the December 2006 Board meeting until the end of 2007. Associate Professor Johnston has indicated that she will rejoin the Board at its first meeting in 2008. An academic member of staff would be co-opted to the Board for the period that Associate Professor Johnston is away to cover the loss of expertise.

Ms Bronwyn Crowe had replaced Mr Benjamin Jardine on the Board as the President of the Postgraduate Students’ Association.

Professor Mike Anderson had advised the Chair that he would be on leave for the greater part of 2007 and consequently was stepping down from the Board.

Noted.
5. CHANGES TO THE EXPIRY DATE OF THE TERMS OF FUTURE ELECTED AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL – REF: F34

Members were reminded that Board Members appointed to the Board by election of the Academic Board were appointed for a period of three years with the term commencing on the first day April following an election and expiring on the last day of March, three years after the commencement. Co-opted Members were co-opted to the Board for a period of one year with the term commencing on the first day of April and expiring on the last day of March, the following year.

Members were advised that the Graduate Research and Scholarships Office had recently received and accepted a request from the University Secretariat to amend the expiry dates of the terms of any future elected Members of the Board to end with the last day of the calendar year. The Graduate Research School had also decided to amend the expiry date of the terms of any new co-opted Board Members to coincide with the last day of the calendar year. Hence, any new Members elected or co-opted to the Board will initially have reduced terms if the Board Member they are replacing has a term expiring on 31 March that year.

Noted.

6. AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN ACADEMIC LINKS AGREEMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES – REF: F11785

Members had before them a copy of the Australian-German Academic Links Agreement (HRK-AVCC) for academic cooperation and recognition of academic qualifications between Australia and Germany. They also had an analysis of the document by the International Centre proposing that UWA adopt a range of recommendations concerning admission to academic courses on the basis of qualifications achieved in Germany and an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Admissions Committee held on October 2006 requesting that the Board consider and provide a recommendation to the Admissions Committee on the following question:

Should holders of a German Bakkalaureus/Bachelor degree awarded after four years of study be eligible for admission to a Higher Degree by Research program at UWA under the terms in the Academic Links Agreement or should they initially be required to do a HDR Preliminary or a Graduate Diploma? Currently, the practice is to consider each degree on a case-by-case basis according to its content. Specifically, a determination is made of the content of independent research in the course and whether a thesis has been produced.

The Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships, spoke to this item and recommended that the practice of considering each degree on a case-by-case basis continue. The Board agreed that suitability of German Bakkalaureus/Bachelor degrees as preparation for research degrees would vary, depending heavily on their research content.

The Board

RESOLVED – 143

...to recommend to the Admissions Committee that the current practice be continued, namely to consider each degree on a case-by-case basis according to its content, specifically the content of independent research in the course and whether a thesis has been produced.

(Item for the attention of the Executive Officer, Admissions Committee)
7. PROPOSED CO-TUTELLE WITH HARBIN UNIVERSITY – F13851

Members were advised that a proposal had been received from the School of Civil and Resource Engineering to establish a Co-tutelle agreement with Harbin University. Members were provided for their consideration a Memorandum of Agreement for a general exchange programme and a Checklist for the Joint/Double-Badged Agreement.

The Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships, spoke to this item and advised the Board that in general the proposal complied with UWA standard processes. However, some points in the Checklist needed clarification because the fields had been left blank, perhaps in the belief that they were covered by an earlier document.

The Board

RESOLVED – 144

to approve the proposed co-tutelle with Harbin University subject to satisfactory clarification of the questions to which no response had been given.

(Item for the attention of the Senior Faculty Administrative Officer, Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics)