MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Chair of the Academic Board (Professor David Plowman)
Deputy Chair of the Academic Board (Professor Karen Simmer)
Vice-Chancellor (Professor Alan Robson)
Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Margaret Seares)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) (Professor Doug McEachern)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) (Professor Don Markwell)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) (A/Professor Jane Long)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) (Professor Robyn Owens)
Executive Director (Academic Services) and Registrar (Mr Peter Curtis)
Executive Director (Finance and Resources) (Ms Gaye McMath)
Immediate Past Chair of the Academic Board (Professor Graeme Martin)
Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts (Dr Clarissa Ball)
Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (Professor Anne Pauwels)
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce (Ms Tracey Horton)
Dean, Faculty of Education (Professor Bill Louden)
Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics (Professor Mark Bush)
Dean, Faculty of Law (Professor Bill Ford)
Dean, Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences (Professor George Stewart)
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (Professor Ian Puddey)
Dean, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (Professor Alistar Robertson)
Dean of the School of Indigenous Studies (Ms Jill Milroy)
University Librarian (Mr John Arfield)
President of the Guild of Undergraduates (Mr David de Hoog)
President of the Postgraduate Students’ Association (Ms Bronwyn Crowe)
Professor Andrew Deeks
Professor Alan Dench
A/Professor Joan Eveline
Dr Sato Juniper
A/Professor Raymond da Silva Rosa
Dr Nick Spadaccini
Professor Phil Withers

ACADEMIC COUNCIL AGENDA – 7 MARCH 2007

The next meeting of the Academic Council will be held in the Senate Room on Wednesday 7 March 2007 at 2.15pm.

Part 1 of the agenda has items of communication to be dealt with en bloc. Part 2 of the agenda is items for decision to be dealt with en bloc by motion of the Chair. Part 3 is for discussion and decision. A member may request the removal of an item from one part to another.

Please note that only those items referred to the Council from the minutes of its sub-committees are attached to this agenda. The full minutes are (or will shortly be) available on the UWA web location: http://committees.uwa.edu.au/

TRUDI MCGLADE
Deputy University Secretary
1. MINUTES – Ref F4973

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council held on 29 November 2006.

PART 1 – ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC

2. NOTING OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CIRCULAR

Several items were circulated to Council for consideration on 9 February 2007. As no objections were received, the Chair’s recommendations for all items have been approved and will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting as formal resolutions of Council.

3. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

By R121/03, Academic Council delegated authority to the International Strategies Sub committee on International Agreements to approve student exchange agreements, articulation and associated advanced standing arrangements and in-country study programmes. The Sub-committee has approved the following agreements:

(a) Continuation of Student Exchange Agreement between UWA and the University of California – Ref F6581

(b) Student Exchange Agreement between the School of Business and Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and McMaster University’s School of Business and Faculty of Engineering, Business and Science – Ref F18812

(c) Student Exchange Agreement between UWA and Pennsylvania State University – Ref F15367

(d) Student Exchange Agreement between UWA and Kobe University, Japan – Ref F1351

Copies of the agreements are available from the Secretariat on request.

For noting.

4. UWA CENTRES - CLINICAL TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE (CTEC) - Ref F7363

The Clinical Training and Assessment Centre (CTEC), was established as a result of collaboration between The University of Western Australia, the Health Department of Western Australia, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and others, to provide medical and surgical skills training.

Members are advised that CTEC, which has previously sat within the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences, will now sit within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, reporting through the Dean, Professor Ian Puddey.

CTEC will continue to provide its world class professional development courses and skills training opportunities to a broad range of healthcare professionals.

For noting.
5. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT - Ref F11455

By R148/06 the Legislative Committee, at its meeting of 30 November 2006, recommended to Academic Council that its constitution be amended to read as set out in the attachment. Members are advised that the constitution has been redrafted in accordance with Recommendation 1 of the “Working Smarter through Committees” Report. The opportunity has also been taken to make several amendments to the provision for invitees to attend meetings of the Legislative Committee or its drafting sub-committee. Namely, provision has been included for the University Lawyer to nominate another person to attend meetings in his or her stead and for the drafting sub-committee to invite faculty or other officers of the University to attend meetings at which matters relevant to their role are being discussed. The period of office for non ex-officio members has also been defined.

The proposed constitution is attached at A1 while the existing constitution is also attached at A3 for comparison (Attachment A).

The Chair suggests that Council approve the amendments to the Legislative Committee constitution as set out in the attachments.

6. CASUAL VACANCY ON ACADEMIC COUNCIL – Ref F11743

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ms Lisa Harris, who was elected by the Academic Board to the Academic Council for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008, will be absent from the University on leave until the end of 2007. A casual vacancy has therefore arisen. Professor Judith Finn (of the School of Population Health) has agreed to fill this vacancy.

The Chair suggests that Council approve that Professor Judith Finn fill the casual vacancy on Council for the period to 31 December 2007.

7. FACULTY OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES – SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL, BIOMOLECULAR AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES – CHANGES TO HONOURS PROGRAMS Ref F4788

Acting on behalf of his Faculty, the Dean of the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences has recommended changes as set out in the attachment (Attachment B) to the honours programs offered in the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences.

The School has received complaints from students regarding the inequities in the honours programs offered across the disciplines within the School (namely, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Chemistry; Microbiology and Immunology; and Physiology), and how these inequities impact on scholarship rankings. This issue had been raised also in the recent Review of the School and it had been recommended that efforts be made to ensure consistency across disciplines within the School. With these changes, the structures of the honours programs within the School will be harmonised.

It is proposed that these changes be implemented immediately. The Head of School has discussed the changes with students involved and there have been no objections.

It has been noted that these, and other honours programs in the Faculty, are not included in the Science Faculties’ Rules, rather the structures of the Honours courses are set out separate to the Rules.

The Chair suggests that Council approve the amendments, effective immediately, to the honours programs in the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences as set
out in the attachment and requests that the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences incorporate the details of the Honours programs offered in the Faculty into the Science Faculties’ Rules for the 2008 Handbook.

8. PROPOSED NEW UNITS AND DELETIONS

Proposals from Faculties

In late 1996 the Council reaffirmed the view that it has an important role in the oversight of the introduction and deletion of units by faculties. It has concerns about the proliferation of units in the University and an interest in unfulfilled potential for collaborative approaches to the teaching of some disciplines. It also fulfills a necessary role in ensuring that faculties consult as necessary with other faculties which are affected by proposals to introduce or discontinue units.

Under procedures approved in late 1996 faculties are responsible for approving new units and unit deletions, subject to Academic Council endorsement. Faculties are required to provide information to Council about the new units and unit deletions they have approved on standard forms.

Faculties have approved new units and unit deletions for 2007 as follows, subject to Academic Council endorsement. Handbook entries and the checklists are available from the Faculty Administrative Officer on request.

Where proposals to add or delete units involve combined courses or units taught in more than one faculty, only the changes to the single degree course in the originating faculty have been listed in the agenda. The changes to the other courses will be made as per the checklists and in accordance with approval given by the other faculties.

Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences

R1/07 BSc (Pharmaceutical Science) – Ref F11185 (Attachment C)

The Chair suggests that Council endorse the proposed insertion and deletion of unit as set out in the attachment.

PART 3 – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

9. PRINCIPLES FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMITTEES - Ref F12202

Members will be aware that all committees of the University are expected to operate according to the principles set out in the Principles for the Operation of Committees.

In 2005 the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Director (Academic Services and Registrar) commissioned a "Working Smarter Through Committees" working party in order to investigate ways of streamlining and improving committee processes without compromising collegiality.

In accordance with Recommendation 9 – That the University’s principles and rules for the operation of committees are distributed (as part of the agenda) to all committee members and the Chair explicitly address these at the first meeting of each year - the principles and rules are attached along with the code of conduct for committee members (Attachment D).

The Chair will speak to the principles, rules and code of conduct.
10. PROPOSALS FOR NEW COURSES, TRANSNATIONAL COURSES AND MAJOR
CHANGES TO EXISTING COURSES FOR 2008

Major Changes

Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts

Conversion of the Bachelor of Architecture to a Master of Architecture (Coursework) (MArch(Coursework)) – Ref F4984

By R03/07 the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts has resolved to recommend a conversion of the current graduate-entry Bachelor of Architecture to a Masters of Architecture and has also recommended transitional arrangements.

This conversion is as a result of developments that have occurred in the teaching of Architecture across Australian architecture schools in light of the “Bologna Joint Declaration” of 1999. The attached briefing paper prepared by the Faculty Dean, outlines the proposal to convert the current graduate entry Bachelor of Architecture into a Master of Architecture (Coursework) to align the University of Western Australia with other architecture schools in Australasia and overseas. The proposal includes transitional arrangements for students currently in the architecture program at UWA and will require the Faculty to run courses leading to both the Bachelor of Architecture and the Master of Architecture (Coursework) in parallel for a number of years.

The Faculty recommends a change to the nomenclature of the graduate-entry course leading to the Bachelor of Architecture degree. The current name is a consequence of naming conventions across architecture programme in Australia, Asia and New Zealand rather than an accurate reflection of the level of study. As the attached briefing paper sets out, the current course meets the attributes of a Master's degree as described in the Australian Qualifications’ Framework. The professional, specialised nature of the Bachelor of Architecture and its greater emphasis on research training distinguishes it from the more generalist oriented Bachelor of Environmental Design.

If the change is made then the Faculty recommends that permission be sought from the Federal Minister for Education to transfer Commonwealth Supported places from the course leading to the Bachelor of Architecture to the course leading to the Master of Architecture. This has been approved for at least one other institution.

A transitional phase will be needed to ensure equity, marketability, capacity of students to access financial support. The transitional arrangements proposed are:

(a) Current Bachelor of Environmental Design students enrol in the Bachelor of Architecture and upon completion of the 16 weeks professional experience will be eligible to graduate with a Master of Architecture (Coursework);
(b) Current Bachelor of Architecture students remain enrolled in the Bachelor of Architecture and upon completion of the 16 weeks professional experience will be eligible to graduate with a Master of Architecture (Coursework); and
(c) Students commencing the Bachelor of Environmental Design in 2008 will be required to enrol in the proposed Master of Architecture (Coursework).

Attached are (Attachment E):

• An extract from the meeting of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts held on 22 February 2007;
• Briefing Paper The Bachelor of Architecture to the Master of Architecture (Coursework) dated 19 February 2007 from the Faculty Dean;
• New course checklist for the Master of Architecture (Coursework) (MArch)(Coursework))
• The rules for the Master of Architecture (Coursework) (MArch)
The Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts will be invited to speak to this proposal.

Council is asked to consider:
(i) recommending to Senate the conversion of the current graduate-entry Bachelor of Architecture to the Master of Architecture and inclusion in the Schedule to the Course Regulations;
(ii) approving the rules for the Master of Architecture subject to final drafting by the Legislative Committee;
(iii) approving that the Master of Architecture (Coursework) (March(Coursework)) be made available to international students; and
(iv) approving the transitional arrangements as set out in the attachment.

11. ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – Ref F11783

A report from the Acting Vice-Chancellor is attached (Attachment F).

12. REVIEWS AND FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

a) Reviews

(i) Review of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering and the Bachelor of Computer Science – Ref F15028

The Executive Summary and Recommendations for the Review of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering and the Bachelor of Computer Science are attached. (Attachment G)

(ii) Review of the School of Paediatrics and Child Health – Ref F13722

The Executive Summary and Recommendations for the Review of the Paediatrics and Child Health are attached. (Attachment H)

(iii) Review of the School of Surgery and Pathology – Ref F14907

The Executive Summary and Recommendations for the Review of the School of Surgery and Pathology are attached. (Attachment I)

(iv) Review of Oil and Gas Engineering – Ref F15544

The Executive Summary and Recommendations for the Review of Oil and Gas Engineering are attached. (Attachment J)

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor will report.

(v) Review of the School of Animal Biology – Ref F13718

The Executive Summary and Recommendations for the Review of the School of Animal Biology are attached. (Attachment K)

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor will report.

(vi) Review of The University Library – Ref F14921
The Executive Summary and Recommendations for the Review of The University Library are attached.

(Attachment L)

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor will report.

(b) Follow-Up Reports

(i) Facilities Management – Ref F18817
(ii) School of Plant Biology – Ref F12999
(iii) School of Human Movement and Exercise Science – Ref F7455

Copies of the follow-up reports are available from the Secretariat on request.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor will report.