MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 7 MARCH 2007 IN THE SENATE ROOM

PRESENT:
Chair of the Academic Board (Professor David Plowman)
Deputy Chair of the Academic Board (Professor Karen Simmer)
Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor Margaret Seares)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) (Professor Doug McEachern)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) (A/Professor Jane Long)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) (Professor Robyn Owens)
Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts (Dr Clarissa Ball)
Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (Professor Alan Dench)
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)
Acting Dean, Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences (Professor Bob Grove)
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (Professor Ian Puddey)
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)
Dr Sato Juniper
A/Professor Raymond da Silva Rosa
Dr Nick Spadaccini
Professor Phil Withers

PERSONAL

The chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the Academic Council for 2007 and extended a particular welcome to the new members - Mr David de Hoog, Ms Bronwyn Crowe, Associate Professor Raymond da Silva Rosa and Dr Nick Spadaccini.

1. MINUTES – F4973

RESOLVED - 1

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

2. NOTING OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CIRCULAR ON 9 FEBRUARY 2007

A number of items had been circulated for consideration on 9 February 2007. The Chair’s recommendations for all items had been approved and are formally recorded below. Items for the attention of Senate have been placed in the Senate section of these minutes.

(i) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

By R121/03, Academic Council delegated authority to the International Strategies Subcommittee on International Agreements to approve student exchange agreements, articulation and associated advanced standing arrangements and in-country study programmes. Members noted that the Sub-committee had approved the following agreements:
(a) Student Exchange Agreement involving the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences with the Université d’Evry D’Essonne Ref – F18153

(b) Student Exchange Agreement involving the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences with the Université de Montpellier II Ref – F18215

(c) Renewal of Agreement involving the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences with Eberhard Karls Universitat, Tubingen Ref – F952

(d) Student Exchange Agreement between The University of Western Australia and Shanghai Jiao Tong University Ref – F18532

(e) Agreement involving the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Himeji Dokkyo University, Japan. Ref – F553

(f) Student Exchange agreement involving the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences and the Université d’Evry. Ref – F18153

(g) Continuation of Student Exchange Agreement between The University of Western Australia and the University of Vienna Ref – F3337

(ii) DISCIPLINE GROUPS – F6597

Members noted the following changes in Discipline Group Chairs for 2007:

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<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Professor David Trigger (Jan-June 07)</td>
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<td>A/Professor Victoria Burbank (July-Dec 07)</td>
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<td>Archaeology</td>
<td>Dr Jane Balme</td>
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<td>Asian Studies</td>
<td>Dr Gary Sigley (Jan-June 07)</td>
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<td>Dr Wang Yi (July-Dec 07)</td>
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<td>Communication Studies</td>
<td>Professor Ian Saunders</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Professor Gareth Griffiths</td>
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<td>History</td>
<td>Dr Andrea Gaynor</td>
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<td>Medieval &amp; Early Modern Studies</td>
<td>Dr Susan Broomhall</td>
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<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Associate Professor Jenny Gregory</td>
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<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Dr Bruce Stone</td>
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<td>Social Work</td>
<td>A/Professor Mike Clare</td>
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Members also noted that a current list of Discipline Groups can be viewed at: http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/university_governance_and_structure/university_structure/table
(iii) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND OPERATION OF COMMITTEES

Review of Council Committees

Research Committee – Ref F7040

Members were reminded that Principle No 7 of the Principles for the Operation of Committees states that:

“The Senate/Academic Board/faculties monitor and regularly review their own performance and operation and that of their committees and committee structure”.

In 2006 the Institutional Research Unit (IRU) had prepared a survey for Council committees which had been sent to members of these committees. Following receipt of responses the IRU had completed an analysis of the surveys and had provided a report to all committees. Committee chairs had been requested to discuss the report at a meeting and to provide a report to Council.

Members noted the Report for the Research Committee and the Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Research Committee held on 23 November 2006.

(iv) PROPOSED NEW UNITS AND DELETIONS

Proposals from Faculties

Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences circular of 18 January 2007

R1/07 Bachelor of Science (Pharmaceutical Science) Ref – F11185

RESOLVED – 2

to approve the proposed insertion of the unit as set out in the attachment.

3. PRINCIPLES FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMITTEES - Ref F12202

Members were reminded that all committees of the University were 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) had 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. Members had before them the principles and rules as well as the code of conduct for committee members.

The Chair urged members to conduct themselves in a professional manner at meetings. He explained that when there was not sufficient business for discussion, a meeting would be cancelled and urgent items sent for approval by circular. He asked members to ensure that they prepared for the meeting by reading the agenda and attachments.

4. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

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

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

(b) Student Exchange Agreement involving 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

5. **UWA CENTRES - CLINICAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION CENTRE (CTEC) - Ref F7363**

The Clinical Training and Education 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 noted that CTEC, which had previously sat within the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences, would now sit within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, reporting through the Dean, Professor Ian Puddey.

Members also noted that CTEC would continue to provide its world class professional development courses and skills training opportunities to a broad range of healthcare professionals.

6. **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT - Ref F11455**

Members noted that by R148/06 the Legislative Committee, at its meeting of 30 November 2006, had recommended to Academic Council that its constitution be amended. Members were advised that the constitution had been redrafted in accordance with Recommendation 1 of the “Working Smarter through Committees” Report. The opportunity had 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 had 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 had also been defined.

Members had before them the proposed constitution and the existing constitution.

RESOLVED – 3
to approve the amendments to the Legislative Committee constitution as set out in the attachment to the agenda.

7. **CASUAL VACANCY ON ACADEMIC COUNCIL – Ref F11743**

Members noted that 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 had
therefore arisen. Professor Judith Finn (of the School of Population Health) had agreed to fill this vacancy.

RESOLVED – 4

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

8. 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 had recommended changes to the honours programs offered in the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences.

Members were advised that the School had 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 that these inequities impacted on scholarship rankings. It was noted that 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 would be harmonised.

Members noted that it is proposed that these changes should be implemented immediately and that the Head of School had discussed the changes with students involved and there were no objections.

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

Members also noted that there was an error in the units listed for the Biochemistry honours program in the attachment to the agenda. Students did not have to complete BIOC7406/7409 Research Seminar Presentation Part 1/Part 2 (6 points) as part of this program.

RESOLVED – 5

(i) to approve the amendments, effective immediately, to the honours programs in the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences as set out in the attachment to the agenda subject to the deletion of the requirement to complete BIOC7406/7409 Research Seminar Presentation Part 1/Part 2 (6 points) from the Biochemistry Honours program; and

(ii) that the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences be requested to incorporate the details of the Honours programs offered in the Faculty into the Science Faculties’ Rules for the 2008 Handbook.

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

Members noted the report from the Acting Vice-Chancellor which had been attached to the agenda. Professor Seares spoke to the report highlighting the establishment of the Chapple Chair in Education which had been funded through a generous bequest. She also mentioned that this had been a very successful season for the UWA Perth International Arts Festival, both in terms of the quality of the events and revenue.

A member commented that the fact that eligibility for Centrelink payments to students often depended on the student being independent of their parents meant that some students had to defer their university studies for a year. He went on to say that this was not in keeping with
the Government’s attempts to get trained professionals to the workforce in the shortest possible time. The Acting Vice-Chancellor informed members that the AVCC’s Report on the Australian Student Finances Survey would be released shortly. The Student Guild was urged to take the opportunity to lobby for change to the rules concerning eligibility for student funding through Centrelink.

Responding to an invitation to speak on the Research Quality Framework, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) said that the RQF guidelines were not yet finalised. Recent consultative forums organised by DEST had given rise to debate and to concerns which needed to be considered prior to finalisation.

10. REVIEWS AND FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

Reviews:

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

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported on the Executive Summary and Recommendations for the review of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering. She said that the School was taking on board the need to refine its areas of activity and to address the financial and administrative issues, as well as changing the culture within the School.

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

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported on the Executive Summary and Recommendations for the review of the School of Paediatrics and Child Health. This was a positive review with the key issue being the need to continue to foster and build relations between the School, the Institute for Child Health Research and Princess Margaret Hospital.

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

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported on the Executive Summary and Recommendations for the review of the School of Surgery and Pathology. She felt that the current problems in the Pathology discipline had not been clearly set out in the Executive Summary. The discipline in this University, like other universities, has undergone some troubled times. Many in the discipline are ageing and there is a concern about how to replenish and to train the next generation. It is proposed to put arrangements into place with PathWest to provide professional input for the future. A working party has been set up to look at this issue.

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

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported on the Executive Summary and Recommendations for the review of the School of Oil and Gas Engineering. A major outcome of this Review has been the recommendation that the School be disestablished and be replaced by a centre. This process is currently underway. Members were supportive of this move and looked forward to receiving a proposal for the establishment of the centre in due course.

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

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported on the Executive Summary and Recommendations for the review of the School of Animal Biology. This Review showed that there was still division in this School between members of the former departments which had been merged into the School. The new Head of School has the task of bringing the two together. Recently a strategic planning day was held to plan the way forward for the School.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor clarified that recommendation 13 was intended to bring colleagues from each of the former departments together in teaching activities. In response to
a question about the Review of the UWA Animal Ethics approval process, she said that there would be an external review of animals in research and it was planned to align any internal review with the external process.

Members were asked to note in relation to recommendation 14 that CATYL and not OSDS has responsibility for the provision of training for those undertaking university teaching.

(vi) **Review of The University Library – Ref F14921**

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported on the Executive Summary and Recommendations for the review of The University Library. This review was very positive.

**Follow-Up Reports:**

(i) **Facilities Management – Ref F18817**

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that since the review, procedures had been put in place to ensure the timeliness for completion of jobs and the accuracy of quotations. The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor urged members to provide feedback later in the year as to the effectiveness of these measures.

(ii) **School of Plant Biology – Ref F12999**

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that the School had considered the recommendations at their planning day and were working towards implementation.

(iii) **School of Human Movement and Exercise Science – Ref F4754**

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that some of the recommendations of the review had not been finalised but most had been embraced.

Members had queried the role of Academic Council in the review report and follow-up process. The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised that up to now there had been a tendency to focus on the review report more than on the follow up report. It was her view that Council should have a more thorough role at the follow-up report stage. It was important that the follow-up report explain how the recommendations had been implemented and that reasons be given in respect of any recommendations that had not been implemented. On consideration of the report, Council could seek further information if needed from the Dean. It was agreed to proceed in this manner from the next meeting of Council.

*Executive Officer’s note:* The review process policies will be amended to reflect this change of practice.

**ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND SENATE**

11. **NOTING OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CIRCULAR ON 9 FEBRUARY 2007**

(i) **AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH THE LUNG INSTITUTE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC) - Refs F7364, F15611**

Members were reminded that Statute 13 provides that proposals for affiliation agreements with external institutions are to be approved by the Senate on recommendation by Academic Board.

By 58/06 the Faculty Board of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences had recommended that a new Affiliation Agreement between the Lung Institute of Western Australia (Inc) (formerly known as The Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (Inc)) and The University of Western Australia be approved.
Members noted that approval of this agreement will allow for continuation of the successful collaboration that has been taking place over several years between the former Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (Inc) now the Lung Institute of Western Australia (Inc) and UWA.

Members had before them:

- an extract from the agenda for the meeting of the Faculty Board of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences held on Tuesday 24 October 2006; and
- the draft Affiliation Agreement between the Lung Institute of Western Australia (formerly known as the Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (Inc)) and The University of Western Australia.

RESOLVED – 6

to recommend to Senate approval of the Affiliation Agreement between the Lung Institute of Western Australia (formerly known as the Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (Inc)) and The University of Western Australia.

(ii) ADMISSION AD EUNDEN GRADUM STATUTE NO. 3 Ref – F18307

Members recalled that by Resolution 124/06 Council had recommended to Senate that in principle approval be given for the award of the degrees of MBBS ad eundem gradum to those who had studied Medicine in the early years of the Medical School. By Resolution 140/06 Senate had accepted this recommendation.

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences had submitted the names of those who, having completed the requirements, were to be awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of this University ad eundem gradum:

RESOLVED – 7

to recommend to Senate that the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery be awarded to the following:

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MCCALL
MIOCEVICH
NICHOLLS
OLDEN
SPENCE
STAER
TOZER
WILLIAMS
(iii) PROPOSALS FOR NEW COURSES, TRANSNATIONAL COURSES AND MAJOR CHANGES TO EXISTING COURSES FOR 2007

TRANSNATIONAL COURSE

Faculty of Economics and Commerce

Master of Business Strategy in Singapore (MBS) – Ref F14755

By F25/06 the Faculty of Economics and Commerce had proposed to offer the Master of Business Strategy (MBS) in partnership with PSB in Singapore commencing in the second half of 2007.

It is envisaged that the MBS, which will be offered part time, will provide an opportunity for candidates with a postgraduate qualification in business to return to academic study and enhance their skills through various media including mentoring.

Members had before them the following attachments:

- a memo dated 19 December 2006 from the International Strategies Subcommittee on International Agreements;
- an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce held on 22 November 2006;
- a proposal to offer the course at PSB Singapore;
- a checklist for the approval of transnational courses;
- the budget;
- letter from the Dean to PSB; and
- the draft agreement.

RESOLVED – 8

to approve the proposal to offer the Master of Business Strategy (MBS) in partnership with PSB in Singapore in the second half of 2007, subject to the approval of the financial aspects by Planning & Budget Committee, and to forward the proposal to Senate for noting.

12. PROPOSALS FOR NEW COURSES, TRANSNATIONAL COURSES AND MAJOR CHANGES TO EXISTING COURSES FOR 2007

Major Changes

Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts

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

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

By way of background, members had been advised that this conversion was as a result of developments that had occurred in the teaching of Architecture across Australian architecture schools in light of the “Bologna Joint Declaration” of 1999. Members had before them a briefing paper prepared by the Faculty Dean, which outlined the proposal to convert the current graduate entry Bachelor of Architecture into a Master of Architecture to align The University of Western Australia with other architecture schools in Australasia and overseas. Four universities had already moved to this model and others were expected to do so in 2008 and 2009. The Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts advised members that in order to remain competitive, the University must also make this change. Further professional bodies were now requiring a master’s degree for entry to the profession.
It was noted that the proposal included transitional arrangements for students currently in the architecture program at UWA and would require the Faculty to run courses leading to both the Bachelor of Architecture and the Master of Architecture in parallel for a number of years.

The Faculty recommended a change to the nomenclature of the graduate-entry course leading to the Bachelor of Architecture degree. The current name was a consequence of naming conventions across architecture programme in Australia, Asia and New Zealand rather than an accurate reflection of the level of study. Members were advised that as the briefing paper set out, the current course met 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.

Members also noted that if the change was made, then the Faculty recommended that permission would 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 had been approved for some other institutions.

It was noted that a transitional phase would be needed to ensure equity, marketability, capacity of students to access financial support. The transitional arrangements proposed were:

(a) Current Bachelor of Environmental Design students continue to 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;
(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; and
(c) Students commencing the Bachelor of Environmental Design in 2008 will be required to enrol in the proposed Master of Architecture.

It was pointed out to members that the current Bachelor’s degree course comprised a course leading to a Pass Degree and also to an Honours Degree. The Faculty proposed to retain these two levels such that students could either graduate with a Master of Architecture Degree or a Master of Architecture (Honours) Degree. The Faculty wished to allow its high achieving students to have the opportunity to study ARCT501 Architecture Design (a research unit). Further because those graduating with a Bachelors of Architecture (Honours) Degree were eligible for consideration to proceed to PhD study, the Faculty were eager to ensure that those graduating from the Master’s course might also be eligible for consideration to proceed to PhD study. The Chair advised members that currently the University did not offer Honours Masters Degrees. If the Honours course was approved this would be a new departure for the University.

Members had before them:

- 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 (MArch)
- The rules for the Master of Architecture (MArch)

RESOLVED – 9

(i) to recommend to Senate the conversion of the current graduate-entry Bachelor of Architecture ((BArch) to the Master of Architecture ((MArch) and inclusion in the Schedule to the Course Regulations;
(ii) to approve the rules for the Master of Architecture ((MArch) (Coursework) subject to final drafting by the Legislative Committee;
(iii) to approve that the Master of Architecture (MArch) be made available to international students;
(iv) to approve the transitional arrangements as set out in the attachment;
(v) to seek permission from the Federal Minister for Education to transfer Commonwealth supported places from the course leading to the Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) to the course leading to the Master of Architecture (MArch); and
(vi) to seek mechanisms to ensure that students receiving Centrelink payments would not be disadvantaged.

Executive Officer's note: Subsequent to the meeting, discussions took place between with the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, the Faculty Administrative Officer of that Faculty, the Senior Legislative Officer and the Deputy University Secretary. The conclusion has been drawn that it is possible to facilitate the wishes of the Faculty that graduates from the Master’s course be eligible for consideration to proceed to PhD study without introducing an “honours master’s degree”. The Board of the Graduate Research School accepts a master’s degree (with sufficiently high marks) undertaken by way of coursework and dissertation as being equivalent to a bachelor’s honours 2A for the purpose of proceeding to PhD study. This being the case, it is possible to introduce the Master of Architecture Degree by way of coursework and dissertation rather than to institute a new form of “honours master’s degree”. The Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts has agreed that the introduction of the Master of Architecture (Honours) course be reviewed and a proposal brought back to Council at its next meeting.