AGENDA: PARTS I – III

The next meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School will be held in the Senate Room on Tuesday, 8 July 2008 at 2.15p.m.

Parts I and II of the agenda are to be dealt with en bloc by motion of the Chair. Parts III and IV are for discussion. A member may request the removal of an item from Parts I or II to Part III.

DR JOANNE CASTELLI
Executive Officer
Board of the Graduate Research School
1. **CALL FOR DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – REF: F34**

The Chair will invite members to declare potential for conflict or perceived conflicts of interest, if applicable, with regard to items on the agenda.

2. **MINUTES – REF: F36**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School held on Tuesday, 10 June 2008.

**PART I – ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC**

There are no items

**PART II – ITEMS FOR DECISION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC**

There are no items

**PART III – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE FIRST ROUND REVIEW PROCESS OF GRST SUBMISSIONS 2008**

Attached for members’ consideration (Attachment A1 – A2) are the recommendations arising from the first round review process of GRST submissions 2008. These include:

- Recommendations which may be considered for incorporation into a “Guidelines for Applying” document, such as the number of years completed.
- Recommendations which may be considered for incorporation into an “Instructions for the Selection Panel” document, such as reduction in the weighting for special circumstances.
- A clearer definition of what constitutes enrolment.
- A clearer definition of the retrospective period.
- Making the experience pleasant and rewarding for referees with the provision of parking, catering, appropriate venues and facilities.
- Creation of a database to assist in decision making by referees
- Provision of a summary report on the Graduate Research School website.

For discussion

4. **CHANGE IN FORMAT OF PRINTED THESES**

As members will be aware, the current stipulated format for permanently bound theses at UWA is as follows:

- International A4 size paper, at least 70gsm;
- Left margin at least 4cm, other margins at least 2cm;
- At least one and a half line spacing;
- Each volume not more than 6cm in spine width and 2.5 kg in weight;
- Cased-in or plastic bound, sewn, overcast on to tapes if plates or inserts are present;
- Properly rounded spine, not stab-bound or stapled;
- Buckram, or equivalent quality binding cloth.
There are further stipulations about the colours of the covers of PhD and other doctoral and Master theses.

Arguably, these stipulations have become outdated, especially since the advent of modern printing and binding techniques. The current format is comparatively expensive and consumes a relatively large amount of shelf space. Indeed, storage space in some schools has become such an issue that one school has suggested removal of the requirement that UWA schools retain copies of PhD theses.

The Board is invited to consider recommending to the University Library that an alternative format be adopted for the permanent binding of theses, to reduce both the cost and the size of each volume.

An example of an alternative format will be tabled at the meeting.

For discussion