CONFIDENTIAL

MEMBERS:
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) (Professor Robyn Owens) – Chair
Members Nominated by Academic Board:
  Professor Craig Atkins (School of Plant Biology) – Deputy Chair
  Professor Greg Ivey (School of Environmental Systems Engineering)
  Associate Professor Judith Johnston (School of Social and Cultural Studies)
  Dr Allan McKinley (School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences) – Acting Chair
  Associate Professor Ian Jacobs (School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care)

Co-opted Members:
  Associate Professor Brett Nener (School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering)
  Associate Professor Andrew Page (School of Psychology)
  Professor Susan Prescott (School of Paediatrics and Child Health)
  Professor Jim Whelan (School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences)

Dr Krystyna Haq (Graduate Education Officer)
Postgraduate Students’ Association President (Mr Raoul Oehmen)

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

Dr Joanne Castelli (Executive Officer, Graduate Research)

APOLOGIES
Professor Kevin Croft (School of Medicine and Pharmacology)
Professor Arun Dharmarajan (School of Anatomy and Human Biology)
Associate Professor Annette George (School of Earth and Environment)
Professor Dennis Haskell (School of Social and Cultural Studies)
Professor Greg Ivey (School of Environmental Systems Engineering)
Nominee of the Chair of the Academic Board (Professor Brett Kirk)
Associate Professor Mathew Martin-Iverson (School of Medicine and Pharmacology)
Associate Professor Srilata Ravi (School of Humanities)
Dr Campbell Thomson (Director, Development and Research Services)

1. CALL FOR DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – REF: F34

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

The following conflicts of interest were declared in relation to Part IV of the Agenda (Student Matters):

- Associate Professor Judith Johnston declared a conflict with respect to the student referred to in item 7 (a)

2. MINUTES – REF: F36

RESOLVED – 16

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School held on Tuesday 17 February 2009 be confirmed.
3. ITEMS/BUSINESS IN PROGRESS FOR NOTING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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<td>Conflict of interest policy</td>
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<td>Change in format of printed thesis</td>
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PART I – ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE DEALT WITH **EN BLOC**

There were no items

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

There were no items

PART III – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDEES OF POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS – F983

Members had before them an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Scholarships Committee on 2nd March 2009, wherein it was noted that at the Scholarships Committee meeting of 14 August 2006 members had endorsed the following Internet Based Test of English as a Foreign Language (iBT TOEFL) results as evidence of English proficiency for scholarship awardees:

“As evidence of English proficiency, the new TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) test, the 'Next Generation' or iBT TOEFL internet-based test. Minimum iBT TOEFL test results acceptable for an IPRS or SIRF scholarship will be an overall score of 95, with a minimum of 23 for writing and no other band less than 22.”

The Board noted that these scores are higher than the published English language competency for applicants for research higher degrees approved by the Academic Board to take effect from 1 January 2009: [http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgrad/research/admission/english](http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgrad/research/admission/english)

The Board heard that there had been some confusion about what the published minimum scores should be. The Academic Council had endorsed the recommendation of the most recent Review of English Language Requirements to increase the minimum International English Language Test Score (IELTS) for research students, but the Review had not commented on either the score required in the iBT TOEFL or the higher requirements for awardees of graduate research scholarships. It was at this time that the distinction between the minimum requirements for scholarship awardees and those for other students had been lost in the published information. It was the view of the Scholarships Committee that this had been an oversight.
The Board heard that the Scholarships Committee had resolved to ratify its original decision with respect to the iBT TOEFL and formally communicate this to the Academic Council so that the oversight could be corrected.

The Board also heard that a member of the Scholarships Committee had commented that the minimum score for writing on the iBT TOEFL should be 24, as there was no substantive difference between scores of 22 and 23.

The Board

RESOLVED - 17

to endorse the recommendation of the Scholarships Committee and recommend to the Academic Council that all local and international postgraduate research scholarship applicants should be required to demonstrate a higher level of English proficiency than other HDR applicants, with the following scores required in the old TOEFL and the new IBT TOEFL tests:

- TOEFL (Paper-Based total): 580 with a TWE of no less than 4.5
- TOEFL (Computer-Based total): 237 with a TWE of no less than 4.5
- IBT TOEFL (Internet-based test score): 95 with 23 for writing and no other band less than 22

The Board requested the Manager, Graduate Research and Scholarships, to seek advice from the Centre for English Language Teaching (CELT) on the comment that the minimum score for writing in the iBT TOEFL should be 24 rather than 23, and authorised her to advise the Academic Council directly on this point.