AGENDA: PARTS I – III

The next meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School will be held in the Senate Room on Tuesday, 12th October 2010 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.
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, 7 September, 2010.

3. **ITEMS/BUSINESS IN PROGRESS FOR NOTING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There are no items in progress for noting from the previous meeting.

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

4. **PROPOSAL BY THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES TO AMEND THE IELTS ENTRY SCORE FOR ADMISSION TO THE …. DOCTOR OF CLINICAL DENTISTRY (90840) – REF: F27502**

Attached for members information is an extract from the Admissions Committee meeting of 20 July, 2010 (Attachment A). By R17/10 the committee agreed to recommend to Academic Council that the IELTS entry score for admission to the following courses be amended to 7.0, with a minimum score of 7.0 for each band tested, as immediately as is practicable:

   …. Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (90840)

**Executive Officer's Note:** By R74/10, this proposal was endorsed by the Academic Council at its August meeting.

5. **EVALUATION OF THE PEARSON TEST OF ENGLISH (PTE) ACADEMIC AS EVIDENCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE – REF: F983**

Attached for members information is an extract from the Admissions Committee meeting of 20 July, 2010 (Attachment B). By R30/10 the committee agreed to recommend to Academic Council that

(i) the Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic at the recommended minimum scores set out above be accepted by the University as evidence of English language competence with effect from semester one, 2011;

(ii) the decision to accept the PTE Academic as evidence of English language competence be reviewed after a reasonable number of students have completed at least one year of tertiary studies at UWA; and

(iii) the Director of the IRU and the Director of the CEPT present a modest project proposal for consideration by the Admissions Committee in due course, including any associated costs, to compare the results of a cohort of students who have completed both the PTE Academic test and a recent IELTS test, to further inform the University about the comparative standard of the tests.

**Executive Officer's Note:** By R75(i)-(iv)/10, this proposal was endorsed by the Academic Council at its August meeting.

6. **INTERNATIONAL PHD OPPORTUNITY – EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY (EMBL)**

Attached for members information is a call for applications for up to three students to undertake their PhD in Europe (Attachment C1-C2).
PART II – ITEMS FOR DECISION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC

There are no items for decision to be dealt with en bloc.

PART III – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

7. RESUBMISSION EXAMINATION PROCESS

Members are asked to consider the following two changes to the process for examining a resubmitted thesis in relation to a) a student supplying a substandard report to the Board and b) the confidentiality of examiner details when the resubmitted thesis is sent for examination.

a) Report to the Board

Currently, students are required to submit a report to the Board when resubmitting their thesis for examination, and this report is accompanied by a form signed by the coordinating supervisor and the Graduate Research Coordinator.

The Dean proposes that in addition to the student’s report to the Board, the coordinating supervisor be required to write a letter to the Board endorsing the student’s report and commenting on how the concerns of the original examiners have been addressed in the revision.

b) Confidentiality of Examiner Details

The Dean proposes that original examiner details be suppressed when examiner’s reports are included in the package sent for further examination. Confidentiality in this way may help to alleviate any (risk of perceptions of) conflicts of interest that may arise due to the current examiners knowing the identity of the original examiners.

The Dean recommends that the Board of the Graduate Research School endorse the changes to the process for examining a resubmitted thesis as outlined above.