1. **CALL FOR DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Members were requested to declare any conflicts of interest that they may have with respect to any items on the agenda. Professor Robyn Owens declared a potential for perception of conflict of interest with respect to the candidates referred to in items 8(viii) and 8(xii). Professor Craig Atkins declared a potential for perception of conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 8(vii). Associate Professor Judith Johnston declared a potential for perception of conflict of interest with respect to the candidates referred to in items 8(x) and 8(xvii). Associate Professor Jim Whelan declared a conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 8(ix). Dr Allan McKinley declared a potential for perception of conflict of interest with respect to the candidate referred to in item 8(vi). These Board members did not speak to the respective items.
2. MINUTES – REF: F36

RESOLVED – 84/05

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School held on Tuesday, 28 June 2005 be confirmed.

3. INCLUSION OF SUPERVISORS IN GRADUATION BOOKLET

Members noted that the Graduation Office had agreed to the Board's request that in future all supervisors be listed in the Graduation Booklet. Commencing in the spring graduation ceremonies, the names of all supervisors current at the time of thesis submission will be listed in the Graduation Booklet. Members also noted that special arrangements can be made on request in exceptional circumstances, if the request is received in time.

4. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BOARD'S RESOLUTION TO ALLOW GRADUATES WITH A BACHELOR OF MEDICINE/BACHELOR OF SURGERY TO BE ADMITTED TO CANDIDATURE IN A PHD WITHOUT FURTHER RESEARCH PREPARATION

Members recalled that at its meeting on 28 June 2005, the Board resolved [R61/05] "to communicate to the Academic Board that the Board of the Graduate Research School is prepared to recognise completion of the MBBS as equivalent to a bachelor degree with at least second class Honours for the purpose of entry into a PhD, provided that a formal process exists for confirmation of candidature after the first year". Members had before them the relevant minute extract from that meeting. The discussion had been at the request of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, who had recommended that graduates from the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme be admitted to candidature in a PhD without being required first to undertake further research training.

Shortly after its June meeting the Board had received a proposal to modify the above resolution as follows: "...to communicate to the Academic Board that it is prepared to recognise completion of the MBBS (with a weighted average mark of at least 70% in the final year) as equivalent to a bachelor degree with at least second class Honours for the purpose of entry into a PhD, provided that a formal process exists for confirmation of candidature after the first year". Members were asked to endorse this amendment.

The following main points were raised in discussion:

- This proposal is a good idea. Previous graduates who entered the PhD directly from the MBBS have achieved well but were highly self-selected. The Board should not rely on this self-selection, but should make clear what its expectations are.
- It might be preferable to specify a minimum average mark throughout the course rather than the final year only.
- It would be better to drop the requirement for a minimum mark altogether [NB: to reject the proposed amendment]. The final year has a clinical focus and the results would not be relevant.
- It is important to specify a minimum mark because it is not desirable to make all MBBS graduates automatically eligible to enter a PhD without other qualifications and regardless of their marks.
- The Board could specify that an applicant seeking entry on the basis of an MBBS must have a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of at least 70% in years 3 to 5 of the MBBS
course in order to be eligible. This would give a reasonable equivalence to "at least upper second class Honours", which is the entry requirement for a PhD.

- Specification of minimum marks adds an unnecessary complication and is not appropriate for this cohort, who in any case are strongly self-selected.
- Given that applicants in this cohort are highly self-selected, specifying a minimum mark should not create a problem for them.
- Specifying a minimum mark would not preclude graduates from the MBBS who have not met the cutoff, but who also have other qualifications for entry, from applying on the grounds of their other qualifications. Such qualifications commonly include publications and other documentary evidence of research experience.
- It is not relevant to ask for a minimum mark in the MBBS for entry into the PhD because the types of assessment are very different in the two degrees. The level of achievement in one is not relevant to the other.
- If the evidence in the original document from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry is legitimate, then it is logical to request a minimum mark. The Faculty's argument was that the MBBS provides adequate training in research.

It was

RESOLVED – 85/05

to communicate to the Academic Board that the Board is prepared to recognise completion of the MBBS with a weighted average mark of at least 70% in years 3 to 5 of the course as equivalent to a Bachelor degree with at least upper second class Honours for the purpose of entry into a PhD, provided that a formal process exists for confirmation of candidature after the first year

5. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF RULES TO ALLOW EXAMINATION OF CREATIVE WORK AND EXEGESIS FOR A PHD IN THE FIELD OF CREATIVE WRITING

Members recalled that at its meeting on 10 May 2005, the Board discussed a proposal to allow the examination of creative work and exegesis for a PhD in the field of creative writing. Members had before them the relevant minute extract from that meeting and a draft of changes to the relevant University Rules.

The Board

RESOLVED – 86/05

to recommend to the Academic Board that the University General Rules for Academic Courses be amended as in Attachment A

6. SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HYDROGEOLOGY, SOIL MANAGEMENT OR LAND REHABILITATION

Members heard that the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences had proposed the introduction of a one-year (48 point) research and coursework programme leading to the Master of Science in Hydrogeology, Soil Management or Land Rehabilitation. A proposed Graduate Diploma in Earth Science would provide an entry route into the Master programme, but the Faculty initially proposed that it would not be possible to articulate (NB: upgrade) from the Graduate Diploma into the Master programme.
This proposal was discussed at the meeting of the Academic Council on 3rd August 2005. The Faculty was asked to reconsider its position on articulation between the Graduate Diploma and the Master programme. The proposal will then be reconsidered by the Academic Council.

The Board of the Graduate Research School was asked to consider the proposal to introduce the new Master by thesis and coursework.

Members had before them the Agenda item for the Academic Council and associated documentation from the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Member heard that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Research Training Scheme.

The Board

RESOLVED – 87/05

to endorse the proposal for the new course subject to confirmation of the details requested by Academic Council
ATTACHMENT A

3.1 Division 1—General Provisions For Research Higher Degrees (by Thesis)

Content and Format of a Thesis

3.1.31 A thesis must be in English unless the Board has approved otherwise.

3.1.32(1) Material that has been presented for a degree in this or another university must not be submitted as a candidate’s thesis but, if clearly indicated, may be incorporated in it.

(2) The sources from which a candidate’s information is derived, the extent to which the work of others has been used and to which the assistance of individuals, associations or institutions has been obtained, must be acknowledged generally in a preface or introduction, specifically in notes, a bibliography or appendices, and must be, throughout the thesis, shown clearly and fully by appropriate references.

(3) The portion of material presented for examination claimed as original must be indicated in the thesis.

3.1.33(1) A thesis may be presented in the form of a typescript, a published book or a paper or series of papers which have been published in refereed journals.

(2) If any of the items submitted in terms of (1) have been jointly authored—

(a) the work done by the candidate must be clearly indicated and certified as such by the co-authors; and

(b) the co-authors must certify that they agree to the inclusion in the thesis of work of which they are joint authors.

(3) A publication of which the candidate is sole or joint author may be submitted as an appendix in support of the thesis, but, in the case of joint authorship, the work done by the candidate must be clearly indicated.

(4) If a series of papers is presented, there must be a full explanatory introduction and a review article at the end to link the separate papers and to place them in the context of the established body of knowledge.

(5) If detailed data and descriptions of methods are not otherwise given, they must be included as appendices.

(6) If, with the approval of the Board, the thesis has been presented as a typescript in the form of a piece of creative writing and exigesis, then the two parts must be strongly connected, and the connection must be demonstrated clearly in the exigesis.

3.3 Division 3—Additional Provisions for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

NOTE: The following apply in addition to the Rules in Part 1 and in 3.1 Division 1.

Admission and Entry Requirements
3.3.1 The Board may accept as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy an applicant who—

(a) has a bachelor’s degree with at least upper second class honours in an appropriate subject area or a qualification recognised by the Board as equivalent; or

(b) has a bachelor’s degree of this University or a qualification recognised by the Board as equivalent, and can satisfy the Board that they have had adequate research preparation since graduation; or

(c) is a recipient of a University scholarship for PhD study awarded by the Scholarships Committee of the Board; or

(d)(i) has previously undertaken work which, in the Board's opinion, is of a sufficiently high standard, towards a research higher degree in this or another approved institution but has not submitted it for any degree; and

(ii) has completed and had approved by the Board, on the recommendation of the supervisor and the head of school, a PhD research proposal; or

(e)(i) has the degree of bachelor in any faculty of this University or has a qualification recognised by the Board as equivalent, and has since graduation passed a preliminary examination in terms of Rule 2.4.28 in the subject area in which research is to be undertaken; and

(ii) has completed and had approved by the Board, on the recommendation of the supervisor and the head of school, a PhD research proposal; and

(f) for candidates in who wish to undertake a PhD in the field of Creative Writing, has submitted a substantial folio of published creative work, normally in the form of one or more books.