CONFIRMED

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

INTERIM BOARD OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MEETING 04/07

A meeting of the Interim Board of Undergraduate Studies was held at 1.30pm on **Friday 23 February 2007** in the **Melbourne Institute Boardroom, Level 7, Alan Gilbert Building.**

Secretary: Dr George Duke
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(8344 6147)

Present: Professor Loane Skene (Chair), Professor Margaret Abernethy, Ms Bree Ahrens, Professor James Angus, Professor Glenn Browning, Professor Cathy Falk, Professor Ruth Fincher, Professor Philip Goad, Professor Bill Griffiths, Professor Mark Hargreaves, Associate Professor Steve James, Associate Professor Michelle Livett, Ms Gillian Luck, Associate Professor Ian Malkin, Professor Iven Mareels, Ms Carmel Murphy (observer), Ms Linda O'Brien, Professor Pip Pattison, Professor Belinda Probert, Professor Peter Rathjen, Ms Joan Reese, Professor Richard Roush, Professor Jonty Stockdale and Associate Professor Christine Ure.

In attendance: Dr George Duke (Secretary) and Ms Karen Cairns (Melbourne Model Implementation).

MINUTES

1. Formal Matters

1.1 Apologies

The Board received apologies from Dr Pat Mclean and Professor Field Rickards.

2. Minutes and Action Sheet

2.1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2007 (03/07) were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting subject to an amendment to reflect that students in the Bachelor of Science will be able to take more than 75 credit points of History and Philosophy of Science subjects as breadth subjects.

2.2 Action sheet

The action sheet was received.

3. Business arising

3.1.1 Joint Meeting of Interim BUGS and Undergraduate Programs Committee (UGPC)

At the previous meeting Interim BUGS members discussed holding a joint meeting between Interim BUGS and the UGPC on 1 March. Subsequently, following consultation between the Chair and the Chair of UGPC, it was decided that such a meeting was not necessary.

3.1.2 Bachelor of Biomedicine name change

The Chair informed members that the Interim BUGS recommendation that the name of the Bachelor of Bioscience be changed to the Bachelor of Biomedicine has been endorsed by both the UGPC and the Academic Board.

4. Course Proposals

The Chair commended the chairs of the Course Standing Committees (CSCs) for their enormous achievement in developing the course proposals.

The Chair spoke to a policy paper she had prepared summarising decisions to date, including those on breadth and core subjects contained in the Curriculum Commission Report. The paper outlines as a central principle of the Melbourne Model that undergraduate degrees should have a "generous core" (i.e. the core of each course should be as broad as possible). Another principle of the Melbourne Model might be that students should not be able to do honours in a degree following on from a major that is not core in that degree.

The Chair reported that the Director of Melbourne Model Implementation is currently working on a document which will provide a comparison of the detailed information contained in each of the six course proposals.

The Chair also noted that the course proposals in their current form were not set in concrete and that it would be necessary for the Interim BUGS to endorse some of the course proposals subject to clarification of particular issues.

4.1 Bachelor of Music

The Chair of the Bachelor of Music (BMus) CSC reported on the BMus course proposal.

The BMus course proposal contains details on various features of the degree, including majors, pathways to further study, breadth subjects, capstone subjects, internships, knowledge transfer and research preparation.

The Chair of BMus CSC spoke to an attached memorandum regarding the course proposal. The memorandum notes that the BMus will feature a 225 credit point major with specialisations. It also highlights the robust teaching-research nexus in the degree and the importance of the honours year in marketing the degree to stakeholders.

A query was raised regarding the note on page 20 of the BMus course proposal which states that "academic electives offered in the BMus may be taken in the BMus (Honours)". Interim BUGS members discussed whether there should be an academic distinction between 300-level and honours-level subjects. A query was also raised regarding 6.25 credit point subjects, and the Committee accepted that such subjects were justified within the BMus structure.

The Interim BUGS agreed to **recommend** the BMus Course Proposal to the UGPC.

4.2 Bachelor of Arts

The Chair of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) CSC reported on the BA course proposal.

The BA course proposal contains details on various features of the degree, including majors, pathways to further study, breadth subjects, capstone subjects, internships, knowledge transfer and research preparation.

The Chair of the BA CSC agreed that item 15 of the course proposal on progression pathways should begin with the words "It is currently proposed that …" to reflect that the pathways are only nominal at this stage. Interim BUGS members also received clarification on the meaning of the terms "enriched major" and "minor" and the place of gender studies subjects within the BA degree.

The BA CSC has recommended that there will continue to be a BA major in psychology but that students in the BA should be able to take 75 credit points of a

psychology major as breadth and 50 credit points as core. The general definition of 'breadth' was discussed in relation to psychology. An informal vote was taken to survey the views of members on whether to include 75 credit points of psychology subjects as breadth in the BA. The vote was split 11-11.

The BA CSC has also recommended that students enrolled in the BA should be able to take economics subjects as breadth subjects. Clarification was also sought on whether it will be possible for BA students to take marketing and communications subjects as breadth.

The Interim BUGS agreed to **recommend** the BA Course Proposal to the UGPC subject to the following:

- A decision at a later date as to whether students in the BA should be able to take 75 credit points of a psychology major as breadth and 50 credit points as core;
- A decision at a later date as to whether students in the BA should be able to take economics subjects as breadth subjects;
- Clarification as to whether students in the BA are able to take marketing and communications subjects as part of the breadth component; and
- The rewording of Item 15 as outlined above.

4.3 Bachelor of Science

The Chair of the Bachelor of Science (BSc) CSC reported on the BSc course proposal.

The BSc course proposal contains details on various features of the degree, including majors, pathways to further study, breadth subjects, capstone subjects, internships, knowledge transfer and research preparation.

The Chair of the BSc CSC noted that discussions were still taking place on majors and that the list contained in the course proposal is not yet definitive. The BSc CSC is recommending that BSc students be able to take more than 75 credit points of History and Philosophy of Science subjects as breadth.

The Chair of the BSc CSC explained the key on page 10 of the Course Proposal and pointed out the need for two amendments on page 11 to reflect the lack of an advanced stream in the first year Chemistry syllabus and a change to a geography subject.

Subject to the above amendments the Interim BUGS agreed to **recommend** the BSc Course Proposal to the UGPC.

4.4 Bachelor of Biomedicine (name pending Council approval)

The Chair of the Bachelor of Biomedicine (BBioMed) CSC reported on the BBioMed course proposal.

The BBioMed course proposal contains details on various features of the degree, including majors, pathways to further study, breadth subjects, capstone subjects, internships, knowledge transfer and research preparation.

The Chair of the BBioMed CSC noted that the list of breadth subjects in Attachment C is not exhaustive. It was agreed that the heading of the list should be amended to make it clear that the list is incomplete and provisional.

It was noted that students who take a major in Bioengineering Systems will need to decide on this course of study in first year and will also be required to take specific mathematics units or bridging courses.

The Chair of the BBioMed CSC also noted that the following issues still require resolution:

- Whether the core units at second-year level are 37.5 or 50 credit points in total;
- Whether students should be able to take psychology subjects and sequences of subjects as part of the breadth component of the BBioMed and whether such an option should only be available to students doing some majors (a paper was tabled by the Chair of the BBioMed CSC on this issue and it was agreed that the issue would be resolved in the context of other discussions of psychology as breadth); and
- articulation arrangements from the Bachelor of Biomedicine into Veterinary Science and Biomedical Engineering.

In response to a query regarding the possibility of undertaking a major in biotechnology from both the BSc and the BBioMed it was noted that the BBioMed was designed on the assumption that majors in discipline areas should be independent of the degree.

Subject to clarification of the above points the Interim BUGS agreed to **recommend** the BBioMed Course Proposal to the UGPC.

4.5 Bachelor of Commerce

The Chair of the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) CSC reported on the BCom course proposal.

The BCom course proposal contains details on various features of the degree, including majors, pathways to further study, breadth subjects, capstone subjects, internships, knowledge transfer and research preparation.

The Chair of the BCom CSC noted the tripartite division of subjects into groups A (core), B (breadth) and C (elective). The special breadth requirements for accounting and actuarial studies students were noted and approved due to accreditation requirements.

The BCom CSC is proposing that students be able to take mathematics subjects (with the exception of 200-level probability and statistics) as part of the breadth component. The educational justification for this proposal is that the content of mathematics subjects incorporates a different way of knowing from those in the core.

The Chair of the BCom CSC also reported the subjects to be included under breadth (Group B subjects) and other non-core subjects (Group C) are yet to be finalised. The Department of Information Systems is developing a complementary sequence for inclusion in groups B and C of the BCom. It was noted that students from other undergraduate degrees may also be able to take Information Systems subjects as breadth, but that the exact details are yet to be confirmed.

Subject to clarification of the above points, the Interim BUGS agreed to **recommend** the BCom course proposal to the UGPC.

The Chair expressed thanks to Professor Bill Griffiths for his excellent work as Chair of the BCom CSC, noting that this was his last Interim BUGS meeting.

4.6 Bachelor of Environments

The Chair of the Bachelor of Environments (BEnv) CSC reported on the BEnv course proposal.

The BEnv course proposal contains details on various features of the degree, including majors, pathways to further study, breadth subjects, capstone subjects, internships, knowledge transfer and research preparation.

The Chair of the BEnv CSC pointed out an error on page 34 of the BEnv course proposal that will be amended before the proposal is submitted to UGPC. It was also noted that further discussions may need to take place on honours pathways in the BEnv.

Subject to clarification of the above points, the Interim BUGS agreed to **recommend** the BEnv Course Proposal to the UGPC.

5. Reports of activities relating to the Interim BUGS

None.

6. For information

6.1 Melbourne Model – Victorian College of the Arts

The Head of the School of Music from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) noted that the VCA is discussing the revision of its undergraduate program to align with the Melbourne Model and will be in a position to report on its progress by the middle of the year.

7. Date of Next Meeting

2.15pm, Friday 9th March 2007 in the Jim Potter Conference Room, Old Physics, University of Melbourne.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm

Distribution
Professor Loane Skene, Melbourne Law School (Chair)
Ms Joan Reese, Director, Melbourne Model Implementation
Professor Pip Pattison, President (Academic Board)
Ms Gillian Luck, Vice-Principal and Academic Registrar
Ms Linda O'Brien, Vice-Principal (Information Services)
Professor Philip Goad, Nominee of the Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
Professor Iven Mareels, Faculty of Engineering
Professor Belinda Probert, Dean, Faculty of Arts
Professor Margaret Abernethy, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce
Professor Field Rickards, Dean, Faculty of Education
Professor Richard Roush, Dean, Faculty of Land and Food Resources
Professor Michael Crommelin, Dean, Faculty of Law
Associate Professor Ian Malkin, Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Law
Professor James Angus, Dean, Faculty of MDHS
Professor Cathy Falk, Dean, Faculty of Music and Chair, Bachelor of Music Standing Committee
Professor Peter Rathjen, Dean, Faculty of Science
Professor Glenn Browning, Acting Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science
Professor Jonty Stockdale, Head, School of Music, Victorian College of the Arts
Associate Professor Steve James, Chair, Bachelor or Arts Standing Committee
Professor Bill Griffiths, Chair, Bachelor of Commerce Standing Committee
Professor Ruth Fincher, Chair, Bachelor of Environments Standing Committee
Associate Professor Michelle Livett, Chair, Bachelor of Science Standing Committee
Professor Mark Hargreaves, Chair, Bachelor of Bioscience Standing Committee
Associate Professor Christine Ure, Associate Dean (Teacher Education), Faculty of Education

Ms Bree Ahrens, President, University of Melbourne Student Union
Ms Carmel Murphy, Director of Academic Programs (Student Access) (observer)
Dr Pat McLean, Manager, Growing Esteem Strategy Office (observer)

For Information
Professor Bruce Grundy, Deputy-Dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce
Professor David Smith, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Engineering
Professor David Chapman, Faculty of Land and Food Resources
Professor Bruce Singh, Associate Dean (Planning), Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
Associate Professor Ian Holtham, Faculty of Music
Professor Andrea Hull, Director, Victorian College of the Arts