

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**  
**POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

**MEETING 5/07**

Minutes of meeting 5/07 of the Postgraduate Coursework Programs Committee which was held on Friday 11 May 2007 at 11.00 am in the Jim Potter Meeting Room, Old Physics Conference Centre.

**Present:** Ms S Beattie, Professor A Christie, Professor C Duffield, Professor M Elgar, Professor L Hawthorne, Mr R Hillbrich, Associate Professor R Misson (Chair), Professor E Ozanne, Ms S Parker, Professor P Pattison, Associate Professor R Pettman and Mr A Williams

**In attendance:** Ms J Reese (observer), Mr C Reid (Secretary)

**BUSINESS**

**1 Formal Matters**

**1.1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Professor C Cameron, Dr L Godden, Professor G Hutchinson, Professor R Slocombe, Ms C Smith, Professor R Speed, Professor G Stevens, Associate Professor G Webb, and Ms F Zammit.

The Committee welcomed Ms S Parker, who was attending as the nominated Faculty General Manager in place of Ms Zammit for the May and June meetings.

**2 Minutes**

**2.1 Minutes of meeting 4/07 (13 April 2007)**

The minutes of meeting 4/07 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**2.2 PCPC Action Sheet 4/07**

The Committee noted the action sheet arising from meeting 4/07, as circulated.

**3 Matters Arising Not Dealt with Elsewhere**

**3.1 Graduate Diploma Point Values in the Faculty of Law**

The Chair reminded the Committee that he had emailed members after the previous meeting concerning the proposal from the Faculty of Law for a 50 point Graduate Diploma on Competition Law, and indicated that he and the President of Academic Board had followed up this matter. As a result, the Graduate Diploma in Competition Law had been approved. The question remained as to whether the Faculty's unusual designation of postgraduate programs should be reviewed and it was noted that the practice is well established. It was agreed that the matter should be taken up, but at a later time.

### **3.2 Recognition of Professional Experience**

The Committee received a copy of a paper prepared by the Chair for Melbourne University Private some years earlier setting out principles and procedures for the recognition of professional experience for the purposes of qualifying for entry to postgraduate programs. It was suggested that a similar statement might be adopted by the University in certain fields of study. In discussion, the following points were made:

- The University has recently adopted a policy for non-school leaver entry to undergraduate programs and it may be appropriate to broaden the pathways into postgraduate study in comparable ways. However, the University would need to be confident that students admitted would be capable of succeeding and would thus need to specify carefully the kinds of professional experience required and assess it carefully.
- Monash University has developed an executive certificate program which comprises the same subjects as a graduate certificate. Students entering the executive certificate without prior tertiary qualifications, and who completed at the required hurdle level would thereby qualify to progress to the related graduate diploma and masters programs. Such a model might be appropriate for the University in particular fields.
- The President of Academic Board currently has responsibility for waiving specific entry requirements in particular cases, and it may be more appropriate that properly constituted selection committees, following clear guidelines, would take on some of this responsibility.

The Committee agreed in principle to support the recognition of professional experience for the purposes of entry to postgraduate qualifications in lieu of an undergraduate degree. The Chair undertook to rewrite the circulated paper and it was agreed that it should then be submitted to Selection Procedures Committee for comment and then returned to PCPC for consideration and recommendation to Academic Board.

## **4 Policy Issues**

### **4.1 Use of 'Doctor' in Course Titles**

The Committee received a revised discussion paper on the use of the term 'doctor' in the title of career-entry postgraduate awards. The Chair reported that the MM08 Task Force has asked Professor Ron Slocombe and Associate Professor Sue Elliott to consider the matter. In discussion, the following points were noted:

- The distinction between existing professional doctorates, such as the Doctor of Education, and professional programs such as in Medicine and Law needs to be considered;
- There is a precedent in another Australian university for the use of the title Doctor of Physiotherapy;
- The terms used must be meaningful in both the local and international markets.

It was suggested that option C, as identified in the circulated paper, might be appropriate, but with the word 'conventional' omitted, so that it would read: 'Permit "doctor" to be used, while acknowledging these are not doctoral degrees.' It was agreed that the Chair should consult with Professor Slocombe and Associate Professor Elliott, and report back on the matter. It was also noted that the matter is on the agenda for the next meeting of Research Higher Degrees

Committee, and that a joint meeting of the two bodies might be appropriate, following which the Committee could develop a recommendation to Academic Board.

#### **4.2 Languages at Postgraduate level**

The Committee received a copy of a message from the Faculty of Arts seeking advice on the appropriateness of including language studies as part of a masters program, and also received a background paper on the matter by Professor Darian-Smith. The Committee agreed in principle that up to 25 points of language studies could be included in a 200-point masters program, but noted that it would not be practicable to include language studies in a shorter masters program.

### **5 Graduate Programs Forum**

The Chair reported on discussion at the Graduate Programs Forum concerning possible models for graduate schools and noted that the overall question of the structure of the University will affect the nature and role of graduate schools. There was concern at the Graduate Programs Forum that graduate schools should not add a layer of administration. They should improve consistency of graduate programs across the University. The role of TALQAC in reviewing graduate programs would need to dovetail with the role of graduate schools.

### **6 Chairs' Reports**

#### **6.1 UGPC Report**

Nil

#### **6.2 TALQAC Report**

Nil

#### **6.3 T&L(MM&ET)C Report**

Nil

### **7 Student Members' Reports**

The Committee was advised that students enrolled for summer semester programs sometimes experience difficulties in using their student cards over the summer break because their enrolment record indicates that their enrolment is in a semester rather than over summer. It was noted that such matters are normally resolved at faculty level. It was agreed that Mr Hillbrich should look into the matter in consultation with Mr Williams and Ms Parker.

### **8 Working Group Reports**

Nil

### **9 New Courses**

## **Faculty of Education**

### **9.1 Postgraduate Certificate in the Teaching of Shakespeare**

The Committee received the proposal for the introduction of the above course and agreed to recommend its approval by Academic Board. *[Secretary's note; the matter raised in the Shepherd's report concerning the prescriptive nature of the course timetable has been taken up by the Faculty.]*

## **Victorian College of the Arts**

### **9.2 Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Science**

The Committee received the proposal for the introduction of the above course and noted that it lacked details on the timing of assessment and clarification of the exit point. The Committee agreed to approve the proposal and recommend its approval by Academic Board, subject to the provision of advice on these matters.

### **9.3 Master of Production**

The Committee received the proposal for the introduction of the above course and agreed to approve the proposal and recommend its approval by Academic Board, noting that the Postgraduate Diploma is an entry point, not an exit point from the masters program.

### **9.4 Master of Theatre Practice**

The Committee received the proposal for the introduction of the above course, commending it as an exemplary proposal, and agreed to approve the proposal and recommend its approval by Academic Board.

## **Faculty of Education**

### **9.5 Master of Education (International Baccalaureate) and Postgraduate Certificate in Education Studies (International Baccalaureate)**

The Committee received the proposal for the introduction of the above course and agreed to approve the proposal and recommend its approval by Academic Board.

## **School of Enterprise**

### **9.6 Postgraduate Diploma in Perioperative and Critical Care Echocardiology**

The Committee received the proposal for the above course and noted that it is an existing course that is to be relocated from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences to the School of Enterprise. The Committee agreed to approve the proposal and recommend its approval by Academic Board.

## **10 Course Changes**

## **Faculty of Education**

### **10.1 Master of Teaching**

The Committee received the proposal for amendments to the above course and noted that, as it was initially approved only recently, final subject details are still awaited. The Committee agreed to approve the proposal and recommend its approval by Academic Board.

## **11 Student Awards**

### **11.1 New Student Awards**

#### **Centre for Indigenous Education**

##### **11.1.1 The Towards a Just Society Bursaries**

The Committee received the proposal for the above student award and agreed to approve the proposal and recommend it to Academic Board for approval.

##### **11.2 Major changes to existing awards**

Nil

## **12 Quarterly Reports**

### **12.1 Faculty of Science Report 1/07**

Nil report

### **12.2 Faculty of Law Report 1/07**

The Committee received and adopted the report as circulated.

### **12.3 School of Enterprise Report 1/07**

The Committee received the report and noted that the length of subject title for 360-844 needs to be limited so that it can be accommodated by Merlin. It was agreed to draw this to the Faculty's attention. With this note, the report was adopted.

### **12.4 Faculty of Education Report 1/07**

The Committee received and adopted the report as circulated.

### **12.5 Faculty of Land and Food Resources Report 1/07**

Nil

### **12.6 Faculty of Engineering Report 1/07**

The Committee received and adopted the report as circulated.

## **13 Matters dealt with by the Chair and/or President, Academic Board**

Matters approved by the Chair/President of Academic Board since PCPC meeting 4/07:

*Suspension of the following subjects: 730-687, 730-614 (semester 1, 2007)*

*Finalisation of new course proposals considered at earlier meetings:*  
Graduate Diploma in Competition Law

*Amendment to assessment requirements: 451-608, 451-610, 730-516, 730-517*

*Finalisation of student award proposals out of session*  
Sir Rupert Hamer Arts Scholarship (Repetiteur)  
Sir Rupert Hamer Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate)

*New Course (formerly exit award only):*

13.1 Graduate Certificate in Applied Commerce

The Committee was advised that the establishment of the above course as a stand-alone course had been approved executively out of session as a result of advice concerning CRICOS registration requirements. Previously, the award had been available only as an exit award. It was noted that further advice is awaited on whether all exit awards need to be established as stand-alone awards.

**14 Any Other Business**

Nil

**15 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday 8 June 2007 at 10.00 am in The Jim Potter Meeting Room, Old Physics Conference Centre.

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm.