

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

MEETING 8/07

Minutes of meeting 8/07 of the Undergraduate Programs Committee, which was held on Thursday, 19 July 2007 at 2.15 pm in the Jim Potter Meeting Room, Old Physics Conference Centre.

Present: Professor J Borland (Chair), Professor I Beveridge, Professor I Bishop, Ms E Buckingham, Associate Professor R Eckersley, Professor L Hawthorne, Ms H Hayman, Mr R Hillbrich, Associate Professor R Holtham, Associate Professor S James, Associate Professor R Misson, Dr R Mulder, Professor M Morgan, Professor P Pattison, Professor L Skene, Ms C Smith, Ms T Tjia

In attendance: Ms J Reese, Mr C Reid (Secretary), Ms H Thomas (for item 4.1)

BUSINESS

1 Formal Matters

1.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Professor C Hardy, Professor M Hargreaves and Professor J Stockdale.

2 Minutes

2.1 Minutes of UGPC meeting 7/07 (5 July 2007)

The Committee approved the minutes of meeting 7/07, as circulated.

2.2 UGPC Action Arising from Meeting 7/07

The Committee discussed the action arising from meeting 7/07 with reference to the minutes. The following points were noted:

- The matters raised in relation to the proposals to amend undergraduate majors have been referred back the Faculty of Arts.
- The Secretary would contact Ms Buckingham to seek clarification of her concerns in relation to the proposal to amend the major in Indigenous Studies in the BA.
- Professor Sonenberg has been asked to discuss with the Faculty and with student members the concerns raised over the teaching out of the Bachelor of Creative Arts.
- The Chair clarified that the proposal to discontinue the Bachelor of Social Work had been approved at the previous meeting, with details of the teaching-out process to be forwarded to Professor Soneberg for monitoring.

The Committee was advised that the Faculty web-site does not expressly indicate that the Diploma of Arts will be available beyond 2007, and the 2008 Course Guide does not mention the Diploma in Arts and the Diploma in Creative Arts.

However, the question was raised as to whether the University has a commitment to students who have enrolled in an undergraduate degree in anticipation of being able to undertake the Diploma in Arts concurrently. The Committee considered whether there should be a policy that provides for a period of notice to be given where a diploma that forms part of a joint degree-diploma program is to be discontinued. The Committee agreed to ask Professor Pattison to propose a policy on whether students currently enrolled in the BA should be able to enter the Diploma in Arts and Diploma in Creative Arts in 2008 and 2009 and complete it, and on the giving of notice of the discontinuation of diplomas that form part of joint degree-diploma programs.

3 Matters Arising Not Dealt with Elsewhere

Nil

4 Policy Issues

4.1 Policy and Procedures Working Group

The Committee considered the circulated policy proposals in items 4.1.1 to 4.1.3 below. The Committee was advised that a working group that is chaired by the President of Academic Board and that is reviewing the University's academic policies and procedures in the light of the Melbourne Model, had developed these policy proposals. The policies below were intended to be approved in time for the forthcoming Open Day so that intending students could be informed of them.

4.1.1 Preamble to Policy Proposals – May 2007

The Committee endorsed the preamble as circulated.

4.1.2 Policy Draft – Deferment

It was noted that, if a course were amended, students who had deferred their entry to that course at that time would undertake the amended course upon their enrolment. It was suggested that the policy should require that letters to students notifying them of the granting of deferment of entry should make clear that the course that students must complete will be as provided at the time of enrolment and should make clear the potential consequences of deferment.

4.1.3 Policy Draft – Advanced Standing

It was suggested that the first sentence of the final paragraph on page 3 should be amended to indicate that it is new generation bachelor degrees to which the sentence applies. It was also suggested that the limit of 200 points of credit towards an undergraduate degree should be for 300 point undergraduate degrees. A proportionally higher level of credit might be granted towards a 500 point undergraduate degree such as the Bachelor of Veterinary Science.

5 Chairs' Reports

5.1 PCPC Report

This matter was deferred to meeting 9/07.

5.2 TALQAC Report

This matter was deferred to meeting 9/07.

5.3 T&L(MM&ET)C Report

This matter was deferred to meeting 9/07.

6 Student Members Reports

Nil

7 Working Group Reports

Nil

8 Course Proposals

8.1 Faculty of Land and Food Resources – Course Discontinuations

The Committee considered the course discontinuation proposals and related shepherd's reports under items 8.1.1 to 8.1.7 below. The Committee noted that many of the proposals do not adequately address the phasing out of the honours programs within the courses concerned, and some are incomplete. It was also noted that the proposals were submitted on the old discontinuation form and did not indicate the advice that would be given to students on enrolment options. The Committee agreed to defer approval of the proposals and, in addition to the shepherd's comments, noted the comments below.

8.1.1 Bachelor of Animal Science and Management

The Committee noted that the proposal did not identify potential equivalent subjects for all first-year subjects being discontinued, and agreed to seek advice from the Faculty on those subjects for which equivalents were not identified.

8.1.2 Bachelor of Food Science

The Committee noted that the new generation Bachelor Science would include major study areas that offer equivalent study programs to the Bachelor of Food Science.

8.1.3 Bachelor of Natural Resources Management

The Committee agreed that the Faculty should contact students who have not re-enrolled in the program but who are not on leave of absence, and ask them to indicate their intentions with regard to completion.

8.1.4 Bachelor of Resource Management

This proposal was considered in conjunction with item 8.1.3 above.

8.1.5 Bachelor of Agricultural Science

The Committee agreed to seek additional information on alternative subjects students could undertake to complete the core elements of the program. The Committee also

questioned whether the Bachelor of Agriculture might be an appropriate alternative course for current students.

**8.1.6 Bachelor of Forest Science and Bachelor of Forest Science/
Bachelor of Science Double Degree**

The Committee agreed to seek more information as outlined in the shepherd's report.

8.1.7 Bachelor of Horticulture

The Committee agreed to seek more information as outlined in the shepherd's report.

8.2 Faculty of Engineering Course Discontinuations

8.2.1 Bachelor of Computer Science – Bioinformatics Stream

The Committee approved the proposal as circulated.

8.3 Faculty of Arts Course Discontinuation

8.3.1 Diploma in Creative Arts

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this matter pending the President of Academic Board proposing a policy on the discontinuation of elements of joint degree-diploma programs, as discussed under item 2.2 above.

9 Report from Interim Board of Undergraduate Studies

The Committee received the report of the Interim Board of Undergraduate Studies and considered the circulated papers listed under items 9.1 to 9.5 below.

9.1 Amendments to New Generation Undergraduate Degree Course Proposals

9.1.1 Bachelor of Arts

The Committee agreed to await the shepherds' report on this proposal.

9.1.2 Bachelor of Biomedicine

The Committee was advised that the shepherds had forwarded comments on this proposal to the Chair of the Bachelor of Biomedicine Course Standing Committee, Professor Hargreaves. The Committee was advised that it had been proposed to amend the VCE entry score requirements for this course for 2010, but that the entry requirements would remain as is for the time being. With this note, the Committee agreed to approve the proposal.

9.1.3 Bachelor of Commerce

The Committee agreed to await the shepherds' report on this proposal.

9.1.4 Bachelor of Environments

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal for this course.

9.1.5 Bachelor of Science

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal for this course.

9.1.6 Subject Handbook Entries for the Bachelor Music

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal for this course.

9.2 Proposals for New Concurrent Diplomas

The Committee considered the proposals in items 9.2.1 to 9.2.4 below, and noted that some proposals are effectively for 125 point programs, not 100 point programs as originally intended. Completion of these might require 75 points of credit to be given, which is contrary to University policy, and which could reduce enrolment options in the main undergraduate degree program.

9.2.1 Diploma in Mathematical Sciences

The Committee agreed to approve the proposed program as outlined.

9.2.2 Diploma of Informatics

The Committee noted that this proposal is for a 125 point program, and agreed to refer the matter back to the proposers for further consideration.

9.2.3 Diploma in Music (Practical)

The Committee noted that a statement of entry requirements is needed for this program. The Committee agreed to endorse the program in principle, subject to submission of a revised proposal including entry requirements.

9.2.4 Diploma of Languages

The Committee noted that a statement of entry requirements is needed for this program. The Committee agreed to endorse the program in principle, subject to submission of a complete proposal.

9.3 University Breadth Subjects to be Taught in 2008

The Committee considered the proposals for University breadth subjects below, and noted that the subjects proposed are first year subjects. Later year breadth subjects would be submitted for consideration in due course. The Committee noted the report from the Chair of the Interim Board of Undergraduate Studies (listed under item 9.5 below) concerning the nature of breadth subjects in the Melbourne Model that are being recommended for approval. The Committee considered the distinction between University breadth subjects and other breadth subjects, based on the extent to which the subjects concerned are genuinely multi-disciplinary in nature and offered jointly by several faculties, and whether they are to be available in all new generation undergraduate degrees as breadth subjects. It was noted that University breadth subjects should not be specified as core subjects within particular undergraduate programs.

The Committee was advised that a proposal for an additional University breadth subject, Language and Information, is to be submitted, and will need to be considered executively, out of session.

9.3.1 An Ecological History of Humanity

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal, subject to the submission of additional information on assessment requirements and the time commitment involved in the subject, and to request a shorter title in accordance with University policy.

9.3.2 Internet <=> Society

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal, subject to the clarification of whether the title of the subject could be accommodated.

9.3.3 Critical Thinking with Data

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal, subject to clarification of whether the subject is genuinely multi-disciplinary.

9.3.4 Climate Change Sequence

The Committee agreed to seek confirmation that the subject is genuinely multidisciplinary. It was noted that the requirement for 75% attendance at tutorials should not be included as a component of the assessment provisions and that the subject Introduction to Climate Change is a prerequisite rather than a corequisite.

9.3.5 Catastrophes, Cultures & the Angry Earth

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal as outlined.

9.3.6 Food, Water and Wine Sequence

The Committee noted that this subject is also specified as a foundation subject in the Food Science program in the Bachelor of Science. The Committee agreed to seek clarification of its status and also of the specification of prerequisites and the timing of the two examinations.

9.3.7 Seeing – the Whole Picture

The Committee endorsed the proposal as outlined.

9.3.8 Poetics of the Body

The Committee endorsed the proposal, subject to clarification of whether the subject is genuinely multidisciplinary.

9.4 Other Breadth Subjects to be Taught in 2008

The Committee noted that other breadth subjects could be classed as breadth subjects if they were accepted as breadth in particular degree programs. They could be taught by one faculty and could be available as core components in specific programs. It was suggested that the word 'sequence' should be used in place of 'cluster' where there is more than one subject in a sequence.

9.4.1 Your Money and Your Life

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal, noting that the Course Standing Committee might wish to resubmit the subject to the Interim Board of Undergraduate Studies as a University breadth subject.

9.4.2 Generating the Wealth of Nations

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal, noting that the Course Standing Committee might wish to resubmit the subject to the Interim Board of Undergraduate Studies as a University breadth subject.

9.4.3 Breadth Offerings in Information Technology for the New Generation Degrees

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal as outlined.

9.4.4 Artistic and Creative Education Cluster

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal as outlined.

9.4.5 Sports Coaching: Theory and Practice

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal as outlined.

9.4.6 Understanding Knowledge Cluster

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal.

9.4.7 Youth Citizenship and Identity Cluster

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal.

9.4.8 Animals in Society

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal, subject to clarification of the contact hours and generic skills statements.

9.4.9 Land, Water and Food Economy

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposal, subject to clarification of the statements of objectives and of generic skills.

9.5 Comments on Proposed Breadth Subjects at iBUGS meeting on Friday 13 July and After the Meeting

This matter was considered under item 9.3 above.

10 Any Other Business

Nil

11 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 2 August 2007 at 2.15 pm in the Jim Potter Room, Old Physics Conference Centre.

The meeting closed at 4.55 pm.