

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

## ACADEMIC BOARD

### MEETING NO. 7/08

A meeting of the Academic Board was held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 21 August, 2008 at 2.15 p.m. in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Old Quadrangle.

#### **Present**

President, Professor P Pattison, in the Chair

Provost, Professor P McPhee

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor F Larkins

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research, Professor R Strugnell

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity) Professor S Elliott

Vice-President, Professor G Stevens

Deputy Vice-President, Professor R Slocombe

Senior Vice-Principal, Mr I Marshman

Vice-Principal (Information), Ms L O'Brien

Vice-Principal and Academic Registrar, Ms G Luck

Associate Professor S Baker, Professor P Batterham, Professor D Clarke, Associate Professor C Cobbett, Professor M Considine, Professor J Damousi, Ms M Fee, Professor R Fincher, Professor K Ghiggino, Professor L Godden, Professor A Goodwin, Professor S Halgamuge, Professor M Hargreaves, Professor Leslyanne Hawthorne, Associate Professor J Hergt, Ms G Hobbs, Professor I Holtham, Ms L Howard, Professor D Jamieson, Professor S Jeffreys, Ms T Jonas, Professor Y Kashima, Professor S Kaye, Professor I King, Professor B Lukas, Professor G Lynch, Professor V Mackie, Professor J Manton, Professor N McBrien, Professor T McNamara, Professor L Meek, Associate Professor R Misson, Professor M Morris, Associate Professor E Ozanne, Ms A Perez, Professor L Selwood, Professor F Separovic, Professor B Singh, Professor P Smith, Professor D Thomas, Professor T Vidyasagar, Professor G Wigglesworth

**Observers:** Dr A Brigkand, Mrs B Green, Associate Professor B Hughes, Associate professor A Owczarek, Ms J Reese, Dr C Whitzman.

**In attendance:** P D Pepperell (Academic Secretary)

#### **Business**

##### **1 Welcome**

The President welcomed the following new members of the Board by faculty.

Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning; Professor Nick Low.

Faculty of Arts; Professor Antonia Finnane, Professor John Hajek, Professor Jeanette Hoorn, Professor Sheila Jeffreys, Professor Nikos Papastergiadis and Professor Ralph Pettman.

Faculty of Economics and Commerce; Professor Robert Dixon, Professor Bill Harley and Professor Gregory Whitwell.

Melbourne School of Engineering; Professor David Dunstan and Professor Saman Halgamuge.

Melbourne School of Law; Professor Lee Godden, Professor Andrew Kenyon, Professor Dianne Otto and Professor Megan Richardson.

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences; Professor David Dunt, Professor Gary Egan, Professor Robyn Guymer, Professor Nick Haslam, Professor David Jackson, Professor Jill Keefe, Professor Gordon Lynch, Professor Elizabeth Manias, Professor Terence O'Brien and Professor Alison Yung.

Faculty of Science; Professor Philip Batterham, Professor Konstantin Borovkov, Professor Trevor Lithgow, Professor Trichur Vidyasagar and Professor Ian Woodrow.

Faculty of Veterinary Science; Professor Marshall Lightowlers.

## 2 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Professor Glyn Davis

Professor Peter Rathjen

Mr Ian Marshman

Professor Catherine Falk

Professor Ivan Mareels

## 3 Tabled Papers

The following papers were tabled:

Citations for new professors.

Citations for an Honorary Degree recipient.

## 4 Starring of Additional Items (item A.0)

The following items were starred; item C.1 (3), item C.2 (1and 2)

## 5 Minutes (item A.1)

The Board approved the minutes of meeting 6/2008 held on 24 July 2008.

## 6 Matters Arising from the Minutes (item A.2)

There were no matters arising.

## 7 President's Report (item A.4)

The Board received a written report from the President.

### 7.1 Award of Honorary Degree of Doctor of Architecture

The Board approved the award of an honorary degree of Doctor of Architecture to a person named in the tabled citation.

### 7.2 Action Taken by the President on Behalf of the Board (Appendix A of the report)

The Board noted action taken executively by the President on behalf of the Board.

## 8 Vice-Chancellor's Report (item A.5)

The Board received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor. The Provost, as acting Vice-Chancellor, highlighted selected parts of the report.

### 8.1 PBC Conference

Following the PBC conference a number of issues raised required additional modelling and were finalised at a follow up meeting of conference participants on 13 August. An Expenditure Review Committee was considering cost savings, and consideration would then be given to the process of implementing the recommendations arising from the committee's report. During the conference the Vice-Chancellor emphasised the importance of new initiatives, including the Arts Renewal Fund, and ways in which the recommendations of the Information Futures Commission report can be implemented.

### 8.2 Shanghai Jiao Tong Rankings

The University moved up six places to No. 73 in the 2008 Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) Academic Rankings of World Universities. A new education ranking

system being developed out of the OECD would build upon a successful ranking system of schools. The University, in consultation with DEWRR, had been looking into developing a set of measures around teaching and learning for the development of an education ranking system in Australia.

### **8.3 ERC Update**

Key sections of the Eastern Precinct project had re-opened including the ERC ground and first floors, with a new entrance from the 1888 building. The new spaces provide improved student IT, study environments and collection services. Feedback from the students had been positive. The Frank Tate Learning Centre would open in the next few weeks and will house a variety of spaces for students to sit and work, supported by a flexible IT environment, which was expected to encourage individual and collaborative learning approaches.

### **8.4 Professor Steven Prawer**

The Board acknowledged Professor Steven Prawer from the School of Physics on being awarded the Royal Society of Victoria Research Medal in Physical Sciences, Category IV (encompassing astronomy, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, physics and related science) for the significance, breadth and quality of his work in the area of diamond quantum nanotechnology.

## **9 Provost's Report (item A.6)**

The Board received a written report from the Provost. Professor Elliott, as acting Provost, highlighted selected parts of the report.

### **9.1 The Breadth Experience: Semester 1, Quality of Teaching survey outcomes**

The Academic Board noted that a report had been received from the Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee's working group which indicated students' experience of breadth subjects via the University's standard Quality of Teaching survey instrument administered in semester one, 2008. The Academic Board noted the following points regarding the limitations of the data and the report.

- All subjects included in the analysis were being offered for the first time, and therefore were vulnerable to the normal challenges of newly developed subjects.
- The analysis covered only a small number of subjects, University Breadth (UB) subjects and nine non-UB subjects out of a normal undergraduate subject count of 1,700.
- Caution should be taken in comparing overall outcomes across years and between types of subjects, or drawing any definitive conclusions from the outcomes presented.

Within this context the preliminary assessment suggested that:

- despite some obvious frustrations, mainly around planning, co-ordination and delivery, staff involved in presenting UB subjects regard them as being pedagogically positive and exciting;
- the issue of appropriate resourcing for the development of UB subjects required clarification; and,
- while students' responses were generally positive, awareness of students' expectations about subjects was an important issue to address. Students sought clarification of the expected level of knowledge for breadth subjects, as well as assessment requirements.

The Academic Board further noted that Professor James would develop a program for academic staff to assist in the development of UB subjects. The Academic Board thanked Professor Moffat for preparing the report.

### **9.2 2008 Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Citations**

Seven academic and professional staff were recognised for outstanding contributions

to the quality of student learning in the 2008 Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) citations.

### 9.3 Provost Summit 2008

Professor Marginson had responded to the coverage of his keynote address to the Provost's Summit which appeared in 'The Age', attached as Appendix 1 of the report. The University would be considering strategies for fostering greater interaction between local and international students to address some of the issues raised at the summit.

### 9.4 Scholarly Information

As part of the new senior committee meeting arrangements the Provost would be responsible for 'scholarly information', activities relating to University-wide library, education and information technology planning, policy, services and infrastructure. The University Librarian would report directly to the Provost and would also chair the Scholarly Information Advisory Group, one of several advisory groups reporting to the Provost under the new meeting arrangements.

## 10 Question Time

There were no questions.

## 11 Undergraduate Programs Committee (item C.7)

The Board received the report arising from meeting 6/2008 of the Undergraduate Programs Committee held on 7 August 2008.

### 11.1 Proposals for Course Discontinuations

The Board agreed to **recommend** to Council the discontinuation of intake into the following courses:

Bachelor of Information Systems

Diploma of Information Systems

### 11.2 New Courses

The Board agreed to **recommend** to Council the following new course:

U21 Diploma in Global Issues

### 11.3 New Breadth Subjects

The Board **approved** the following breadth subjects:

Climate Change 2

Shaping the Enterprise with ICT

Emerging Technologies for Work Transformation

Implementing ICT-enabled Systems

Creating Business Value using ICT

Electronic Commerce

Business Analytics

Childhood, Youth and Popular Culture

Childhood, Youth Identities and Change

In discussion it was noted that one of the core principles of breadth was that students would encounter disciplines that were genuinely different from those available in their core programme. In keeping with this principle it was noted that students would not be permitted to take the total 300 points of their undergraduate programme from one faculty. University breadth subjects were a special group of subjects, with a small number offered each semester, which encompass elements of science, social sciences and humanities and focus on 'big questions' that could not be covered by one discipline.

### 11.4 Bachelor of Environments

The Board **approved** the following Bachelor of Environments subjects:

Probability for Statistics  
 Statistics  
 Data Analysis 2  
 Explorations (Landscape Studio 1)  
 Site Planning and Design (Landscape Studio 2)  
 Urban Landscape Studio (Landscape Studio 3)  
 Designed Ecologies (Landscape Studio 4)  
 Urban Design Studies  
 Urban History  
 Contemporary Planning Issues  
 History of Designed Landscapes  
 Site Tectonics  
 Applications of GIS  
 Surveying and Mapping  
 Residential Field Course  
 Chemistry 2A: Reactions and Synthesis  
 Chemistry 2B: Structure and Properties  
 Ecology  
 Leaves to Landscapes  
 Soil and Water Resources  
 Human Behaviour and Environment  
 Greening Landscapes  
 Designing with Plants  
 Designing Environments  
 Architecture Design Studio 1  
 Architecture Design Studio 2  
 Architecture Design Studio 3  
 Architecture Design Studio 4  
 Foundations of Architecture  
 Architecture of Enlightenment  
 Construction Methods  
 Hybrid Construction  
 Environmental Building Systems  
 The Construction Context  
 Residential Construction and Structures  
 Concrete Structures and Construction  
 Construction Management  
 Design Cost Management  
 Project Planning Studio  
 Construction Legal Environment  
 Structures and Construction Systems  
 Property Market Analysis  
 Principles of Property Valuation  
 Property Management  
 Property Resource Analysis  
 Property Analysis Studio  
 Engineering Mechanics  
 Earth Processes  
 Engineering Materials  
 Fluid Mechanics

#### **11.5 Arts Curriculum Review White Paper**

The Board noted the paper which outlined the renewal of the Arts programs particularly in regard to the new generation Arts degree.

#### **11.6 Bachelor of Commerce Progression Rules**

The Board **approved** the change to the progression rules for all students enrolled in the heritage and new generation Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Commerce double degrees from 2009, as outlined in Appendix O of the committee's report and here:

*Removal of the current requirements that (1) Students may not enrol in level-2*

*subjects before completing at least 75 level-1 points and (2) students may not enrol in level-3 subjects before completing at least 175 level-1 and 2 points.*

## 12 Research Higher Degrees Committee (item C.2)

The Board received the report arising from meeting 4/2008 of the Research Higher Degrees Committee held on 9 July 2008.

### 12.1 Master of Philosophy

The Board **approved** the marking system for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) as detailed in Attachment 1 of the committee's report to the Board.

### 12.2 Research Higher Degree Examination

The Board **approved**

- the adoption of a 65% pass cut-off for all research masters; and,
- the adoption of the M Phil marking system for all research masters.

for all thesis submissions for examination of research masters and research doctorates transferred by faculties to the School of Graduate Research.

The Board also **approved** the following description for the word limit for the University's professional research doctorates, standardised as for the PhD as follows: "Normally candidates should aim to write a thesis of up to 80,000 words. Candidates may write up to 100,000 words without seeking special permission from the RHD Committee. In exceptional circumstances application can be made to the RHD Committee to submit theses longer than 100,000 words"

The Board **approved** the expansion of the areas of study codes for the PhD subject listing in Arts to ensure PhD students' transcripts reflect appropriately the correct area of study and agreed that the President would meet with the Chair of the RHDC to consider what further action should be taken on areas of study codes for PhD students in other disciplines.

### 12.3 The Chancellor's Prize for Excellence in the PhD thesis

The Board **noted** the four recipients of the Chancellor's Prize for Excellence in the PhD thesis would be presented at a graduation ceremony.

## 13 Legislation and Trusts Committee (C.3)

The Board received the report arising from a meeting of the committee held on 18 August 2008 and noted that the papers associated with the report were available on the Academic Board meetings webpage.

## 14 Selection Procedures Committee (C.5)

The Board received the report arising from meeting 5/2008 of the Selection Procedures Committee held on 4 August 2008.

### 14.1 Arts English-Language Entry Requirements

The Board agreed to **recommend** to council the amendments to the entry requirements for Faculty of Arts programs, as follows:

- A Study Abroad or Exchange student may be selected if the student has obtained a score of 550 (computer based 213) in the American Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a Test of Written English (TWE) of 4 or an overall Band score of 6 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) at a sitting in the twenty-four months preceding the application provided they enrol in the subject Advanced English as a Second Language 1 in their program of study.
- For entry into undergraduate programs (New Generation BA (D09) and BA

(M&C) (104MC), recognition of the Melbourne English Language Bridging Program (UMELBP) as an entry pathway where an applicant's IELTS scores is 0.5 below the requirement.

#### **14.2 Bachelor of Arts Honours (Media and Communications)**

The Board **approved** the amendments to the Handbook entry to fourth-year honours in the Bachelor of (Media and Communications) as follows:

The prerequisites for entry to fourth-year honours in Media and Communications are:

- completion of all the requirements of the BA (Media and Communications); and,
- completion of a major in Media and Communications; and,
- an average grade of 70% H2B or higher over the second/third-year Media and Communications subjects.

#### **15 Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee (C.7)**

The Board received the report arising from meeting 7/2008 of the Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee held on 14 August 2008.

##### **15.1 Quality of Teaching Survey Working Group (QoTSWG)**

The Board received the report arising from the survey and noted that it had been discussed at item 9.1 above. (Attachment A of the committee's report refers)

#### **16 Teaching and Learning Development Committee (C.8a)**

The Board received the report arising from meeting 5/2008 of the Teaching and Learning development committee held on 1 July 2008.

#### **17 Teaching and Learning Development Committee (C.8b)**

The Board received the report arising from meeting 6/2008 of the Teaching and Learning Development Committee held on 5 August 2008.

##### **17.1 e-Portfolio Discussion Paper (Attachment A of the report)**

The Academic Board received a report from the Teaching and Learning Development Committee (TALDEC) on the implementation of e-Portfolios for student use noting that students used these as a repository for electronic or digital storage of various materials including creative work, research and written materials, but they could also be used for teaching and learning purposes. The Committee had considered a range of proposals and made the following recommendations to the Academic Board:

1. Diversity in the ways in which e-Portfolios could be used was welcome and should be supported as appropriate. Multiple approaches would be needed to meet the differing needs across the University.
2. Monitoring developments elsewhere in the use of e-Portfolios should continue, including analysis of the outcomes of the Australian e-Portfolio Project and the implications of these for future developments within Australia.
3. The relationship between student e-Portfolios, the Academic Transcript and the Australian Higher Education Graduate Statement, should the University decide to adopt this, should be monitored.
4. Professional development programs should be available to keep academic staff alert to emerging developments and possibilities.
5. The University needs to develop a strategy for monitoring the nature and extent of e-Portfolio usage and where possible
6. Similarly, the University needs a related strategy for gathering and

disseminating examples of good practice.

The Academic Board supported the recommendations as outlined in Attachment A of the Committee's report.

### **17.2 Proposal for an Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement**

The Board noted the report on the proposed Australian Graduation Statement which would be issued to students on completion of the degree. The statement would be an adaptation of the European diploma supplement with the underlying philosophy being that it would be of benefit to students. Its purpose would be to provide details to assist graduates, employers, and education and training institutions, both in Australia and internationally, in understanding and recognising the nature and level of academic achievement in completion of an award. Universities would not be required to issue a statement but it was expected that the federal government would recommend it on the basis of the research included in the report (Attachment B of the committee report to the Board.)

## **18 Postgraduate Coursework Programs Committee**

The Board received the report arising from meeting 7/2008 of the Postgraduate Coursework programs committee held on 8 August 2008.

### **18.1 Proposals for Discontinuation of Courses**

The Board agreed to **recommend** to Council the discontinuation of intake into the following courses:

#### **Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning**

Postgraduate Diploma in Planning and design (Architectural History and Conservation)

Master of Urban Design (100 point streams 314MM and 314CC)

### **18.2 Proposals for Suspension of Courses**

The Board **approved** the suspension of the following courses from 2009:

#### **Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences**

- Master of Women's Health and Postgraduate Diploma in Women's Health

#### **Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning**

- Graduate Diploma Building Surveying

### **18.3 Proposals for Amendment to Existing Courses**

The Board **approved** amendments to the following courses subject to the SPC approving changes to the entry requirements, where these are changed. (Appendices A to S of the report)

#### **Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning**

- Master of Landscape Architecture
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Construction Management
- Master of Urban Planning
- Master of Property

#### **Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences**

- Master of Social Work
- Master of Nursing Science (Note: The Board did not approve the guaranteed entry pathways proposed as the SPC did not approve the proposal. )

### **Faculty of Economics and Commerce**

- Master of Management
- Master of Management
- Master of Management (BAS)
- Master of Management (Marketing)
- Master of Accounting
- Master of Human Resource Management
- Master of International Business
- Master of Business and Information Technology
- Master of Commerce (Finance)
- Master of Applied Finance
- Master of Financial Management

### **Melbourne School of Land and Environment**

- Master of Forest Ecosystem Science

#### **18.4 New Course Proposals**

The Board agreed to **recommend** to Council the following new course for introduction in 2009, Appendix T of the PCPC report refers:

### **Melbourne Graduate School of Education**

- Postgraduate Certificate in Educational Research

#### **18.5 Proposals for New Student Awards**

The Board agreed to **recommend** to Council the following new student award as outlined in Appendix U of the Committee's report:

### **Melbourne School of Land and Environment**

- Master of Forest Ecosystem Science Scholarship

#### **19 Adoption or Receipt of Unstarred Item**

The Board resolved that recommendations and reports that had not been starred should be adopted or received respectively.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.