

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

ACADEMIC BOARD

MEETING 2/08

A meeting of the Academic Board was held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 27 March 2008 at 2.15 pm.

Present

President, Professor P Pattison, in the Chair

Vice-Chancellor, Professor G Davis

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Innovation and Development), Professor V Braach-Maksvytis

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor F Larkins

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor J McKenzie

Pro Vice-Chancellor (University Relations), Professor W Bebbington

Vice-President, Professor G Stevens

Deputy Vice-President, Professor R Slocombe

Senior Vice-Principal, Mr I Marshman

Professor M Abernethy, Professor J Angus, Professor S Aranda, Professor I Bishop, Ms E Buckingham, Professor C Bull, Professor A Capling, Professor P Desmond, Professor R Fincher, Professor P Harris, Ms L Howard, Professor R James, Professor D Jamieson, Professor L Johnston, Ms T Jonas, Professor A Kaye, Professor R Keenan, Professor S Liaw, Professor B Lukas, Professor V Mackie, Professor J McCalman, Associate Professor R Misson, Professor A Moffat, Professor R O'Hair, Professor N Olekalns, Ms A Perez, Professor D Samson, Professor B Singh, Professor E Sonenberg, Professor R Speed, Professor P Taylor, Professor G Whitwell

Observers Dr B Bolt, Dr E Fletcher, Associate Professor B Gaze, Ms B Green, Associate Professor B Hughes, Associate Professor G Kalb, Associate Professor M Kuijper, Associate Professor A O'Connell, Ms C Prendergast, Ms J White (University Secretary)

In attendance Mr C Reid (Acting Academic Secretary)

BUSINESS

1. Welcome to New Members

The President welcomed the following new members who had joined the Board since the last meeting:

Professor Geoffrey McColl, Chair, Medical Education and Training, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Professor Stephen O'Leary, William Gibson Chair of Otolaryngology

Professor Lynn Meek, Director, LH Martin Institute, Melbourne Graduate School of Education

The President also welcomed the following participants in the Academic Women in Leadership Program:

Dr Barbara Bolt, Culture and Communications
Dr Erica Fletcher, Anatomy and Cell Biology
Associate Professor Beth Gaze, Law
Associate Professor Guyonne Kalb, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic
and Social Research
Associate Professor Margreta Kuijper, Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Associate Professor Ann O'Connell, Law

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Dean, Faculty of the VCA, Professor A Hull
Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Professor T Kvan
Vice-Principal and Academic Registrar, Ms G Luck
Dean, Melbourne School of Engineering, Professor I Mareels

3. Tabled Papers

The following documents were tabled:

Citations for new professors (item A.1)
President's report (item A.4)
Vice-Chancellor's Report (item A.5)

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

The following additional item was starred – C.2, item 1.6

5. Minutes (item A.1)

The minutes of meeting 1/08 held on 28 February 2008 were confirmed.

The minutes of special meetings held on 1 February 2008, 18 February 2008, 21 February 2008 and 10 March 2008 were confirmed and the minutes of a Selection Appeals Committee meeting held on 6 February 2008 were received.

The President thanked members for their contributions to the special meetings of the Board.

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

There were no matters arising.

7. Report to Council (item A.3)

The Board received the report of non-urgent items from Academic Board meeting 11/07 to Council and the report from meeting 1/08 to Council.

8. President's Report (item A.4)

8.1 The Board received a written report from the President.

8.2 Chairs of Academic Board Committees for 2008

The Board approved the appointment of Professor Bernard Muir as Chair of the Melbourne College of Divinity Committee.

8.3 Change of Name of School of Enterprise (Appendix A)

The Board noted that the School of Enterprise was changing its name to Melbourne Consulting and Custom Programs. The Board approved the change of name of the School of Enterprise Committee to the Melbourne Custom Programs Committee.

8.4 Reports from Academic Board and its Committees: Reflections on 2007 and Plans for 2008 (Appendix B)

The Board noted the summary of reports by the President and Board committee chairs on the activities of the Board and its committees in 2007 and issues for consideration in 2008.

8.5 Subject Quotas

The Board noted the President's intention to review all subject quotas for 2009.

8.6 International Open Days

The Board noted plans for the conduct of Open Days in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

8.7 Creating Effective Web-sites for University Teaching – a Resource Tool

The Board received the document "Creating Effective Web-sites for University Teaching – a Resource Tool", which is intended to provide support and advice to staff developing web-pages in the LMS. The Board was advised that remaining issues in the implementation of the LMS, such as posting grades in the LMS and transferring them to the student system, were being addressed and a revised guide would be released in due course.

8.8 Action Taken by the President on Behalf of the Board

The Board noted action taken by the President on its behalf.

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

9.1 The Board received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor who highlighted selected parts of the report.

9.2 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

The Vice-Chancellor announced with pleasure the appointment of Professor Peter Rathjen as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

9.3 Review of Higher Education (Appendix A)

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the Commonwealth Government has established a review of Higher Education, to be chaired by Professor Denise Bradley.

9.4 New Excellence Awards

The Vice-Chancellor noted with pleasure the introduction of the Gerry Barretto Awards and the Patricia Grimshaw Mentor Excellence Awards.

9.5 Pat Grimshaw

The Vice-Chancellor noted with pleasure Professor Grimshaw's induction onto the 2008 Roll of Honour for Women.

9.6 Vice-Chancellor's Fellow

The Vice-Chancellor announced the appointment of Professor Ross Garnaut as a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow. Professor Garnaut would be appointed as a professorial fellow in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

9.7 Partnership with Australian National University

The Vice-Chancellor announced that the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University had agreed to work in partnership in particular aspects of research and research training and had signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect.

10. Question Time (item A.6)

A question was raised concerning the release of funding for new teaching in the Melbourne Model, and the availability of funds to support the additional hourly paid academic staff needed as a result of the introduction of University breadth subjects in New Generation undergraduate degrees. A shortage of funding appeared to have arisen as a result of the difficulty of predicting class sizes and the reorganisation of schools and departments in faculties. The Vice-Chancellor asked that details of additional staffing needs and concomitant funding requirements be submitted to him for consideration.

11. General Discussion Items (item A.7)

(a) Information Futures

The Vice-Principal Information, Ms O'Brien, gave a presentation concerning the Information Futures Review. She drew members' attention to the discussion paper on the Information Futures Web-page and to the survey of the use of scholarly

information, and she encouraged submissions to the Review. During her presentation she made the following points:

- There has been a high level of on-line interest in the Review and in the discussion paper from the USA.
- The introduction of the Melbourne Model has prompted reconsideration of information provision and of issues with existing collections.
- There have been significant changes in publishing, for example, an increase in digital publishing, the continuous updating of publications, and changes in ownership of publications and access to publications. These changes need to be accommodated in information provision and management.
- Issues in the storage of collections and the funding of information collections and their management need to be addressed.
- The review is intended to produce a plan for the next ten years, which will be submitted to Academic Board in June.

In discussion, it was noted that the University would need to consider some issues in consultation with other organisations, for example in relation to cultural collections and matters of copyright.

12. Undergraduate Programs Committee - Report of Meeting 1/08 (item C.1)

12.1 The Board received the report of meeting 1/08 of the Undergraduate Programs Committee held on 6 February 2008.

12.2 ANZ Honours Prize for Advanced Financial Mathematics I & II (Appendix A)

The Board approved the proposal for the ANZ Honours Prize for Advanced Financial Mathematics I and II.

13. Research and Research Training Committee – Report of Meeting 1/08 (item C.2)

13.1 The Board received the report of meeting 1/08 of the Research and Research Training Committee held on 3 March 2008.

13.2 Research Higher Degrees Committee Membership and Terms of Reference

The Board approved the recommended change to the titles of members and to allow the appointment of staff representatives as well as student representatives as nominated by the University of Melbourne Postgraduate Association, as set out in Attachment 1 to the report.

13.3 Avoiding conflict of interest in the nomination of thesis examiners

The Board approved the recommended change to the statement concerning potential conflict of interest in the *Procedures for the examination of PhD theses pursuant to Regulation R3.60 and Statute 12.5*, as set out in Attachment 2 to the report.

13.4 Marking System for the Master of Philosophy

The Board approved the establishment of provisions for the marking of theses submitted for the degree of Master of Philosophy, as set out in Attachment 3 to the report.

13.5 Changes to Master of Philosophy

The Board approved change to the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy as set out in Attachment 4 to the report.

13.6 Master of Arts in History (Advanced Seminars and Shorter Thesis)

The Board approved the recommendation to delete the requirement for completion of the individual compulsory subject in the Master of Arts in History (Advanced Seminars and Shorter Thesis) and to replace it with an elective.

13.7 Master of Social Work – Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

The Board was advised that the matter of amending the proposal to resolve the discrepancy between the total points and the length of the program had been resolved. The amendments had been completed and this had resulted in an increase in the thesis word limit and an alignment of the total points with the length of the program.

13.8 Gene Technology and Biosafety Committee Report

The Board noted the report.

13.9 eResearch Committee Report

The Board noted the report.

14. School of Enterprise Committee – Report of Meeting 2/08 (item C.4)

14.1 The Board received the report of meeting 2/08 of the School of Enterprise Committee held on 18 February 2008.

15. Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee – Report of Meeting 1/08 (item C.7)

15.1 The Board received the report of meeting 1/08 of the Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee, held on 14 February 2008.

11.2 TALQAC Honours Review Group (Appendix 1)

The Board noted that the report sampled honours programs in the University rather than exhaustively assessing all honours programs. However, the report did reveal varying approaches to the handling of honours programs. Particular issues included the engagement of supervisors, pathways into honours, the identification of student

responsibilities and the improvement of mentoring. The Board endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

11.3 Evaluation Cycle – Student Feedback on Quality of Teaching (Appendix 2)

The Board noted the report of the evaluation of quality of teaching from semester 2, 2007 and noted that students appeared generally satisfied with teaching. The Board was advised that, in consultation with TALQAC, the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning had developed a plan to resolve matters raised in TALQAC's 2007 review of teaching in that faculty. The Board was further informed that TALQAC is reviewing the Quality of Teaching survey instrument to ensure it acknowledges changes that have occurred in the University's curricula and teaching.

16. Teaching and Learning Development Committee – Report of Meeting 1/08 (item C.8)

16.1 The Board received the report of meeting 2/08 of the Teaching and Learning Development Committee, held on 14 March 2008.

17. Postgraduate Coursework Programs Committee (item C.10)

17.1 The Board received the report of meeting 13/07 of the Postgraduate Coursework Programs Committee, held on 7 December 2007.

17.2 Academic Policies

The Board approved the following policies:

- Remission of Debt Policy (Appendix A)
- Breadth Study (Appendix B)
- Special Arrangements Policies – Defence Force Reservists and Volunteers (Appendix C)
- Special Arrangements Policy - Elite Athletes and Performers (Appendix D)

18. Adoption or Receipt of Unstarred Items

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

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

Signed

President

_____/_____/_____