

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

## ACADEMIC BOARD

### MEETING NO. 4/08

A meeting of the Academic Board was held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 22 May, 2008 at 2.15 p.m. in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Old Quadrangle

#### **Present**

President, Professor P Pattison, in the Chair  
Vice-Chancellor, Professor G Davis  
Provost, Professor P McPhee  
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor L Yates  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor F Larkins  
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  
Professor M Abernethy, Professor J Angus, Professor A Bacic, Ms S Beattie, Professor P Bhalla, Ms O Bishop, Professor G Brown, Ms E Buckingham, Professor A Christie, Professor S Cubitt, Professor P Dainty, Professor J Damousi, Professor K Dovey, Professor P Ebeling, Professor C Falk, Professor R Fincher, Professor J Frow, Professor K Ghiggino, Professor A Goodwin, Professor P Harris, Professor J Hinchcliff, Professor A Hull, Professor R James, Professor D Jamieson, Ms T Jonas, Professor A Kavanagh, Professor G Lakomski, Professor V Mackie, Professor D Macmillan, Professor H Malano, Professor I Mareels, Professor N McBrien, Professor J McCalman, Professor P Mendis, Associate Professor R Misson, Professor A Moffat, Professor T Nolan, Professor N Olekalns, Professor J O'Toole, Associate Professor E Ozanne, Ms A Perez, Professor S Rees, Professor D Rosenthal, Professor A Saeed, Professor D Samson, Professor F Separovic, Professor A Sinclair, Professor L Sonenberg, Professor R Speed, Professor L Sterling, Professor D Thomas, Professor G Wigglesworth, Professor D Young, Professor C Zika

**Observers** Dr A Bridgland, Ms B Green, Dr L Harms, Associate Professor B Hughes, Associate Professor J McLeod, Ms K Menezes, Ms C Newton, Ms C Prendergast, Dr J Rathjen, Ms J Reese, Dr C Stevens, Dr R Ford, Dr S Wilson

**In attendance** Mr C Reid (Acting Academic Secretary)

#### **BUSINESS**

##### **1. Welcome**

The President welcomed Professor Andrew Mackinnon as a new member of the Board.

The President also welcomed participants in the Academic Women in Leadership Program and student and staff members associated with the Information Futures Commission.

##### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Pro Vice-Chancellor (University Relations), Professor W Bebbington  
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Innovation and Development), Professor V Braach-Maksvytis  
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor P Rathjen  
 Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research), Professor R Strugnell

### **3. Tabled Papers**

The following papers were tabled:

Citation for a new professor  
 Minutes of appreciation for retiring professors

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

The following additional item was starred – C2

### **5 Minutes (item A.1)**

The Board approved the minutes of meeting 3/08 held on 24/4/2008. The Board also approved the minutes of special meetings on unsatisfactory progress in courses held on 31/1/2008, 1/2/2008, 4/3/2008, 8/2/2008, 10/1/2008, 12/2/2008, 13/3/2008 and 18/2/2008

The Board noted that an incomplete set of minutes of meeting 2/08, held on 27 March 2008, had been circulated. A corrected copy had subsequently been placed on file and on the Academic Board web-page.

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

There were no matters arising.

### **7 Reports to Council (item A.3)**

The Board received the following reports:

- 7.1 Report from 27 March Board meeting to 12 May 2008 Council meeting (item A.3(a))
- 7.1 Report from 24 April Board meeting 12 May 2008 Council meeting (item A.3(b))

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

8.1 The Board received a written report from the President.

#### **8.2 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, as circulated.

### **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 The Faculty of the VCA and the Faculty of Music**

The Vice-Chancellor noted that Council had received a petition seeking that it “withhold approval of the recommendation to establish the Faculty of the VCA and Music in the

University until such time as a business plan has been presented by the University and endorsed by the faculties, and until agreement is reached by the same parties on an appropriate name for the Faculty, based on international best practice.” The Vice-Chancellor indicated that Council approved the recommendation of the VCA Integration Committee to establish the new faculty and, in so doing, agreed to seek a business plan and advice on the name of the new faculty.

### **9.3 Senior Roles**

The Vice-Chancellor noted the changes to the roles of senior staff positions in the University and in particular noted that the work of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Innovation and Development) in establishing the area of Knowledge Transfer was now complete.

### **9.4 Committee Structure**

The Vice-Chancellor noted the changes to the University’s Committee structure recommended by Planning and Budget Committee.

### **9.5 Victoria University MOU**

The Vice-Chancellor noted that a memorandum of understanding with Victoria University had been negotiated and this would form the basis of an important collaboration between the universities.

### **9.6 Media Commentary Concerning Academic Freedom**

The Board noted that there had been comments made in the news media concerning views expressed by a member of academic staff of the University and the action being taken by the University in the matter. The Vice-Chancellor left the meeting for discussion of this item. The Provost briefly summarised past discussion in the University on the matter of academic freedom and noted that the staff member concerned was in the process of appealing a decision of the University concerning his position. The Board was advised that the Vice-Chancellor was to make a determination in the matter.

## **10 Question Time (item A.6)**

There were no questions.

## **11 General Discussion Items (item A.7)**

### **11.1 Scholarly Information in a Digital Age Choices for the University of Melbourne (item A.7(a))**

The Board received the circulated report and the Vice-Principal (Information), Ms O’Brien, made a presentation outlining the preliminary findings of the Information Futures Commission. The Board noted the following points:

- Universities generally are considering the complex question of the provision of information for teaching and research and difficult choices may have to be made.
- The Commission had considered the ‘life-cycle’ of information used in universities, and the overabundance of information in the present day.
- There was a high level of borrowing from the University’s libraries.

- There was no consistent approach to the management of scholarly records and no common service for data storage.
- The Information Futures Commission had received a large number of submissions and provoked wide interest generally.
- The main areas of concern were the number and nature of libraries, access to libraries, the degree of openness of scholarly output, and preferred information futures.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- Student members sought greater involvement of students in the process of planning information storage and provision, and encouraged departments in the University to involve their students more in their planning.
- Consideration needed to be given to the way the campus is used, and, in particular, the use of the new student centres for study, research and interaction.
- The University's library should be internationally significant as an institution, symbolising the University.
- A knowledge management plan should be developed.
- Specialist libraries are needed in particular faculties and might be centred around undergraduate and postgraduate student requirements. Graduate Schools should have their own specialist libraries.
- There is no natural boundary between postgraduate and undergraduate information provision, and precinct-based libraries might be designed to cater for multiple requirements.
- The effective cataloguing of materials is an essential requirement.
- The University should consider whether it should take a leadership role internationally in providing open access to research output.
- Research libraries must be active and cross-disciplinary, and the University should provide greater information services to research.
- The University should address the issue of maintenance of quality in a decentralised library system.
- The costs to students of access and materials needed to be considered and has equity implications.
- The University did not currently receive the kinds of large external endowments that underpin the infrastructure of some large overseas libraries.

Ms O'Brien indicated that further consultation on these and other matters would occur and the Information Futures Commission would submit a final report to the Board in due course.

### **11.2 Melbourne's Information Future – One Possible Strategy (item A.7(b))**

The Board received the circulated report, which was discussed under item 1.1 above.

### **11.3 Universitas 21 – Report on Annual Meeting (item A.7(c))**

The Board received the report of the Annual meeting of Universitas 21 and the Senior Vice-Principal briefly summarised the main items of discussion.

## **12 Planning and Budget Committee (item B.1)**

- 12.1** The Board received the report of meeting 2/08 of Planning and Budget Committee and noted that this was the final meeting of the Committee.

**12.2 University Centres** (Appendices 2.1(A), 2.1(B), 2.1(C), 2.2 and 2.3)

The Board approved the establishment of centres, the renaming of a centre and the disestablishment of centres as recommended.

**12.3 Proposal for the Establishment of New School of Philosophy, Anthropology and Social Enquiry and Change of Name of School of Political Science, Criminology and Sociology (Faculty of Arts)** (Appendix 3 (A-B))

The Board endorsed the proposals for changes to schools in the Faculty of Arts as recommended.

**13 Undergraduate Programs Committee Report of Meeting 3/08 (item C.1)**

**13.1** The Board received the report of Undergraduate Programs Committee

**13.2 Proposals for New University Breadth Subjects** (Appendices A to E)

The Board approved the new breadth subjects as recommended.

**13.3 Discontinuation of Associate Degree in Forestry Management**

The Board approved the discontinuation of intake into the Associate Degree in Forestry Management.

**13.4 Discontinuation of Associate Degree in Agriculture**

The Board approved the discontinuation of intake into the Associate Degree in Agriculture.

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

**14.1** The Board received the report of the Research and Research Training Committee.

**14.2 Research Higher Degrees Committee Report** (Appendix A)

The Board approved the following course proposals as recommended:

- Changes to the
  - Master of Creative Arts and the
  - Master of Arts (Creative Writing)
- Introduction of the Master of Arts – Spanish (Thesis only)
- Discontinuation of intake into the
  - Master of Arts (Geography) and
  - Master of Arts (Environmental Studies).

**14.3 Postgraduate Scholarships Committee**

The Board approved the change of name of the Postgraduate Scholarships Committee to the Graduate Research Scholarships Committee.

**14.4 UWA vs Gray**

The Board noted that the Committee has received advice on the implications of the judgement in the matter of UWA vs Gray for contractual arrangements with staff on intellectual property ownership. The University may need to review its provisions for

the assignation of intellectual property and the validity of some existing agreements may be in doubt.

#### **14.5 Fields of Research for RFCD**

The Board was advised that the Australian Bureau of Statistics has replaced the RFCD codes with Fields of Research. The task of implementing the changes within the University would be considerable.

#### **15 School of Enterprise Committee (item C.4)**

**15.1** The Board received the report of the School of Enterprise Committee.

#### **16 Selection Procedures Committee – Report of Meeting 2/08 (item C.5)**

**16.1** The Board received the report from Selection Procedures Committee meeting 2/08.

#### **16.2 Amendment to Entry Requirements (Appendix A)**

The Board approved the proposed amendments to entry requirements. The Board was advised that, while the requirements for entry to honours programs are not specified in regulations, it may be desirable to specify them under the Melbourne Model, where there is likely to be commonality between the honours year and the first year of two-year masters programs. The Board was also advised that the University needs to provide clear advice on subject choice to prospective applicants planning their year 12 studies.

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

**17.1** The Board received the report of the Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee.

#### **17.2 TALQAC Membership and Terms of Reference (Appendix 1)**

The Board approved the recommended changes to the membership and terms of reference of the Committee.

#### **18 Postgraduate Coursework Programs Committee (item C.10)**

**18.1** The Board received the report of the Postgraduate Coursework Programs Committee.

#### **18.2 Academic Policies (Appendices A and B)**

The Board approved the following policies:

- Student Workload
- Grading Schema Implementation in the New Student System

#### **18.3 Course Proposals**

The Board approved the discontinuation of intake into the Master of Puppetry.

The Board deferred to the next meeting its consideration of the proposed amendments to the Master of Business Administration, pending advice from Selection Procedures Committee on the entry requirements for the revised MBA program.

**19 Minutes of Appreciation**

The Board adopted minutes of appreciation for the following professors, with acclamation:

Professor D Rosenthal  
Professor C Zika

**20 Adoption or Receipt of Unstarred Items (item D.1)**

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.