

ACADEMIC BOARD – MEETING 6/98 (24 SEPTEMBER, 1998)

GENERIC AWARD REGULATIONS — GRADUATE COURSEWORK PROGRAMS

PURPOSE

This paper proposes the introduction of generic regulations for setting up new certificate, diploma and masters courses offered by the University and a process for translating existing courses offered at these levels to generic legislation where such an approach is legislatively and academically appropriate.

BACKGROUND

Since the early 1990's the University has increased significantly the number of awards offered to graduate students at the certificate, diploma and masters level. This increase is in response to the growing demand for professional upgrading and has been part of the University's strategy to broaden its funding base through an increase in fee-paying postgraduate coursework programs. The particular need of many students undertaking these courses is for a qualification in a specific subject area. The response to this need has generally given rise to a proliferation of speciality-specific awards rather than the development of particular streams within generic or existing award programs.

The proliferation of graduate and postgraduate diplomas was considered by the Academic Board in 1991. At that time the Board resolved in part that:

- Faculties contemplating new graduate diplomas and certificates should work towards establishing a single generic graduate diploma and graduate certificate for such awards.
- Faculties should review existing courses to determine whether they should be brought within the scope of generic awards.

Under the arrangements agreed to in 1991, testamurs and academic transcripts would continue to indicate the specific discipline or speciality studied.

The table at **Appendix 1** sets out by Faculty the number of awards currently offered at each level as at August 1998 and compares these totals with the number on offer in 1990. The table shows the limited success of the 1991 policy initiative, with the Graduate and Postgraduate Diplomas of Arts being the principal area where a substantive shift to a generic approach was achieved. Thirty-four specialisations are now denoted under each of these generic Diplomas.

Current University practice requires the making of a separate regulation for each new award course program. Despite the fact that a common content has been adopted for regulations establishing most new awards at each respective level, the substantial additional increase in University legislation has been a cause for concern by the Legislation Committee of Council.

To date in 1998, thirty-six proposals for new award programs at the graduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters levels have been considered by the Academic Board or the Academic Programs Committee for introduction in 1999. For the most recent of these, consideration of enabling legislation has been placed on hold pending any changes implemented as a result of the proposals in this paper.

Accordingly, it is timely that the issue of proliferation of award programs again be considered.

PROPOSED FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

The approach proposed in 1991 involved the development of generic awards with specifically designated specialities within these awards. This appears to have been unsuccessful because it has been perceived as inhibiting the capacity of Faculties to develop and promote graduate coursework programs targeted to specific groups of prospective students.

An alternative approach would be to introduce generic regulations for the various categories of graduate coursework programs which would serve as the common legislative basis for all awards offered at each respective level. This would not impose any limit on the number of awards but would consolidate the core course prescriptions and simplify the legislative process.

Under this arrangement:

- a single generic regulation would be introduced to be the legislative basis for each of the following categories of award —
 - graduate certificate
 - postgraduate certificate
 - graduate diploma
 - postgraduate diploma
 - the majority of coursework Masters
- the full title of the various approved awards would be listed under Regulation 5.4.R1. which is the consolidated list of courses offered by the University. Award courses could be promoted and offered and testamurs issued with specific titles as at present, ie. the shift to a generic approach would involve solely a legislative change rather than any change to normal academic or administrative practice.
- this legislative procedure would allow Faculties to retain generic awards (eg. Grad Dip in Arts) where they so desire.
- the generic regulation would contain only the core elements considered by the Academic Board to be essential requirements of each category of award courses. Any additional requirements specific to a particular course would need to be incorporated into and published as Faculty rules. (This approach is consistent with recent University legislation-making practice).

Proposed draft generic legislation is at **Appendix 2**. It should be noted that the proposed legislation reflects the revised admission requirements understood to be proposed by the Working Group on Guidelines for Higher Degree Programs. The form of the generic regulation may need updating in the light of action agreed in relation to consideration of the Working Group's report.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

If the proposal to adopt generic legislation for graduate coursework programs is supported, it is anticipated that it be introduced in two stages —

- all new courses for which legislation has not been made would be established under the proposed generic regulations;
- for existing certificate and diploma courses, the translation to the generic legislation would take effect from January 2000, thereby providing time to review current legislation and make alternative arrangements where additional course prescriptions may need to be made;
- for coursework Masters, a more flexible approach is proposed recognising that there may be some existing awards for which the continuation of a specific regulation is essential. Nevertheless, it would be anticipated that virtually all recently established coursework Masters programs are amenable to translation to a generic regulation without detriment.

Faculty General Managers should be responsible for implementing any agreed arrangements. The Office of the Academic Registrar would be responsible for overall co-ordination and taking up with the Academic Board Officers any implementation issues of an academic nature.

It is anticipated that legislation effecting the translation of existing awards into generic legislation would be submitted to the Academic Board by its June 1999 meeting in time for any consequential changes to be reflected in Faculty Postgraduate publications.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Academic Programs Committee recommend to the Academic Board:

- (i) that it propose to Council the introduction of generic legislation for each of the following categories of graduate coursework awards:
 - graduate certificates
 - postgraduate certificates
 - graduate diplomas
 - postgraduate diplomas
 - coursework Mastersalong the lines of the draft legislation set out in Attachment B.
- (ii) that the implementation arrangements for the proposed legislation be as set out above, with new awards being established under generic legislation and all appropriate existing awards being translated to the generic legislation with effect from 1 January 2000.
- (iii) under the direction of the Academic Board Officers in relation to academic matters, the Academic Registrar and Faculty General Managers be responsible for the introduction of generic legislation and associated implementation arrangements.

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DRAFT

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

1. The graduate certificate is offered in the various disciplines and specialties listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A) as amended from time to time.

2. A person may be a candidate for a graduate certificate in a nominated discipline or specialty offered by a faculty ('the faculty') and authorised by the Academic Board, who-

a) (i) has qualified in the University for admission to a degree approved for the purposes of this regulation by the faculty or

(ii) has qualified for a degree of another university or tertiary educational institution which is recognised by the faculty pursuant to Statute 11.1.6 as appropriate for the purposes of this regulation; or

(iii) has experience which is recognised by the faculty as evidence of adequate training for the purposes of this regulation; and

(b) has obtained the consent of the faculty.

3. The subjects of the course for the graduate certificate in the nominated discipline or specialty and the conditions on which such subjects may be taken are those prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects.

4. A candidate who, after being admitted as a candidate, has-

a) pursued a course of studies for at least one semester as a full-time student, or for at least two semesters as a part-time student, unless a different period of candidature has been approved by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty; and

(b) attended lectures and classes as prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects; and

(c) completed to the satisfaction of the examiners prescribed assessments or otherwise satisfied the faculty that he or she has gained sufficient training and experience in the prescribed fields of study;

may be granted the graduate certificate appropriate to the discipline or specialty studied, with the award title listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A).

GRADUATE DIPLOMA

1. The graduate diploma is offered in the various disciplines and specialties listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A) as amended from time to time.

2. A person may be a candidate for a graduate diploma in a nominated discipline or specialty offered by a faculty ('the faculty') and authorised by the Academic Board, who -

a) (i) is a graduate in the Faculty , or

(ii) has qualified for a degree of another university or tertiary educational institution which is recognised by the faculty pursuant to Statute 11.1.6 as appropriate for the purpose of this regulation; or

(iii) has an equivalent qualification which is recognised by the faculty as evidence of adequate training for the purpose of this regulation; and

(b) satisfies any other requirements of the faculty regarding the speciality to be studied; and

(c) has obtained the consent of the faculty.

3. The subjects of the course for the nominated graduate diploma and the conditions on which such subjects may be taken are those prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects.

4. A candidate who, after being admitted as a candidate, has-

a) pursued a course of studies for at least one year as a full-time student, or for at least two years as a part-time student, unless a different period of candidature has been approved by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty; and

(b) attended lectures and classes as prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects; and

(c) completed to the satisfaction of the examiners the prescribed assessments;

may be granted the graduate diploma appropriate to the discipline or specialty studied, with the award title listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A).

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

1. The postgraduate certificate is offered in the various disciplines and specialties listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A) as amended from time to time.

2. A person may be a candidate for the postgraduate certificate in a nominated discipline or specialty offered by a faculty ('the faculty') and authorised by the Academic Board, who-

(a) (i) is a graduate in the Faculty or

(ii) has qualified for a degree of another university or tertiary educational institution which is recognised by the faculty pursuant to Statute 11.1.6 as appropriate for the purpose of this regulation; or

(iii) has an equivalent qualification which is recognised by the faculty as evidence of adequate training for the purpose of this regulation; and

(b) satisfies any other requirements of the faculty regarding the specialty to be studied; and

(c) has obtained the consent of the faculty.

3. The subjects of the course for the postgraduate certificate and the conditions on which such subjects may be taken are those prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects.

4. A candidate who, after being admitted as a candidate, has-

a) pursued a course of advanced studies for at least one semester as a full-time student, or for at least two semesters as a part-time student, unless a different period of candidature has been approved by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty; and

(b) attended lectures and classes as prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects; and

(c) completed to the satisfaction of the examiners the prescribed assessments;

may be granted the postgraduate certificate appropriate to the discipline or specialty studied, with the award title listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A).

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

1. The postgraduate diploma is offered in the various disciplines and specialties listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A) as amended from time to time.

2. A person may be a candidate for a postgraduate diploma in a nominated discipline or specialty offered by a faculty ('the faculty') and authorised by the Academic Board, who-

(a) (i) is a graduate in the Faculty or

(ii) has qualified for a degree of another university or tertiary educational institution which is recognised by the faculty pursuant to Statute 11.1.6 as appropriate for the purpose of this regulation; or

(iii) has an equivalent qualification which is recognised by the faculty as evidence of adequate training for the purpose of this regulation; and

(b) satisfies any other requirements of the faculty regarding the specialty to be studied; and

(c) has obtained the consent of the faculty.

3. The subjects of the course for the postgraduate diploma and the conditions on which such subjects may be taken are those prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects.

4. A candidate who, after being admitted as a candidate, has-

a) pursued a course of advanced studies for at least one year as a full-time student, or for at least two years as a part-time student, unless a different period of candidature has been approved by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty; and

(b) attended lectures and classes as prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects; and

(c) completed to the satisfaction of the examiners the prescribed assessments;

may be granted the postgraduate diploma appropriate to the discipline or specialty studied, with the award title listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A).

DEGREE OF MASTER

1. The degree of master is offered in the various disciplines or specialties listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A) as amended from time to time.

2. A person may be a candidate for the degree of master in a nominated discipline or specialty offered by a faculty ('the faculty') and authorised by the Academic Board, who-

a) (i) holds a degree of this or of another university or tertiary educational institution which is recognised by the faculty pursuant to Statute 11.1.6 as appropriate for the purposes of this regulation; or

(ii) has an equivalent qualification which is recognised by the faculty as evidence of adequate training for the purpose of this regulation; and

(b) has obtained the consent of the faculty.

2. The subjects of the course for the degree and the conditions on which such subjects may be taken are those prescribed from time to time by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects.

3. A candidate who, after admission to candidature, has-

a) pursued a course of advanced studies for at least two academic years as a full-time student or for at least four academic years as a part-time student, unless a different period of candidature has been approved by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty; and

(b) attended lectures and classes and completed such other work as is prescribed by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the faculty and published with the details of subjects; and

(c) completed to the satisfaction of the examiners the prescribed assessments,

may be admitted to the degree of master appropriate to the discipline or specialty studied, with the award title listed in Regulation 5.4.R1(A).

