

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**  
**SELECTION PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING 3/07**

Meeting 3/07 of the Selection Procedures Committee was held on Monday 26 March 2007 at 2:15pm in the Jim Potter Room, Old Physics Conference Centre.

**Present:** Associate Professor B Hughes (Chair), Dr S Arkoudis, Professor J Camakaris, Associate Professor J Lewis, Professor P Pattison, Associate Professor H Sondergaard, Professor G Stevens, Associate Professor F Vazquez-Abad

**In attendance:** Mr S Halliwell (observer), Ms J Reese, Mr C Reid (Secretary), Professor R Slocombe, Ms E Tinkler

**BUSINESS**

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Professor J Lo Bianco, Ms G Luck, Professor M Morgan, Ms C Murphy, Professor J Robinson and Professor D Thomas.

**2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Committee approved the agenda and agreed to star all substantive items for discussion.

**3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee received as a tabled paper the draft minutes of the previous meeting and agreed to confirm them, subject to any comments that might be sent to the Chair or Secretary after the meeting.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

(Not dealt with elsewhere)

**4.1 Action Sheet following meeting 2/07**

The Committee noted the action sheet as tabled.

**4.2 SPC Meeting 1/07 and 2//07 Report to Academic Board**

The Committee noted the report made to Academic Board arising from meetings 1/07 and 2/07.

The Committee was informed that Ms Murphy had suggested that the statements concerning VTAC transfer provisions in the draft entry resolutions for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce, as listed in Appendix C to the report, were unnecessarily prescriptive and should be deleted. The Committee noted that the entry resolutions for these courses were due to be considered at the Council meeting scheduled for later in the day, and the Committee agreed that Professor Pattison should ask at Council that the relevant paragraphs concerning VTAC transfer provisions should be deleted from the entry resolutions.

The Committee also noted that the entry resolutions listed in Appendix C to the report to Academic Board indicated TOEFL score requirements but did not indicate which kind of TOEFL test would be used. It was agreed that proposed corrections should be forwarded to the Secretary.

#### **4.3 Task Force on English Language Bridging and Support Programs**

Nil

### **5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Nil

### **6 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES**

#### **6.1 Student Entry Pathways Sub-Committee**

Nil

##### **6.1.1 Composition of Student Entry Pathways Sub-committee**

The Committee approved the revised composition of the Student Entry Pathways Sub-committee as proposed in the circulated paper.

#### **6.2 Access Programs Sub-committee: Graduate Access Melbourne – Proposed Model**

The Committee noted the circulated paper and was advised that it had been tabled at Academic Board on 22 March so that it could be considered in time for the launch of the Melbourne Model in April. The Committee was advised that the University has had an access policy in the past and that a new policy is required to provide for graduate programs in the Melbourne Model. In discussion, the following points were made:

- The proposed graduate schools will need to develop policies for access specific to their programs and will need to determine access and equity algorithms including the relative weighting of prior degree studies.
- Specific proposals for access will need to be received and considered by SPC at least six months before implementation.
- Access provisions will need to be monitored and reports made annually to SPC for the first few years of operation, so that they can be fine-tuned on the basis of experience.
- The Access Programs Sub-committee should be asked to provide guidance to faculties and graduate schools on access and equity provisions, including criteria for factors such as financial hardship.
- The question of whether the new graduate access provisions should apply to any existing courses should be considered, depending on consideration of what constitutes a professional graduate course.

The Committee agreed that the circulated paper should be sent to faculties for consideration and response. Faculties should be asked to identify any existing postgraduate professional programs that have CSPs and to submit to the Committee proposals for access provisions for initial professional qualifications at least six months before the date of proposed implementation.

## **7 NEW COURSES/AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING COURSES**

### **7.1 Amendment to Entry Requirements for Juris Doctor**

The Committee received the circulated proposal for amendment to the entry resolution for the Juris Doctor and was advised that, as the University has not yet determined formulae for calculating GPAs for entry to postgraduate programs, reference to the use of a GPA should be omitted. The relevant clause is to be made less prescriptive. The Committee noted that publicity for the program for 2007 will have mentioned entry processes and that there may be ramifications of the change. The Committee agreed to approve the proposed change to the wording of the entry resolution for the JD for implementation in 2008 and to recommend it to Academic Board.

### **7.2 Entry Requirements to be approved**

The Committee received and noted the circulated draft summary of postgraduate course entry requirements that is to be publicised in the launching of the Melbourne Model in April. The Committee was advised that the proposed Master of Science program is expected to be modularised and that entry requirements for it have yet to be recommended. The provisions for entry to research programs and professional doctorates such as Dental Science are still to be determined. The Committee was advised that the summary would be progressively updated based on approval of entry requirements as they are developed.

### **7.3 Graduate Diploma in Competition Law**

The Committee considered the proposed entry resolution for the Graduate Diploma in Competition Law, as circulated, and agreed to seek clarification of what might be a relevant discipline for the purposes of the prior study requirements for entry. Subject to clarification of this matter, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed entry resolution and to recommend approval by Academic Board.

### **7.4 Master of Teaching**

The Committee considered and agreed to recommend to Academic Board the proposed entry resolution for the Master of Teaching, as circulated.

### **7.5 Bachelor of Optometry Selection 2008 and 2009**

The Committee received and noted a tabled memorandum from the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs) in the Faculty of Science concerning pathways into the Bachelor of Optometry. The Committee noted that there are normally two pathways into the program – direct entry and entry through transfer from the BSc after first year. As a result of the introduction of the new generation BSc, first year studies in the BSc will no longer provide students with an appropriate background for transfer, and in future, entry to optometry is likely to be solely through the direct pathway. This situation will continue until a postgraduate Optometry program is developed.

## **8 ENTRY POLICY AND STRATEGY MATTERS**

### **8.1 Recruiting High Achieving Secondary Students**

The Committee considered items 8.1 and 8.2 simultaneously. The Committee noted the circulated papers concerning the recruitment of high achieving students and noted

that these had been tabled at Academic Board on 22 March 2007. The Committee was advised that it is likely that approximately 2000 school leavers would gain an entry score equivalent to 95 or better and that the University hopes to recruit approximately 700 of these students per annum. The Committee endorsed the proposals generally, and endorsed especially the proposed strategy of attempting to select at least one such student from every school in Victoria.

## **8.2 Implementing the Melbourne Model: Preventing Bright Flight and Managing Access and Equity**

This matter was considered under item 8.1 above.

## **8.2 Use of Grade Point Averages for Postgraduate Selection**

As noted under item 7.1 above, formulae for the calculation of grade point averages have yet to be determined. A working group is considering this matter and there is a wide range of grading practices across the University that will have to be accommodated. It is also necessary to develop formulae that will enable the equitable calculation of GPA scores for students from other universities in Australia and overseas. It was suggested that consideration be given to the weighting of cognate subjects in the calculation. The Committee agreed that it would be desirable to develop formulae for GPA calculation before Open Day so that they can be announced then. It was agreed that principles for the weighting of subjects should be considered at the next meeting. The Chair invited comments from members outside the meeting as to appropriate principles for weighting. It was suggested that the postgraduate scholarship applicant ranking process might be used as a model and that overseas models might also be considered. It was also suggested that breadth components in new generation undergraduate degrees should be considered in the formulae.

# **9 MATTERS APPROVED EXECUTIVELY**

## **9.1 Concurrent Diploma in Mathematical Sciences**

The Committee noted a proposal for a concurrent Diploma in Mathematical Sciences, which had been approved executively by the President of Academic Board. The program might provide a model for the structure and operation of concurrent diplomas in the University under the Melbourne model. The Diploma would be available to students in any of the new-generation undergraduate degrees, except the Bachelor of Science (where the major in Mathematics and Statistics resides), and would enable students to study a sequence of subjects equivalent to a major in Mathematics and Statistics, giving access to postgraduate opportunities, while still fulfilling the requirements of the core in their base new-generation degree. Students would apply to enter the program at the end of first year and would have to have successfully completed at a prescribed standard two relevant mathematics subjects as part of their breadth component in first year. By a combination of appropriately chosen subjects within breadth and 50 additional points in mathematics and statistics, the requirements for a mathematics and statistics major can be met and the Diploma awarded. Students would be able to overload one subject per semester in their second and third years to take the 50 additional points if they wished and thus not extend the duration of their undergraduate studies.

The Committee endorsed the program.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

**11 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Selection Procedures Committee will be held on **Monday 30 April 2007** in the Jim Potter Room, Old Physics Building.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm