

CONFIRMED

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
SELECTION PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
MEETING 6/08**

A meeting of the Selection Procedures Committee was held on Monday 29 September 2008 at 2.15pm in the Jim Potter Room, Old Physics Building.

Present: Associate Professor B Hughes (Chair), Professor J Camakaris, Associate Professor J Lewis, Dr P McLean, Professor M Morgan, Ms C Murphy, Associate Professor B Parry, Professor P Pattison, Professor D Thomas.

In attendance: Ms E Koch (Secretary)

BUSINESS

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr S Arkoudis, Associate Professor J Kinder and Professor G Stevens.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The committee approved the agenda.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to an amendment to change the heading of Item 10.2 to read 'Access Melbourne', the committee confirmed the minutes of meeting 5/08 as a true and accurate record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

(Not dealt with elsewhere)

4.1 Action Sheet following meeting 5/08, 4 August 2008

The committee noted the action sheet.

4.2 SPC Meeting 5/08 Report to Academic Board

The committee noted the report to Academic Board.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair noted that the secretary was currently reviewing all of the entry resolutions published on the University's website and that these would be forwarded to the Committee for approval later in the year.

5.1 New English Language Protocols and the DELA Test

The Chair noted that the New English Language Protocols and the DELA Test had been endorsed at the August meeting of the Selection procedures Committee and would be reported to the next meeting of the Academic Board. Professor Pattison reported that the next step was managing the implementation of the new DELA testing

for 2009. Professor Pattison noted that the DELA test had originally been developed to test speakers of English as a second language and in the longer term would need to be developed to better assess the English-language skills of native speakers.

6 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

6.1 Student Entry Pathways Sub-Committee

The committee noted the report.

6.2 Access Programs Sub-Committee

Nil.

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

Nil.

9 MATTERS APPROVED EXECUTIVELY

The Committee noted the following matters approved by the Chair and the President of Academic Board since meeting 4/08:

- Master of Social Work
- Master of Nursing Science
- Master of Psychology (Clinical – Singapore)
- Master of Education (Teaching Content Through English)
- Bachelor of Arts Extension
- U21 Diploma in Global Relations

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Concurrent Diplomas Policy

The Chair noted that concurrent diplomas were originally developed specifically for access by top students in order to help combat 'bright flight'. Concurrent diplomas were now promoted more widely and the Diploma in Languages was particularly popular. The Committee was consequently asked to endorse the revised Concurrent Diplomas Policy and to endorse in principle the selection requirements.

The Committee noted the following issues:

- The diploma was available only to students enrolled in the new-generation undergraduate degrees and the Bachelor of Engineering, but it was not clear whether the diplomas should be available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications). Professor Pattison undertook to confirm whether this was possible.
- The penultimate paragraph on p1, which was deemed ambiguous, should clearly state that the Diploma in Music (Practical) required 75 points on top of the 300 points required for the underlying bachelors degree.
- The fifth bullet point on p3, section 3 should read 'between 25 and 34'.
- The Diploma in Languages required no prerequisites for languages above first-year level; instead students would be assessed to determine the appropriate study level.
- Students could not take out a completed concurrent diploma without completing a bachelors degree.
- Students not selected for a concurrent diploma at first-year level would compete for places in later-year entry.

- At this stage concurrent diplomas had no quotas.
- For Commonwealth Supported Place enrolments in the Diplomas in Languages and in Mathematical Sciences, fifty points of the diploma would be HECS-free. No HECS free points were available in other diplomas.

The Committee noted that after final approval of the revised Policy on Concurrent Diplomas, formal resolutions on selection to implement the selection requirements will be presented for Committee approval

10.2 SPC Terms of Reference

The Committee noted its revised terms of reference and agreed to amend Membership to include 'Director, International or nominee', and to include a reference to Academic Board waivers under item 4.3.

10.3 Meeting Schedule 2009

The Committee noted the meeting schedule for 2009.

10.4 Elite Athletes and Elite Performers Policy

The Chair informed members that the Policy and Procedures Working Group had considered the policy a number of times. The Committee did not generally support the policy and noted the following issues.

- There was no prospect of implementing something of this nature for 2009.
- When assessing students for selection, it would be necessary to determine what flexibility and concessions schools had already allowed elite athletes and elite performers.
- The argument was that this policy addressed matters of equity was not valid because being an elite performer or an elite athlete was not a disadvantage.
- The President of the Academic Board currently had absolute discretion in matters of selection, in consultation with the Chair of the Selection Procedures Committee.

10.5 Approval of Graduate Entry Pathways from BEnv to Melbourne School of Design Courses

The Committee noted that the entry resolutions to postgraduate courses currently required a portfolio and a personal statement and therefore it was not appropriate to offer guaranteed entry. The secretary undertook to seek clarification from the faculty.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Selection Procedures Committee was scheduled for 2.15pm on Monday 1 September 2008 in the Jim Potter Room, Old Physics Building.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.