ACADEMIC SENATE

The next meeting (Meeting 09/04) of the Academic Senate of the University of Western Sydney will be held on Friday 16 October 2009 at 9:30am in the Boardroom, Building AD at Werrington North.

For apologies and enquiries, telephone (02) 9678 7820, fax (02) 9678 7831 or email g.wheatley@uws.edu.au.

REVISED AGENDA (13/10/09)

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

The Chair of Academic Senate, Associate Professor Paul Wormell, will chair the meeting.

As at 13 October 2009, apologies have been received from Professors John Ingleson, Gregory Kolt, Geoff Scott, Jan Reid and Nancy Wright, Associate Professors Berice Anning and Robyn Bushell, and Ms Laurel Jackson.

This is the first meeting at which Mr David Clarke (Vice President Academic of The Hive Student Union), the elected Undergraduate Student Member, will attend.

1.2 STARRING OF ITEMS

Senate members will be asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, items already starred on the agenda are:

- 3.2 Award Courses and Units Approval Policy
- 3.3 Proposed Amendment: Review of Grade Policy
- 3.4 Research Higher Degree Scholarship Policy: Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents Policy
- 3.6 Draft Academic Senate Workplan 2009-2011

It is recommended:

That the documents for all unstarrred agenda items be noted and, except where alternative action is noted as appropriate, all recommendations contained in those items be endorsed.

1.3 ORDER OF BUSINESS

If a re-arrangement of the order of business is required.
1.4 OTHER BUSINESS
Members are invited to nominate other relevant matters, noting that such items will normally be included on the agenda for a future meeting.

1.5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 August 2009 require confirmation.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate confirm the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 14 August 2009, as an accurate record.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting held on 20 March 2009
2.1 UNIVERSITY MEDAL POLICY (Item 3.9)
Action required: Academic Senate requested the Education Committee to establish a Working Party to investigate the possible advantages/disadvantages for particular disciplines in relation to eligibility criteria for the University Medal award and recommend criteria that are equitable across disciplines.

Outcome: The Education Committee investigated the matter and considered that the University Medal Policy may not require amendment. The Committee felt that it was not appropriate to adjust the criteria to enable more College of Business graduates to obtain the University Medal. Instead, the College of Business’ School Academic Committees may wish to consider the assessment culture within the College and their schools, and ways to encourage talented students to go on to honours-level study (for further details, refer to the Senate Education Committee report at item 4.4 of this agenda).

Meeting held on 29 May 2009
2.2 CHAIR’S REPORT: REVISIONS TO ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (Item 3.1)
Action required: The Chair, Associate Professor Paul Wormell, was requested to convene a workshop for the Chairs of School Academic Committees (SACs) to discuss issues relating to the operation of the SACs and their terms of reference. The workshop would be supplemented with information available on-line. The outcome will be reported to Senate.

Status: Due to difficulties in convening a workshop at which a reasonable number of the SAC Chairs are available, the Chair has held preliminary discussions with the Chairs of their respective College EAPCs, about the possibility of convening College-based meetings of SAC Chairs to ensure good alignment of the reporting lines and quality assurance mechanisms of the School, College and peak Senate Committees.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 CHAIR’S REPORT
A written report from the Chair, covering recent activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 14 August 2009, is attached.

The Chair will respond to any questions in relation to the report, if requested.
POLICY MATTERS

3.2 AWARD COURSES AND UNITS APPROVAL POLICY  

The Senate Education Committee has considered and endorsed the proposed *Award Courses and Units Approval Policy* (attached), for approval by Senate.

The Policy is the third element in the course and unit development framework that embraces Curriculum Design, Structure and Nomenclature Awards and Courses and Units Approval. The Policy facilitates the development and approval of courses and units, taking into account the University’s strategic plans for academic development, the academic quality assurance framework and the quality control delivered by the schools, colleges, college external advisory committees and supporting units across UWS.

In due course, a curriculum policy will be developed to accompany the proposed Policy, covering Graduate Attributes, student retention and other aspects of the pedagogical rationale for the development of courses and units.

It is recommended:

*That Academic Senate approve the Award Courses and Units Approval Policy, with effect from 1 January 2010.*

Professor Campbell, Chair – Senate Education Committee, will introduce this item.

3.3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: REVIEW OF GRADE POLICY  

The Senate Education Committee has considered and endorsed the proposed amendment to the *Review of Grade Policy*, for approval by Senate (to follow).

The proposed amendment of the Policy arises from the development of an e-form for applications for Review of Grade and discussions with Heads of School.

The principal change is that consideration of applications by a school committee has been deleted as most schools do not follow this practice as it is considered inefficient and does not add value to the process. The proposed process removed some steps deemed to be inefficient, and vested the responsibility for undertaking reviews of grade with the Head of School, rather than a school committee. However, School Academic Committees have an overall monitoring role for these reviews, under their Terms of Reference.

It is recommended:

*That Academic Senate approve the proposed revision to the Review of Grade Policy, with immediate effect, noting that references in the proposed Policy to “unit outlines” should, for 2009 only, be references to “unit outlines / learning guides” (clauses 6. 10 a, 10 b and 10 c).*

Professor Campbell, Chair – Senate Education Committee, will introduce this item.

3.4 RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP POLICY: AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS  

The Office of Research Services has submitted the proposed *Research Higher Degrees Scholarship Policy: Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents Policy*, for approval by Senate.
The Policy outlines the specific award conditions of research higher degree (RHD) scholarships awarded to domestic RHD candidates. In some cases, there may be additional award conditions, to cover individual requirements, such as those applying to a particular grant.

It is recommended
That Academic Senate approve the Research Higher Degree Scholarship Policy: Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents Policy, with immediate effect.

Professor Wilkes, Chair – Senate Research Studies Committee, will introduce this item.

SENATE ACTIVITY

3.5 UWS MAKING THE DIFFERENCE: OBJECTIVES AS09/04-3.5
The University’s Making the Difference objectives provide for an Engaged Learning experience, development of targeted world class Research, and Organisational and Financial Strength. To assist Senate in its discussion of the draft Workplan 2009-2011, a copy of the Making The Difference diagram is attached.

3.6 DRAFT SENATE WORKPLAN 2009-2011 AS09/04-3.6
The Chair of Senate, Associate Professor Paul Wormell, has prepared a draft Senate Workplan 2009-2011, in consultation with members of the Senate Executive Committee, key Committee Chairs and senior OAR staff.

The Senate Workplan aligns with the University’s Making the Difference objectives and Strategic Plan, and sets out the focus of Senate activity for the current term, taking account of the Senate’s role and terms of reference embodied in the Academic Governance Policy, and the University’s preparation for the AUQA audit.

The Chair will introduce the draft Workplan for Senate consideration and endorsement.

It is recommended
That Academic Senate endorse the Academic Senate Workplan 2009-2011.

3.7 STUDENT APPEALS AGAINST EXCLUSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY AS09/04-3.7
Following the Autumn 2009 semester there were a total of 450 students excluded from the University as a consequence of unsatisfactory academic performance in terms of the Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Performance Policy. Of those students, 186 appeals against exclusion were received and considered by the Academic Senate’s Progression Appeals Panel. This compares to 440 exclusions at the same period in 2008 with 164 students submitting an appeal.

The Academic Secretariat has conducted an analysis of the appeals considered by the Senate Progressions Appeals Panel on 5 August 2009, and subsequent late appeals (attached).

It is recommended
That Academic Senate note the report on the unsatisfactory academic progress appeals considered by the Senate’s Progression Appeals Panel on 5 August 2009 and subsequent late appeals.
LATE ITEMS

3.8 PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A COMBINED MBBS/PhD PROGRAM  AS09/04-3.8

The Research Studies Committee has considered and endorsed the proposal to introduce a combined MBBS/PhD program. The Committee seeks Senate approval “in principle” to the proposal.

The School of Medicine wishes to offer the combined program, as outlined in the attached document. The proposal has also been discussed extensively within the School and approved by the Curriculum Committee. Further documentation will be provided by the College of Health and Science pending approval of the MBBS component by the relevant College committees, EAPC and APCAC and full documentation of the course proposal.

It is recommended
That Academic Senate approve, in principle, a proposal to introduce a combined MBBS/PhD program.

Professor Wilson, Professor of Medical Education, will introduce this item.

3.9 PROPOSED DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT) RULE POLICY  AS09/04-3.9

The Research Studies Committee has considered and endorsed the proposed Doctor of Philosophy (Political and Social Thought) Rule Policy, for approval by Senate. The proposal features one year of coursework, for introduction in 2010.

The Policy provides for the academic governance of the degree Doctor of Philosophy, Political and Social Thought, including the admission of candidates, matters related to the enrolment and progression of candidatures, examination and graduation.

It is recommended
That Academic Senate approve the Doctor of Philosophy (Political and Social Thought) Rule Policy, with immediate effect.

Professor Wilkes, Chair – Senate Research Studies Committee, will introduce this item.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  AS09/04-4.1

The Senate Executive Committee convened an e-meeting on 22 September 2009.

A copy of the report of the meeting is attached.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the report of the Senate Executive Committee e-meeting held on 22 September 2009 and ratify the decisions contained therein.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE  AS09/04-4.2

The Research Committee met on 4 August 2009. Minutes of the meeting are attached.
It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 4 August 2009.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE AS09/04-4.3
The Research Studies Committee met on 7 July, 4 August and 1 September 2009. Minutes of the meetings are attached.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the minutes of the Research Studies Committee meetings held on 7 July, 4 August and 1 September 2009.

4.4 EDUCATION COMMITTEE (to follow)
The Education Committee met on 21 September 2009. A report of the meeting is to follow.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the report of the Education Committee meeting held on 21 September 2009.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE AS09/04-4.5
The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee met on 8 September 2009 and convened a special meeting by rotary circulation on 11 September 2009.

The recommendations contained therein were approved by Senate Executive Committee, on behalf of Academic Senate, at its e-meeting on 22 September 2009. The relevant resolutions are contained in the Senate Executive Committee report of that meeting, at item 4.1 of this agenda.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meetings held on 8 and 11 September 2009.

4.6 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
The Board of Trustees most recent meeting was held on 2 September 2009.

The next meeting is scheduled for 25 November 2009. Summaries of Board of Trustees meetings, and minutes of Board of Trustees meetings, are available on the web-site at: http://www.uws.edu.au/boardoftrustees.

5 FOR INFORMATION

5.1 ACADEMIC SENATE ELECTIONS TO FILL TWO CASUAL VACANCIES
Following a recent call for nominations to fill two casual vacancies on the Academic Senate, occasioned by the election of Associate Professor Paul Wormell as Chair of Senate and Dr Elfriede Sangkuhl as Deputy Chair of Senate, the following declarations have been made:

- Mrs Debra Moodie-Bain has been elected unopposed to the position of one member of the academic staff of the School of Natural Sciences; and
- Dr Stephen Janes has been elected unopposed to the position of one member of the academic staff of the School of Law.
Their term of office as members of Senate will commence on 7 October 2009 and conclude on 19 March 2011.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Academic Senate is provisionally scheduled for Friday 20 November 2009 in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North, commencing at 9:30am.