ACADEMIC SENATE

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Special Senate Executive Committee meeting (09:03) conducted on 16 April 2009 via email circulation.

The agenda and papers were circulated electronically on Thursday 16 April 2009, for response by COB Monday 20 April 2009.

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Attendance

Participants:
Professor Anne Cusick (Chair)
Professor Stuart Campbell
Professor Andrew Cheetham
Professor Barbara Holland
Professor Geoff Scott
Ms Thea Seabrook
Associate Professor Paul Wormell

(There were no apologies)

2 TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF COURSES AND UNITS

The Committee noted that the Chair of Academic Senate, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) and the Academic Registrar jointly sought the Committee’s approval of a transitional arrangement for the approval of courses and units that are scheduled for introduction in 2010.

Academic Senate holds the delegation to determine amendments to the Board approved terms of reference and memberships of committees of Senate. Circumstances had arisen under which a temporary suspension of two Terms of Reference for School/Badanami Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committees (SASQACs) was proposed.

Academic Governance Arrangements for the Approval of Courses and Units

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference for the new School Academic Committees (SACs) include consideration of course and unit proposals before they are considered by the relevant College Education, Assessment and Progression Committee (CEAPC). The CEAPCs approve unit proposals and make recommendations regarding course proposals to the Academic Planning and Course Approvals Committee (APCAC) and Senate.

However, given the timetable constraints for approval of courses and units to be introduced in 2010, the Committee noted that it was not feasible to convene the SACs or their Executive Committees in time for them to make recommendations to the next round of CEAPCs.
The Terms of Reference for the School Academic Committees, as contained in the *Standing Committees of Academic Senate Policy*, relate to the following clauses:

(81) Consider proposals for new units, and major and minor unit changes, and recommend such any necessary amendments to the relevant College Education, Assessment and Progression Committee.

(82) Consider proposals for new courses.

It was resolved (SEC09-03/01)

*That the Executive Committee of Academic Senate*

(i) determine that, as a one-off transitional measure, any unit or course still (as of 16 April, 2009) requiring approval for introduction in 2010, be referred by the proposers (Head of School endorsement if a unit, Executive Dean endorsement if a course) directly to the relevant CEAPC for approval at its April meeting,

(ii) approve the temporary suspension, in respect of course and unit proposals for introduction in 2010 only, of clauses (81) and (82) of the Standing Committees of Academic Senate Policy.

Consequential Action

The relevant Heads of School/Chairs of School Academic Committees (SACs) will be advised that the temporary measures are being adopted because of urgency and the presumed impracticability of fully constituting all SACs or their Executive Committees in time.

Action: Secretary

3 **NEXT MEETING OF SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Senate Executive is provisionally scheduled for 24 July 2009 in meeting room 3, Building AD, Werrington North, commencing at 9:30am.