ACADEMIC SENATE 
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The next meeting (Meeting 09:04) of the Academic Senate Executive Committee of the University of Western Sydney will be held on Friday 1 May 2009, commencing at 9:30am in Meeting Room 2, Building AD, at Werrington North campus.

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

AGENDA

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

★1.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGY
The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Anne Cusick, will chair the meeting.

As at 27 April 2009, an apology has been received from Professor Barbara Holland.

★1.2 STARRING OF ITEMS
The primary purpose of the meeting will be consideration of the consequential implications relating to the academic governance arrangements and the recent revisions approved by the Board of Trustees.

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

★1.3 REPORT OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE E-MEETING
CONDUCTED ON 16 APRIL 2009

(Attachment 1.3)

The unconfirmed report of the Senate Executive Committee E-meeting conducted on 16 April 2009 is at Attachment 1.3.
It is recommended:
That the unconfirmed report of the Senate Executive Committee meeting conducted electronically on 16 April 2009 be accepted as an accurate record.

1.4 MATTERS ARISING
There are no matters arising from the report of the April 2009 meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1.5 ACTION SHEETS FROM RECENT MEETINGS (Attachment 1.5)
To assist the Committee with monitoring and controlling the flow of work to the Senate and the Senate Executive Committee, and progress with the business of Academic Senate, the action sheet from Academic Senate meeting held on 20 March 2009 is attached. The status of active items is indicated where appropriate.

The Action Sheet for the Executive Committee meeting conducted in April 2009 is also attached. The action item is completed.

2. MATTER REFERRED FROM SENATE AND OTHER SENATE COMMITTEES

2.1 REPORT FROM ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE (Attachment 2.1)
The report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APACAC) meeting held on 1 April 2009 is at Attachment 2.1. Consideration of these matters will assist in meeting the UAC deadline of 26 May to provide copy for the UAC Guide.

It is recommended:
That the Committee note the report from the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held on 1 April 2009, and approve, on behalf of Academic Senate, the recommendations contained therein.

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (Attachment 3.1)
The Chair of Academic Senate has requested a Special meeting of Senate Executive Committee to consider the following matters:

(a) Academic Governance Revision
School Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committees (SASQAC) were established to ensure quality within schools by monitoring academic policy adherence, supporting academic policy implementation, and providing recommendations regarding units to College Committees.

Recently, the overlap between SASQAC terms of reference and Head of School responsibilities was identified. To clarify this, the Board of Trustees,
on the recommendation of the DVCAE and DVCCS, approved the following changes to academic governance arrangements for the school committee:

- the Head of School will be the Chair of the school committee
- the school committee will be renamed “School Academic Committee”
- the people who were Chairs of the school committee will remain members of Academic Senate.
- the people who were Chairs of the school committee will remain members of the School Academic Committee to maintain a direct link with Academic Senate.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Strategy and Services) has requested that the Executive Committee of Senate oversight the implementation of these decisions, including a further change to permit Heads of Schools to nominate a Chair from within the School Academic Committee membership should they so desire.

Attachment 3.1A provides a summary of the changes to the Academic Governance Policy and the Academic Senate Standing Committees Policy, as determined by the Board of Trustees on 8 April 2009, as well as the changes to the respective policies identified by track changes.

It is recommended:

that consequential amendments to the Academic Governance Policy and the Academic Senate Standing Committees Policy, as recommended in this document and the attachment, in accordance with the decisions of the Board of Trustees of 8 April, 2009, be approved by Executive Committee, to have immediate effect.

(b) Policy and Procedural Implications

The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare a brief for the Education Committee and Senate, detailing policy amendments and related procedural changes that are required in the light of the recent academic governance changes.

Attachment 3.1B provides details of consequential amendments to various academic policies. The purposes of the paper and the attachment are to seek:

(i) Executive Committee’s endorsement of the proposed amendments to academic policies, as shown in track changes in the attachment, which are designed to reflect Board of Trustees decisions about academic governance arrangements in October 2008 and April 2009 and

(ii) Executive Committee’s advice, for further drafting, about particular points, shown in the attachment as requiring special advice from the Committee.
Recommendations

It is recommended:

(i) that Executive Committee, as a matter of urgency, consider and endorse the amendments to academic policies, as proposed in the attachment, and refer them to relevant organisational units and Chairs of relevant committees, for urgent comment to Education Committee;

(ii) that Executive Committee request Education Committee to prepare, by rotary circulation to a working panel if necessary, a report to the next meeting of Academic Senate regarding comment received on the proposed amendments; and

(iii) that Executive Committee recommend the proposed amendments to the next meeting of Academic Senate, for approval, subject to consideration of the report from Education Committee.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 REPORT OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS & INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

(Spring 2008 exclusion appeals)

The Chair of Senate has recently consulted with the Progression Appeals Panel (the Panel) of Academic Senate to reconsider a decision of the Panel in which the exclusion appeal was originally Dismissed. Following notification of outcome of the appeal, the student provided additional evidence considered compelling and justification for a review of the initial decision (due to privacy considerations, the student is identified as CHS22). The Progression and Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Policy states that the decision of the Panel is final.

The Chair consulted Ms Linda Watson, Manager - Complaints Resolution Unit, for independent guidance in terms of the authority of the Chair / Panel to review a decision. Ms Watson advised that if relevant and compelling new evidence comes to light, and it is clear that a decision outcome would have been different had all the facts been available, she would likely recommend overturning the previous decision. The Chair then formed a view that the appeal outcome be changed to Uphold with no conditions imposed and sought the views of the Panel. The Panel unanimously endorsed the recommendation of the Chair.

Another student, identified as COA25, has also provided additional substantive evidence. The Chair has decided to review the initial decision of the Panel in the light of the new evidence submitted.

It is recommended:

That the Committee note the action of the Chair of Senate and the Progressions Appeals Panel of Academic Senate regarding the review of two appeals by students against exclusion, (identified as COA25 and CHS22), following the submission of compelling new evidence.
5. NEXT MEETING OF SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (provisional) is Friday 24 July 2009 in the Meeting room 2, Building AD, Werrington North, commencing at 9:30am.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be held on Friday 29 May 2009.