ACADEMIC SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (Meeting 09:09) will be conducted via email circulation. Responses are to be returned to Greg Wheatley by Friday 30 October 2009.

For enquiries/apologies: Greg Wheatley telephone (02) 9678 7820
or email g.wheatley@uws.edu.au

E-AGENDA

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Attendance and Apologies
Your electronic participation will indicate attendance. A no response will be considered an apology.

2. INSTRUCTIONS
Members are requested to consider items for decision, then vote either for or against the recommendation by placing an X in the table, as indicated below. The ‘Comments’ section is available if any amendments are required or to provide additional information for further discussion. Please email your response to g.wheatley@uws.edu.au no later than close of business on Friday 30 October 2009.

Example:

Item 2 Recommendation | For | Against
Comment:

Decision
Please indicate your decision by marking an X in the appropriate box below and return to g.wheatley@uws.edu.au by Friday 30 October 2009.

3. CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Attachment 3)
The minutes of the previous meeting conducted by electronic circulation on 22 September 2009 require confirmation.

It is recommended
That the unconfirmed report of the Senate Executive Committee meeting conducted by electronic circulation on 22 September 2009 be accepted as an accurate record.

Item 3 Recommendation | For | Against
Comment:

4. ACTION SHEETS FROM RECENT MEETINGS
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 meetings held on 14 August and 16 October 2009 are attached. The status of active items is indicated where appropriate.
The Action Sheet from the Executive Committee meeting held on 22 September 2009 is also attached.

Comment:

5. GENERIC AMENDMENT TO RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE POLICIES:
(A) RESEARCH MASTERS (HONOURS) POLICY  (Attachment 5A)
(B) PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE POLICY  (Attachment 5B)
(C) DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY RULE POLICY  (Attachment 5C)
(D) DOCTOR OF MEDICINE POLICY  (Attachment 5D)

The Research Studies Committee (RSC) has recommended to Academic Senate amendment to the following RHD policies:

(a) Research Masters (Honours) Policy (clause 81);
(b) Professional Doctorate Policy (clause 81);
(c) Doctor of Philosophy Rule Policy (clause 85); and
(d) Doctor of Medicine (clause 76)

with the inclusion of the following clause in each policy:

“Completion Seminar

All candidates are to present a completion seminar to the Academic Unit of enrolment no later than three months prior to submission of the final thesis for examination.”

Rationale

The RSC has advised that the completion seminar will:

(a) provide a final check before examination;
(b) encourage development of research culture by show-casing candidate work; and
(c) provide opportunities for candidates to communicate their research.

The RSC considers that the presentation is as much a celebration and recognition of effort as well as a final check.

Implementation

The RSC felt that it is the prerogative of the relevant Colleges/Schools and or Research Centres to determine how best they might organise these events. The College Associate Deans (Research) have been requested to discuss the matter within their Colleges.

**It is recommended:**

*That Senate Executive Committee approve, on behalf of Academic Senate, amendment to the following RHD policies:
(a) Research Masters (Honours) Policy
(b) Professional Doctorate Policy
(c) Doctor of Philosophy Rule Policy and
(d) Doctor of Medicine Policy

with the inclusion of a clause to require that all candidates are to present a completion seminar to the Academic Unit of enrolment no later than three months prior to submission of the final thesis for examination, with immediate effect.*

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6. INTRODUCTION OF A COMBINATION MBBS/PHD PROGRAM: AMENDMENT TO SENATE RESOLUTION
Academic Senate, at its meeting held on 16 October 2009, passed the following resolution (based on the recommendation from the Research Studies Committee):

It was resolved (AS09:04/08)
That Academic Senate approve, in principle, a proposal to introduce a combined MBBS/PhD program.

During consideration of the item, Senate noted the following:

- There is no change proposed to either the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) course nor the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

- Students who opt to take the combined courses would take a Leave of Absence from their medical studies after the completion of the Bachelor of Medical Research degree (following completion of either Years 1 and 2 of MBBS or Years 1, 2 and 3 of MBBS, depending on what option is selected), complete their PhD and resume the MBBS.

Professor Wilkes, Chair – Research Studies Committee, has since requested that, as the intention is to offer the combination as a package of already approved separate courses, the inclusion of “in principle” in the resolution should be deleted from the Senate decision. To support this request, the Office of the Academic Registrar has advised that, as no additional course documentation would be required, the reference to "in principle" in the Senate decision appears unnecessary.

Accordingly, Senate Executive is requested to consider, on behalf of Senate, the following recommendation:

It is recommended:
That Senate Executive Committee, on behalf of Academic Senate, delete the reference to “in principle” from Academic Senate resolution AS09:04/08, to read as follows: “That Academic Senate approve a proposal to introduce a combined MBBS/PhD program.”

The decision will be reported to the next meeting of Senate.

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7. NEXT MEETING OF SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The next meeting of the Senate Executive is provisionally scheduled for 4 December 2009 in meeting room 3, Building AD, Werrington North, commencing at 9:30am.

The next meeting of Academic Senate is scheduled for 20 November 2009.