

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING
DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 1 of the Divisional Education Committee was held on 12 February 2004 in the Mills Room, Chancelry.

Present: Professor Gillies (in the chair), Dr Andrews, Dr Behrens, Professor Brown, Professor Da Costa, Ms Deeble, Dr Grafton, Dr Hooper, Professor Jackson, Professor Manson, Dr Martin, Dr Provis, Ms Rao, Dr Rogers, Dr Ross, Dr Sankaranarayana, Mr Swansson, Professor Tryon and Professor Withers.

By Invitation: Professor Carroll, Mr Haines (for Item 6) and Ms Roberts (CEDAM).

In Attendance: Mr Bambrick, Dr Errington, Dr Slaney (for Dr Millar), and Mrs Taylor (for Dr Miller).

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

There were no items marked confidential in the agenda.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY OR MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of material personal interest in the matters on the agenda.

PART 1: GENERAL ITEMS

ITEM 1. MINUTES

Minutes of Divisional Education Committee meetings will be circulated to members and other interested staff by email.

ITEM 2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr Cornish and Ms Harris.

2.1 Statement from the Chair Updating the Education and Educational Policy Decision-Making Arrangements in 2004

The Chair, Professor Gillies, informed the Committee of the arrangements for educational policy under the University's Divisional structure. Divisional Education Committees will take over responsibility from the Graduate Degrees Committee and the Undergraduate Program Committee for recommending the approval of coursework proposals. The new system will give greater coherence to coursework

throughout the university by combining scrutiny of undergraduate and graduate coursework proposals in one body. The Chair, in his capacity as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), will ratify the decisions of the Divisional Education Committees on coursework proposals. A timetable outlining the administrative deadlines for coursework approval was distributed.

The Graduate Degrees Committee will continue to deal with individual student cases until Council has approved the new award rules, which will delegate authority to deal with such cases to the DVCE.

2.2 Membership of the Committee

The Committee resolved to recommend to the Vice-Chancellor the membership of the Committee, and the two representatives from this Division to sit on the Social Sciences and Arts Divisional Education Committee, as set out in paper 25a/2004.

2.3 Appointment of Coursework Shepherds

The Secretary outlined the role of shepherds in assisting academic areas in the preparation of coursework proposals. Arrangements for the Faculties of Science and Engineering, and the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health for representative of the respective areas to sit on the appropriate curriculum committees were noted.

2.4 Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates for 2004 were endorsed:

18 March
17 June
12 August
16 September
25 November (instead of February 2005)

2.5 Coursework Review

A proforma for the annual review of coursework programs was distributed by email to Deans and Directors. Completed forms will be tabled at the next meeting. The Chair noted that this review was part of the University's preparation for the upcoming quality assurance audit. Arrangements for a sample of Honours theses to be examined externally were foreshadowed.

ITEM 3. STARRED ITEMS

The items starred were 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9. Unstarred items were noted without debate as set out in the agenda.

ITEM 4. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

One item was received. See Part 5.

ITEM 5. MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION

- PhD Attendance Requirements
Referred to a working party by GDC in June 2003 to consider further changes to the policy based on appropriate supervision. Working party recommendations (tabled September GDC) under consideration by stakeholders.
- Minimum Resources Policy for Research Students
Referred to a working party by GDC in October 2003 to review and recommend and improvements to the policy.

PART 2: POLICY ITEMS**ITEM 6. EXTENSION OF TIME IN WHICH TO SUBMIT (ETTS) STUDENT ENROLMENT**

Mr Peter Haines, Manager, Statistical Services, explained the importance to the University of matching the resources involved in ensuring completion of research theses with a source of revenue. From 2005, ETTS students will remain enrolled until they submit or withdraw. Practice in charging fees varies widely between Group of Eight universities. The Committee canvassed a number of options, from full fees similar to those paid by international students to a minimum option of GSF only.

Professor Brown stressed the importance of a fee structure that does not act as a barrier to completion, and accepted the proposition that fees charged to individual schools would provide an incentive to encourage completion provided that annual variations in numbers of completions are smoothed in any charging model. Dr Martin argued that students should accept greater responsibility for timely completion. Other members of the Committee questioned whether the new policy should apply to existing students, and expressed a desire that the circumstances of individual students be taken into account.

The Committee resolved to recommend to the University Committee on Education Policy that fees for ETTS students are borne by the relevant academic area and arranged in such a way as to provide an incentive for timely completion of theses. A working party has been established to provide technical advice on the implementation of any new arrangements.

PART 3: HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH ITEMS

ITEM 7 PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION OF A COURSEWORK AND RESEARCH DOCTORAL DEGREE – THE DOCTOR OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The Dean, Faculty of Science, presented a proposal (1397/2003) from the School of Psychology to convert the 3-year Doctor of Clinical Psychology into a four-year RTS program, noting the strategic direction of the University in seeking to increase its RTS load. A four-year program would adhere to both the RTS requirement of two-thirds research content, as well as the requirements for accreditation of the Australian Psychological Society. The four-year duration is necessary to incorporate 1500 hours of supervised placements and three years of coursework. The Council of Deans and Directors of Graduate Schools of Australia has sought such reclassifications.

Mrs Taylor queried the distinction between the professional doctorate - the PhD (Clinical) - and the Doctor of Clinical Psychology. Professor Gillies noted the inconsistency of the proposal with the University's policy on named degrees, and questioned whether the proposed 30-50000-word thesis is suitable for a doctoral award. He explained that the balance between coursework, supervised placement, and research in such degrees is a nationally contentious issue, currently under review.

By majority, the Committee resolved to defer the proposal until the issues surrounding the APA requirements for placements and the intensity of the thesis are clarified.

PART 4: GRADUATE COURSEWORK PROPOSALS

ITEM 8. Action by the Chair on Behalf of the Committee

The Committee noted that the Chair, acting on behalf of the Committee (or, where appropriate, on behalf of the Education Committee), approved the following coursework proposals out of session.

(i) Faculty of Science:

New courses for 2004 in the **Master of Contemporary Science**:

- **BIOL8705** *Challenges in Conservation Biology*
- **CHEM8023** *Chemistry and the Pharmaceutical Industry*
- **MATH8011** *Poetry of the Cosmos*

New and changed courses for various programs in the School of Resource and Environmental Studies. New courses:

- **SRES6006** *Australian Soils & Vegetation*
- **SRES6004** *Fire, Flood, & Drought*
- **SRES6007** *Hydrology for Natural Resource Management*
- **FSTY6519** *Ecology of Forests & Woodlands*
- **SRES6008** *Fire in the Australian Environment*

- **FSTY6520** *Wildlife Research*

Name changes:

- **SRES6502** *Soil Resources* (was *Soil Mapping*)
- **SRES6504** *Land & Catchment Management* (was *Environmental Geoscience Land and Catchment Management*)
- **FSTY6571** *Forest & Woodland Silviculture* (was *Silviculture*)
- **SRES6505** *Regolith and Hydrology* (was *Regolith*)

Course Deletions:

- **SRES6005** *Australian Soils*
- **SRES6503** *Modelling for Environmental Management*
- **SRES6506** *Recycling and Renewable Materials*
- **GEOG6011** *Atmosphere, Weather & Climate*
- **GEOG6519** *Northern Australian Field School*
- **GEOG6544** *Fire in the Australian Environment*

Descriptions of the new and changed courses are available from the Committee Secretary.

ITEM 9. New and Amended Graduate Coursework Proposals

9.1 Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology Master of Engineering (Honours)

The Dean, FEIT, outlined a proposal (972/2003) for a two-year Master of Engineering (Honours), to commence in Semester Two, 2004. During 2003 FEIT successfully introduced a one-year Master of Engineering (ME) Program primarily targeted at international full fee paying students. Feedback from current students and potential students during marketing activities had indicated a demand for a two-year Masters program would be viable, particularly if it contained a significant research project component. Demand would be particularly strong from international students seeking permanent residency.

The following new courses were proposed:

- **ENGN8102** *Project Management* (6 units)
- **ENGN8103** *Research Methods and Techniques* (6 units)
- **ENGN8104** *Research Project* (24 units)

The Committee noted that no ANU Masters award presently uses the term “Honours” in its title and that the Australian Qualifications Framework does not recognise a Masters degree with Honours, although this would not prevent ANU using the title. The Chair noted the University-wide issue of the length of Masters programs. He further noted that Masters awards can be graded with honours under existing rules.

The Committee resolved to approve the proposal and related new courses on the condition that the Honours year be recognised as an exit standard rather than as part of the title of the degree. A working party will be established to confirm the

administrative arrangements for Master of Engineering students to enrol in separate plans for the pass or honours exit standard. The working party will report to the 18 March meeting of the Committee

9.2 Graduate Course Awards

The Dean of the Graduate School, Dr Hooper, informed members that Graduate Course Awards were established in 1997 to enhance the experience of ANU PhD students and to give non-ANU students a taste of graduate coursework. The Chair noted the potential for confusion between research degrees that included coursework and those that offer Graduate Course Awards. Various members of the Committee raised questions about the level of fees, the cost-efficiency of delivery, and the circumstances under which students may be required to complete Graduate Course Awards. The Committee resolved to form a working party, chaired by Dr Hooper, to look into the economic and educational issues surrounding Graduate Course Awards, which would report to the 18 March meeting of the Committee, and to the 25 March meeting of the Social Sciences and Arts Divisional Education Committee.

The Committee received a proposal (1399/2003) from the Research School of Information Sciences and Engineering for nine new Graduate Course Awards for 2004:

- *H-two and H-infinity Optimal Control*
- *An Introduction to Convex Optimisation*
- *Model Reduction, Uncertainty and Robustness*
- *Linear Systems Theory*
- *Advanced Calculus*
- *Applied Linear Algebra*
- *Advanced Course in Statistical Machine Learning: Theory and Applications*
- *Advanced Reading Course on Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping*
- *Autonomous Mobile Robots*

Representatives from the Faculty of Science and Mathematical Sciences Institute expressed concern that their areas had not been consulted about two proposed courses, *Advanced Calculus* and *Applied Linear Algebra* which impinged on their areas of teaching expertise. The Committee resolved to delay consideration of this item until the next meeting.

PART 5. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 10. Report of the Undergraduate Programs Committee Working Party on Timetabling

Dr Martin noted that the Undergraduate Programs Committee working party on timetabling had encouraged a whole of university approach to space availability. The Chair requested that the secretary check on the progress of the university-wide audit of teaching space accompanying the review of the Capital Management Plan and report to the next meeting.