Academic Senate Meeting Summary
262nd meeting of the Academic Senate, Wednesday 9 November 2005

Vice Chancellor’s Report
The Vice Chancellor apologised for his inevitable absence as the meeting clashed with AVCC and Rhodes Scholarship selection committee meetings.

Chair’s Business
The Chair reported on the recent meeting of the National Committee of Chairs held at UNSW. Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- Emerging international links at Australian Universities, and in particular the new venture by UNSW into Singapore - UNSW (Asia).
- DEST presentations including the Research Quality Framework, the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund and the emerging role of the Carrick Institute
- Presentations on the Research Quality Framework by Sir Gareth Roberts and Michael Barber
- VSU
- Workplace Reform
- The various roles of Academic Senates and Boards and the commonality of these roles
- Universities’ role in relation to HSC Assessment, and the proposed new Australian Certificate of Education

The Chair also referred to the Senate Self-Review Survey Report which was presented to Senate at its 27 July meeting and the consequent implementation of several recommendations from the report.

DVC(Research) Report
Research Quality Framework: the expert advisory group would be meeting again in December to discuss issues to be considered by several Working Groups, including eligibility, composition of panels, rating of quality and impact, and rating of funding numbers.

E-repository: an E-repository is being set up by the Library for storage of research output: this will be a three-year pilot program.

Honours Scholarships: applications for the UOW 2006 Honours Year Scholarships are due by 15 November 2005.

ARC results: an announcement from the minister was imminent. The University community would be notified of results as soon as possible. (ARC results were released later in the day.)

DVC(Academic) Report
AUQA: the AUQA draft report has been received and a response paper would be sent to AUQA on Friday 11 November.

Learning & Teaching Fund: The minister has announced that results of the Learning and Teaching fund will be declared on 29 November at the National Teaching Awards dinner.

Carrick Institute: the National Teaching Awards will expand to 210 awards next year. Prof Castle would attend a meeting in Adelaide later that week to discuss the implementation of the new awards.

DVC(Operations) Report
Enterprise Bargains: Management and representatives of the staff organisations have now agreed on Enterprise Bargains for both general and academic staff. Information sessions will be held for all staff. Voting will be open for three days, and if successful the Enterprise Bargains will be sent to the Industrial Commission and then to the Minister by 30 November, to meet the deadline for 2006 funding.
Graduate Medical School: The construction of the Medical School is progressing. Members of the Australian Medical Council will meet with Prof Patterson, Prof Hogg and Prof Iverson on Monday 5 December to discuss the Stage One accreditation, which is still in progress. A full draft of documentation is due in February 2006 and then the Medical School will move through to Stage Two accreditation.

Enrolment: The University will have no difficulty meeting quotas. Prof Patterson reported on variations from previous years by Faculty/disciplinary area. Final faculty quotas will be released next week.

Probation and Promotion Interviews: Prof Patterson thanked the University for its support in this area. the preliminary processes have been relatively smooth and he looks forward to successful outcomes.

Student Members' Business

Mr Ben Coughlin informed Senate that new student representatives had recently been elected for the 2006 term, and that the new student council has a similar position to that of the current council in opposing Voluntary Student Unionism. The Group of Eight has indicated that it is likely to continue to collect compulsory student fees for 2006 and the students would like UOW to make a similar declaration.

Code of Practice – Research: Amendments

The DVC(R) proposed minor amendments to the wording of the Code of Practice-Research: Amendments. There was lengthy discussion regarding aspects of the Code. Academic Senate resolved to approve the item, subject to several minor amendments.

Course Approvals

The following course proposals were approved by Senate:
- Graduate Certificate in Public Health – Major Amendment
- Master of Public Health – Major Amendment
- Master of Science (Population Health) - New
- Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies Honours - New

Other Items

The following items were not starred for discussion at the meeting, and were noted or approved:
- Retention of Assessment Documents
- Master of International Business (amendment to course proposal)
- Courses approved by the Vice-Chancellor
- Schedule of Academic Senate & Senate Standing Committee Meetings for 2006
- Master of Laws (Prosecutions); Graduate Diploma in Prosecutions; Graduate Certificate in Legal Practice & Advocacy (Prosecutions); Graduate Certificate in Legal Practice & Advocacy (Defence) Fast-Track proposal
- Certificate in Teaching Software Design and Development Fast-Track proposal
- AGS-Wollongong Award for Best Performance in Geotechnical Research
- Coffey Geoscience Prize
- Academic Senate Standing Committee Minutes – 24 August 2005
- University Education Committee Minutes – 3 August 2005
- Faculty of Education Committee Meeting Extract – 9 August 2005
- Faculty of Science Committee Meeting Extract – 12 August 2005
- Faculty of Creative Arts Committee Meeting Extract – 31 May 2005

2006 Academic Senate Meetings

- Wed 8 March 2006
- Wed 26 April 2006
- Wed 14 June 2006
- Wed 9 August 2006
- Wed 4 October 2006
- Wed 22 November 2006

Tori McLaughlin
Executive Officer
Academic Senate