

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Meeting No. 6, 2008

Meeting No. 6, 2008 of the University Education Committee was held on Friday 28 November 2008 at 2.00 pm in the Ross Hohnen Room of the Chancelry.

Present: Professor Deane, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) (in the Chair); Professor Chubb, Vice-Chancellor; Professor Cram, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Professor Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Professor Stanton, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Professor Anderson; Professor Beaumont; Mr Beckett; Professor Bottomley; Professor Byrne; Professor Cardew-Hall; Mrs Douglass; Professor Glasgow; Professor Houghton; Professor Oakes; and Ms Rizvi.

By invitation: Professor Carroll; Dr Hort; and Mr See.

In attendance: Ms Bruce

Disclosure of Pecuniary or Material Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or material person interest in matters listed in the agenda.

Use of Inside Information or Position

Under sections 24 and 25 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, a member of the University Education Committee must not make improper use of his or her position or of inside information to gain an advantage for himself or herself or to cause detriment to the University or to another person.

MINUTES

PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. MINUTES

The minutes of Meeting No.5, 2008 of the University Education Committee (1092/2008) held on 12 September were confirmed (published at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/040PP_Education/meetings.asp)

2. MATTERS ARISING

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

3.1 Apologies were received from Mr Carmody, Mr Brown, Professor Clarke and Professor Makkai.

3.2 Announcements

• **Membership:**

Undergraduate student representative: The Chair thanked Ms Rizvi, President and Ms Firth, Vice-President, of ANUSA for their contribution during the year. The incoming President, and representative on the Committee, Mr Sham Sara

and his alternate, Mr Tom Galvin, would commence their term from 1 December 2008.

- **Principal and General Manager, ANU College**

The Chair advised that this was Mr See's last meeting of the Committee before his departure on 31 December 2008. The Committee recorded its appreciation of Mr See's service over the past 18 months as Principal and General Manager, and in particular his work with establishing the Associate Degree co-taught with ANU.

4. STARRED ITEMS

The starred items were: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.1, 8.2, 9.2, 9.3, 10.1, 10.3, 11, 12, 13, 14.1(1), 15.1(1), 16.1 and 17. The unstarred items were approved without debate as set out in the agenda.

5. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

6. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

There were no confidential items. Dr Baker, Mr Darwin, Mr Erickson, Dr Ferris, Ms Firth, Dr Fonteyne, Mr Galvin, Ms Gouldthorp, Dr Smith, Ms Veness and Ms Yu attended as observers.

7. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

The Committee noted the following matters currently in progress:

- Education Management Plan
- Student Evaluations of Courses and Teaching: See Item 10.
- Enrolment Processing Arrangements for New Undergraduate Students: See Item 10.
- Policy and Schedule of program reviews
- Review of structure, arrangements for and management of combined degrees
- Program Advisory Boards: For consideration at the 17 February 2009 meeting
- Course Outlines: A Guide for Students: See Item 8.
- Graduate Studies Program - ANU Graduate and Continuing Education: See Item 15.
- English Language Admission Analysis: See Item 9.

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY MATTERS

ITEM 8. ANUSA UNDERGRADUATE REVIEW OF TEACHING AND LEARNING 2008

The Committee noted the report of the *ANUSA Undergraduate Review of Teaching and Learning 2008* (1100/2008), a Summary of Issues raised in the Report (1374/2008), Responses to the Report (1371/2008), and Responses from all ANU Colleges (1098/2008) to the paper "Course Outlines: A Guide for Students".

It was noted that the evaluation from the student perspective was the first formal review of teaching and learning practices to have been initiated by the ANU Students' Association. The Chair thanked ANUSA for their contribution.

The Committee considered the Report and draft recommendations tabled at the meeting and adopted the response detailed in paper ([1397/2008](#) attached).

ITEM 9. ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR STUDY AT ANU

9.1 English Language Admission Requirements

The Committee:

- (i) Noted the revised policy *Policy: English Language Admission Requirements for Students* (1080C/2008), the English language waiver *pro-forma* (1379/2008) and draft website;
- (ii) Recommended that the Policy: *English Language Admission Requirements for Students* (1080d/2008 as amended) be approved for implementation from January 2009.

9.2 International Students: Addressing English Language Difficulties

The Committee noted the paper *International Student English Language Requirements* (1383/2008) from the President, ANUSA, and that the analysis (at 9.3) supported anecdotal information from ANUSA regarding the ACT UAC international student cohort being most at risk and requiring more language support.

9.3 Studies of International Student Cohorts and Their Academic Performances

The Registrar summarised the results from four studies carried out on various aspects of international student performance which had been conducted in response to the Committee's request at its last meeting for an analysis of the relationship between performance and English language admission levels at ANU and English language admission requirements at comparator universities.

- Study of the ACT UAC International Student Cohort and Their Academic Performances at University (1375/2008)
The study shows that students applying through UAC for admission on the basis of the UAI were most likely to be at academic risk. Those from the ACT were most at risk partly because their English score is not included in the UAI from the ACT.
- A Study of the Impact of the Academic Progress Assistance Provided to International Students at the ANU (1376/2008)
The *ESOS Act* requires institutions to have early intervention strategies in place. The Registrar would be seeking advice about further appropriate measures at ANU.
- A Study on the Correlation Between IELTS Score and Academic Performances of International Students at ANU (1377/2008)
The Study showed that the performance of students with IELTS scores of 6.5-7.0 was similar; performance improved at IELTS 7.0 and above.
- Comparative Study on the Academic Performances of International and Domestic Students (1378/2008)

So significant difference between the performance of international and domestic students was evident from the Study. Student who enter through the ANU College pathway performed better than the overall international undergraduate average.

- Comparative Academic Performance in the Group of 8 Universities - 2007
This survey indicated that international students perform equally with their local peers.

The Committee noted:

- . the interim report on aspects of international student performance and that responses from ANU Colleges would form the basis of a consolidated report in 2009;
- . *Good Practice Principles for English Language Competence for International Students in Australian Universities* (tabled), which were presented at a Workshop held in Melbourne by the Steering Committee for the DEEWR funded project;
- . that Universities were being urged to adopt the *Good Practice Principles*;
- . the current ACT policy that students must study English but are not required to count it in the UAI;
- . that while there has been a shift in NSW and the ACT away from formal prerequisites, the University could consider requiring English either for admission to particular degree programs or for general admission.

The Committee recommended that the University proceed to open up negotiations with the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies about the policy on English with a view to English becoming a mandatory component of the ACT UAI and requested that the Registrar take the matter forward.

ITEM 10. EDUCATION ISSUES

10.1 Student Evaluations of Courses and Teaching

The Committee noted the *Interim report and recommendation from the Survey and Student Feedback Working Party* (1276/2008) established after the February meeting of the Committee, and a proposed ANUSA model for a Student Advisory Group in the ANU College of Business and Economics.

It was noted that:

- . the review of ANUSET by CEDAM was in progress;
- . the report also recommended that ANU Colleges establish a Student Liaison Committee (or equivalent) with, in part, a role in facilitating discussion and resolution of students concerns with teaching and learning;
- . similar committees were in place in a number of Colleges for undergraduate coursework but this was less the case for graduate coursework.

The Committee agreed to refer the recommendation about Student Liaison Committees (or equivalent) to ANU College Education Committees with the request that they adopt appropriate processes where these were not already in

place and provide brief reports on their practices to a meeting of the Committee in early 2009.

10.2 Enrolment Processing Arrangements

The Committee noted:

- (i) The *New Enrolments Working Party Report* (1369/2008);
- (ii) That the Working Party on New Enrolments, established by the Registrar at the request of the August meeting of the Committee, has completed its review of the current model used for enrolling new students at ANU. A pilot business process would be conducted for the pre-enrolment and enrolment of new students commencing a Bachelor of Arts (3100) program at ANU in Semester II, 2009.

10.3 Second Semester 10-2-3 Teaching Term

The Committee noted:

- . the paper from the President, ANUSA, *Summary of Student concerns: 10/3 Week term structure, Semester II 2008* (1382/2008);
- . reports of the negative experience of the 10-2-3 week teaching semester, which accommodates ACT school-holiday dates and complies with Universities Australia's third common vacation week, for students and for teaching staff in 2008;
- . advice from the Registrar that a range of other academic year options were to be explored. Implementation of any changes arising from these discussions would require at least one year's notice. Although the current formula would apply for 2009 at least, issues to do with the timing of assessment could still be addressed.

It was agreed to reconvene the Working Party on the Academic Year to examine options for an academic year and alternatives to the 10-2-3 week Second Semester structure.

ITEM 11. ANU's GRADUATE COURSEWORK FRAMEWORK

Professor Deane spoke to the *Report from the Masters Framework Working Party* (1367/2008). The template (at Appendix E) sought to translate ANU's various graduate coursework structures into an understandable form and describe the pathways from admission through to exit points and for progression to higher degree research.

Principal comments arising in discussion were:

- . that there were tensions between academic considerations and competitiveness in the marketplace;
- . an example was the Master degree by coursework in law which requires 48 units in a 3+1 or 4+1 configuration depending on whether applicants have completed a non-law pass degree or the longer LLB. This degree was an exception under r.4.;
- . the proposed 3+2 structure was likely to be less competitive in the marketplace and should be benchmarked against offerings at other universities;
- . the Graduate Diploma lacks traction internationally. Two models of Master degrees was possibly a more attractive option than the Graduate Diploma plus Master combination which some ANU Colleges have already abandoned

- largely in response to market forces, e.g. standard Master of 48 units; gold standard Master degree of 96 units;
- . a two-semester Master degree was emerging as the standard outside of North America and as the non-honours component of a Master degree program.

The Committee:

- (i) Noted the Report from the *Masters Framework Working Party* (1367/2008);
- (ii) Endorsed in principle that the unit value of an ANU Master degree by coursework be set at a minimum of 48 units and Master degrees by coursework and research at between 72 units and 96 units;
- (iii) Noted that admission and selection criteria for entry were a separate issue and program specific. Some programs require an honours degree, or Graduate Certificate or Diploma while a pass degree was the minimum entry level for a number of programs currently on offer;
- (iv) Noted that all existing Master degree programs either comply with the framework in (ii) above, or are exceptions under r.4. of the Report;
- (v) Noted that the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) would reconvene the Working Party for further consideration of the Master framework which would be a topic for discussion at the February Retreat. Any further comments should be forwarded to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education).

ITEM 12. EDUCATION, PERFORMANCE AND PROMOTION

The following papers were noted:

- . *Education, Performance and Promotion* (1364/2008) from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- . *Promotion to Professor* (1368/2008) from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)

The Committee also noted advice from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor that a working party would be formed to review elements of promotions that pertain to education and improved compatibility between the evaluation of education and the evaluation of research. A report would be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.

ITEM 13. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Committee noted the following report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education):

- **Review of Foundation Studies** (Executive Summary 1251/2008)
 - . the very good report reflects the excellent efforts of the staff involved in the delivery of the program
 - . the MOU with ANU College has been renewed
 - . the recommendation for maintaining and growing enrolments would taken forward by a working party
- **Incidental Fees Guidelines and Compliance**
References:

- Funding and Student Support Branch, DEEWR, letter of 17 November 2008
[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/AIP_2005/default.htm#Administrative Information for Providers: Student Support](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/AIP_2005/default.htm#Administrative_Information_for_Providers:_Student_Support)

The Chair asked ANU College Deans to ensure that the requirements of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* regarding 'incidental fees' were being met. Any requests for further advice should be directed to Ms Gouldthorp, Head, Office of Policy and Regulation.

- *ANU Research and Education Master Plan* at
http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/030PP_Community/ucecmtg5_2008/ANUResearchEducationMasterPlan2008Final.pdf

ITEM 14. REPORTS

BACKGROUND

14.1 Reports from Sub-Committees

(1) Higher Degree Research Sub-Committee

The Committee noted:

- the Report from meeting No. 2, 2008 (1273/2008)
- the statement on the Oral Presentation (1252/2008) introduced for all HDR students commencing in 2008 and beyond. Students presently enrolled in an HDR program may choose to make a presentation but it is not a requirement.
- a mandatory research integrity training program to be introduced for all new PhD students from 2009 as a candidature milestone. The program would be in keeping with 'best practice' both internationally and within Australia and consistent with Government directions for developing researcher understanding of research integrity and the surrounding issues. Rollout of the program to existing research students and possible extension to include undergraduate students and staff on a voluntary basis was contemplated in due course subject to capacity to manage the numbers that would be involved. Modules from the University of Michigan were available on-line.

(ii) University Awards Committee

The Committee noted that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor has approved the transfer of responsibility to the Registrar for examining proposals for the introduction of undergraduate and postgraduate prizes, scholarships, bursaries and other awards and for oversight of the conditions of award during the life of the award, and for recommendations for the acceptance of, or changes to, conditions of award. The transfer took effect from 1 December 2008. The terms of reference of the University Awards Committee were being revised to remove reference to this role.

14.2 Reports from ANU COLLEGES

The Committee noted the following reports:

- ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (420/2008)
- ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment ANU College of Physical Sciences Education Committee (772/2008)

- ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (1259/2008 and 1260/2008)
- ANU College of Law (1381/2008)

PART 3. PROGRAMS AND COURSEWORK

ITEM 15. UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

15.1 New Graduate Award Programs from 2009

(i) Graduate Studies Program

The Committee noted the proposal detailed in the papers *ANU Graduate and Continuing Education* (1091a/2008) and GSP Academic Program Information Form (1263a/2008) to extend the existing program to include a research component and to make the following awards available subject to satisfactory completion of courses at the required levels:

- Certificate of Graduate Studies (24 units)
- Diplomas of Graduate Studies (36 units)
- Master of Studies (48 units)
- Master of Advanced Studies (72 units) (new)
- Master of Studies (Honours) (96 units) (new)

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised that he would consult representatives from the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific regarding their comments about the proposed research component.

The Committee recommended:

- (a) That the Graduate Studies Program be expanded and that students who complete 72 units with a maximum of 24 units at transitional level and 48 units at advanced or specialist level would qualify for the award of Master of Advanced Studies by coursework (ungraded);
- (b) That the Master of Advanced Studies *MAdvStud* 72 units be included in the Schedule to the *Graduate Coursework Awards Rules* of degrees that the University may confer.

(ii) Master Degrees Approved since the September meeting

The Committee noted that the following had been approved:

- (a) Master of Science specialising in Science Communication *MSc* 48 units (1085/2008): ungraded Master degree by coursework jointly between ANU CPS/CMBE and the National University of Singapore. ANU staff will participate in the teaching program at NUS;
- (b) Master of Islam in the Modern World *MIMW* 48 units (1205/2008): graded Master degree by coursework offered by the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences.

15.2 Changes to Graduate Award Programs from 2009

The Committee:

- (i) Noted changes approved to the Master of Culture, Health and Medicine (730/2008) as detailed in paper 1384/2008;
- (ii) Endorsed changes to the following as detailed in paper 1384/2008:
 - . Master of Business (1256/2008) and Master of Commerce (1257/2008)
 - . Master of Commerce (1385/2008) and Master of Business (1386/2008)

15.3 Changes to Undergraduate Award Programs from 2009

The Committee:

- (i) Noted changes approved to the Bachelor of Arts (New Media Arts) (1211/2008) as detailed in paper 1384/2008;
- (ii) Endorsed changes to the Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies (1370/2008) as detailed in paper 1384/2008.

15.4 Discontinued Programs

The Committee noted that following discussions in early 2008 with ANU College Deans, a proposal considered previously by the Committee about concurrent studies for the PhB and PhD has been abandoned.

ITEM 16. UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSEWORK

16.1 Undergraduate 3000-Level Course Dealing with Complex Contemporary Ideas

The Committee:

- (i) Accepted the report and proposition outlined in paper *Proposal for a new undergraduate course* (1365/2008) dealing with complex contemporary ideas to commence Semester 2, 2009 and presented cooperatively by all ANU Colleges;
- (ii) Asked Deans to nominate a colleague with experience and interest in the pedagogy of complexity and argumentation to assist with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in the development of the curriculum for the course;
- (iii) Noted that:
 - . provision would be made in the budget to support the course in recognition of the different sizes of the ANU Colleges
 - . the experience of the IARU Global Summer Program group should be used in developing the course
 - . issues still to be addressed included quotas and a tutorial scheme
 - . potentially, the elective would be available for credit in any degree program and in the non-law component of combined programs with the LLB.

16.2 ANU Associate Degree

- **Associate Degree co-taught with ANU College**

The Committee noted that the following courses were circulated to the Board of Studies for comment and had been approved for Semester 1, 2009:

- . ASGS1019 Physics and its Foundations
- . ASGS1015 Business Information Systems
- . ASGS1020 Individual and Society in Asia and the Pacific
- . ASGS1017 New Media, the Web and its Tools
- . ASGS1014 Systems and Processes in Accounting
- . ASGS1018 Foundations of International Relations: Europe in the Modern Era

- **Associate Degree co-taught with CIT**

The Committee noted the revised statement of courses for the Science specialisation (1280/2008).

16.3 New Courses in the Graduate Studies Program

It was noted that the following courses had been approved for introduction from 2009 to count for credit towards awards in the Graduate Studies Program and where the relevant ANU College decides to recognise them for credit towards an award that they offer. The courses were also available on a not-for-credit basis for graduate coursework students generally.

- . Introduction to Writing for Government (3 units)
- . Intermediate Writing for Government (3 units)

16.4 Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

The Committee noted the following reports on new and changed courses approved by ANU College Deans:

- ANU College of Science (1250/2008)
- ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (1259/2008 extract)
- ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science (1362/2008)
- ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (420/2008 extract)
- ANU College of Business and Economics (1047/2008)

PART 4. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS**ITEM 17. OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME****17.1 University Education Committee Meetings Schedule for 2009**

The following schedule was noted (published at:

http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/040PP_Education/meetings.asp):

Tuesday 17 February, 9.30 am, Ross Hohnen Room
 Thursday 9 April, 9.30 am, Ross Hohnen Room
 Friday 5 June, 9.30 am, Ross Hohnen Room
 Friday 14 August, 9.30 am, Ross Hohnen Room
 Friday 11 September, 9.30 am, RC Mills Room
 Friday 27 November, 9.30 am RC Mills Room

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)**18. RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

jab/4 December 2008