ACADEMIC SENATE

The next meeting (Meeting 11/06) of the Academic Senate of the University of Western Sydney is a Special Meeting called by the Chair of Academic Senate and will be held on Friday 18 November 2011 at 9:30am in the Boardroom, Building AD at Werrington North.

For apologies and enquiries, telephone (02) 9678 7894, fax (02) 9678 7831 or email m.derby@uws.edu.au.

AGENDA

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, FAREWELLS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Associate Professor Paul Wormell, will chair the meeting.

Associate Professor Craig Ellis, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) will attend the meeting at the request of Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education).

As at 11 November, apologies have been received from Professor Andrew Cheetham, Associate Professor Andrew Francis, Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, and Dr Loshini Naidoo. Any further apologies will be reported.

1.2 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any conflict of interest, in terms of the Conflict of Interest Guidelines, they may have in relation to the items on this agenda. The Conflict of Interest Guidelines are available on the Policy DDS at: http://policies.uws.edu.au/view.current.php?id=00093.

Members are reminded that they should also declare any conflicts that become apparent during a meeting of Academic Senate or one of its committees.

1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Senate members will be asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, items already starred on the agenda are:

- 3.1 Chair’s Report
- 3.2 UWS Leadership and Management Changes
- 3.3 Quality Management – AUQA Cycle 2
- 3.4 Student Misconduct – University Rule

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.

1.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS
If a re-arrangement of the order of business is required.

1.5 OTHER BUSINESS
Members are invited to nominate other relevant matters, noting that such items will normally be included on the agenda for a future meeting.

1.6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 October 2011 are appended.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate confirm the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 28 October 2011 as an accurate record.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 MINUTE 3.4 - ADVANCED STANDING POLICY

At the 28 October 2011 meeting, in discussing the Advanced Standing Policy...

“Speaking to the proposed amendment to insert the clause:

“In line with the policy of the Legal Practitioners Admission Board, applications for advanced standing towards the Bachelor of Laws course (including any double degree course) will only be considered in respect of equivalent study in a course at another institution that is accredited for the purpose of admission to legal practice by the Legal Profession Admission Board or in the case of a course at an institution outside of New South Wales by the equivalent authority in that jurisdiction.”

... Dr Stephen Janes said that its inclusion would assist students, who otherwise might not be aware that they were at risk of needing to repeat subjects when claiming advanced standing towards the University’s law course, if there was uncertainty about the status of their previous study. Correspondence with the NSW Legal Practitioners Admission Board emphasised the University’s obligation to comply with the Board’s requirements for recognition of its Law degree, and in particular its rule “...to permit credits only for subjects which are accredited by the Board...”

In discussion, it was suggested that other professional courses (Nursing, Psychology, etc.) had similar obligations.
It was agreed to authorise the Senate Executive Committee to approve, on behalf of the Senate, an appropriate clause to cover generically the notion that for certain courses, credit would only be granted for units that meet professional accreditation requirements. With this proviso ...

**It was resolved (AS11:05/03):**

> to approve the proposed amendments to the Advanced Policy, effective from the date of publication of the revised Policy.”

The Senate Executive Committee has not met since the 28 October Senate meeting, so Senate is now asked to consider a proposal from the Academic Registrar to include an appropriate clause in the approved Advanced Standing Policy, as follows:

**It is recommended:**

> That the Academic Senate approves the addition of the heading and clause:

> “Advanced Standing towards professionally accredited courses

> (xx) Advanced standing for units in professionally accredited courses (eg Law, Nursing) can only be given for equivalent units that would satisfy the requirements for professional accreditation.”

> ...as an amendment to the Advanced Standing Policy (approved by the Academic Senate on 28 October 2011) effective from the date of publication of the revised Policy.

**2.2 MINUTE 3.5 - CHANGES TO THE AWARD COURSES AND UNITS APPROVAL POLICY**

At the 28 October 2011 meeting ...

> “It was resolved (AS11:05/04):

> To approve the proposed amendments to the Award Courses and Units Approval Policy, effective from the date of publication of the revised Policy.”

Arrangements are being made for the revised Award Courses and Units Approval Policy to be published on the Policy DDS.

**2.3 MINUTE 3.6 - CHANGES TO THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT) POLICY**

At the 28 October 2011 meeting ...
“It was resolved (AS11:05/05):

To approve the proposed amendments to the Doctor of Philosophy (Political and Social Thought) Policy, effective from the date of publication of the revised Policy.”

Arrangements are being made for the revised Doctor of Philosophy (Political and Social Thought) Policy to be published on the Policy DDS.

2.4 MINUTE 3.7 - CHANGES TO THE DOCTOR OF CULTURAL RESEARCH POLICY

At the 28 October 2011 meeting …

“It was resolved (AS11:05/06):

To approve the proposed amendments to the Doctor of Cultural Research Policy, effective from the date of publication of the revised Policy.”

Arrangements are being made for the revised Doctor of Cultural Research Policy to be published on the Policy DDS.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair will give an oral report, covering recent activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 28 October 2011. This will include a brief report on the recent National Conference of Chairs and Secretaries of Academic Boards/Senates, including recent developments related to TEQSA and the revised AQF. The Chair will answer any questions in relation to the report, if requested.

3.2 UWS LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT CHANGES AS11/06-3.2

In approving structural changes to the University at the 20 July Board of Trustees meeting, the Board considered a paper “Proposed New Organisational Structure” which stated:

“Academic Governance
The Chair of Academic Senate will work full-time until the end of the year to develop a suite of proposals for consideration by the Board to:
• Implement new academic governance committees within schools and at a UWS-wide level, to revise and refine academic policies as required;
• Propose the distribution of academic delegations; and
• Work with schools to develop a plan to transition to the new arrangements for the 2012 academic year.”

At the 28 October Senate meeting it was reported that...
“Extensive consultation had taken place, and it was hoped that the special meeting of the Senate arranged for 18 November would be able to recommend changes to the Academic Governance Policy, covering the terms of reference and membership of the Senate, to the 7 December Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

Following the Senate meeting he hoped that the Academic Governance Policy and the Academic Senate Standing Committees Policy could be posted on the Policy DDS with comments invited from the University community. At the same time, further discussions of these policies with senior staff, and at the Dean’s Forum, would assist with finalising the policies for further consideration by Senate at the special meeting on 18 November. By then, it was anticipated that some details about school structures and delegations to Directors of Academic Programs (DAPS) and Academic Advisors would have been approved by the Vice-Chancellor, enabling a range of academic policies to be updated to reflect the new arrangements, and for transitional policies to be put in place where necessary if appointments to those positions were delayed. Where policy changes were minor and straightforward administrative changes, he hoped the Senate Executive Committee might be able to approve the changes.”

The Academic Governance Policy was placed on the Policy DDS with comments invited from the University community. An updated version of the Policy taking into account the feedback received will be circulated before the meeting.

It is recommended:

That Academic Senate endorse the revised Academic Governance Policy, and recommend it for approval by the Board of Trustees.

A further iteration of the Academic Senate Standing Committees Policy, updated to reflect recent and continuing discussions, will be circulated before the meeting.

For discussion and consideration

✰3.3 QUALITY MANAGEMENT - AUQA CYCLE 2

The Chair of Academic Senate will update Academic Senate on the outcomes from the 8-12 May 2011 AUQA audit.

For discussion and consideration.

✰3.4 STUDENT MISCONDUCT – UNIVERSITY RULE AS11/06-3.4

At the 28 October Senate meeting...

“In relation to the necessary changes to academic policies, the Chair reported that the University’s Legal Counsel had commenced a review of the Misconduct: Student Academic Misconduct Policy and other misconduct policies, premised in part on the difficulties in
distinguishing, for some incidents of serious misconduct, whether they were “academic” matters, or “non-academic” matters, or both. The review might lead to a misconduct rule being proposed, covering both types of misconduct.”

A position paper prepared by University Legal Counsel is appended.

For discussion and consideration.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

4.1 SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No report - the Senate Executive Committee has not met since the last Senate meeting.

4.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE AS11/06-4.2

The Research Committee met on 4 October 2011. The minutes are not yet available. If they become available before the meeting, they will be circulated and ...

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the minutes of the 4 October 2011 Research Committee meetings.

4.3 RESEARCH STUDIES COMMITTEE AS11/06-4.3

The Research Studies Committee met on 1 November 2011. The minutes are appended.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the minutes of the Research Studies Committee meeting held on 1 November 2011.

4.4 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee met on 7 November 2011. A report of the meeting is not yet available.

4.5 ACADEMIC PLANNING AND COURSES APPROVALS COMMITTEE AS11/06-4.5

The Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee (APCAC) held an electronic meeting between 7 and 9 November 2011. A report of the electronic meeting will be provided before the meeting.

It is recommended:
That Academic Senate note the report of the Academic Planning and Courses Approvals Committee meeting held electronically between 7 and 9 November 2011, and ratify the recommendations contained therein.
4.6 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees most recent meeting was held on 21 September 2011.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 December 2011. Summaries of Board of Trustees meetings, and minutes of Board of Trustees meetings, are available on the web-site at: http://www.uws.edu.au/boardoftrustees.

5 FOR INFORMATION

No items.

6 NEXT MEETING

The next Academic Senate meeting is arranged for Friday 9 December 2011. This meeting will consider a revised draft of the Academic Senate Standing Committees Policy, for implementation in 2012.

Senate meeting dates for 2012 are as follows:
- Friday 24 February
- Friday 27 April
- Friday 22 June
- Friday 17 August
- Friday 26 October
- Friday 7 December (provisional meeting - to be held if necessary)

All the meetings start at 9.30 AM, and will be held in the Board Room, Building AD, at Werrington North.