

La Trobe University

Academic Board

CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a special meeting of the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Committee held on Wednesday 11 March 2009 at 1.00pm in Room Three, John Scott Meeting House, Bundoora Campus

PRESENT: Professor Belinda Probert (Chair), Professor Tom Angelo, Mr Lachlan Batchelor, Mr Bruce Carboon, Ms Stephanie Chard, Mr Rob Cook, Professor Ainslie Dewe, Dr Kerry Fitzmaurice, Ms Le Cam Huyen, Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Dr Therese Joiner (*vice* Professor David Spencer), Mr Jesse Marshall, Ms Katherine Nix and Dr Kay Souter

SECRETARIAT: Ms Angela Cowburn

APOLOGIES: Professor Noel Gough, Professor David Spencer

2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Committee noted that a special meeting had been called to consider the discussion paper provided by the Director, Academic Services, regarding the Academic Year 2010. The discussion paper provided an overview of some of the key issues associated with the construction of the academic year, standard teaching periods and key dates for 2010. There was some consideration of a 12 week semester.

The Committee agreed that there were very complex issues involved, too complex to make a decision regarding 2010 at this point in the year. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised that recommendation 34 from the Curriculum Green Paper stated:

That the Deputy Vice-Chancellor establish a working party -- to include the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Future Students) – to investigate and report on ways in which the University can best respond to the needs of current and future students. The working party will be asked to consider how more flexible programs and subjects can be provided to all students - part time and full time, undergraduate and postgraduate, school-leavers and mature-age. Alternatives to investigate might include increased use of: block mode teaching, evening and weekend classes, asynchronous technologies, and a potential third semester.

It was agreed that the issues raised in the discussion paper should be included in the terms of reference of this Working Party, which would be required to provide recommendations regarding the 2011 academic year to Academic Board by the end of the year.

The Committee **resolved** to recommend to Academic Board that it endorse:

- (a) That Semester 1 commence on Monday 1 March 2010.
- (b) That Supplementary/Special Examinations revert to an early January time period (6-13 January in 2010).
- (c) That the Academic Year, as outlined in Appendix 1, be adopted by the University.

Discussion:

The President, SRC, circulated a report titled '*Ease the Squeeze*', which outlined the impact the implementation of a 12 week semester at the University of NSW had on students. It was suggested that the Working Party review the consequences of the introduction of 12 week semesters at other Australian universities. It was noted that the University of NSW had moved back to a 13 week semester one year after introducing the 12 week semester.

The issue of supplementary examinations was discussed and the President, SRC, offered to provide a one page report on why students felt it was important to maintain supplementary examinations/assessment.

It was agreed that benchmarking between universities to ensure that learning would not be compromised by any changes to the academic year would be an important part of the working party's terms of reference.

It was queried who, or what body, would be responsible for establishing the composition and terms of reference of the Working Party. The Chair advised that the Working Party would be established by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and would most likely provide recommendations to Academic Board via the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Committee.

The SRC suggested that another issue that could be reviewed by the Working Party could be a common lunch hour – one hour per week where no classes would be scheduled, which would allow students to congregate, network and allow social events to be held.

The Chair advised that the Working Party would develop a position paper and there would be a wide consultation process prior to any recommendations going forward. The Committee would be kept informed on the progress of the Working Party and there would be consultation with student groups, both undergraduate and postgraduate.

The meeting closed at 1.35pm.

NEXT MEETING:

2.00pm
Wednesday 1 April 2009
Meeting Room 3
John Scott Meeting House
Bundoora Campus

Pres.SRC

CONFIRMED BY CHAIR _____

DATE _____