

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and ninth meeting of the Academic Board held in the Council Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus on Wednesday 9 August 2006 at 9.30am

PRESENT: Professor R W Parish (Chair), Professor C Adams, Professor D Altman, Dr S Beeton, Professor H Clarke, Dr L Crase, Professor S Crowe, Professor D de Vaus, Professor K Dodd, Mr D Ensor (*vice* Mr R Goddard), Professor G Farrell, Professor D Finlay, Professor N Gough, Professor E Gowe, Mr J Griffiths, Professor C Handley, Professor R Harbridge, Dr L Howie, Ms A Kelly, Professor M Lake, Ms L Lang, Ms L Lavender, Professor G Leder, Dr R Lewis, Professor L Ling, Dr A McClelland, Ms V Mansell Lees, Dr G Mayer, Dr G Murphy, Dr J Oates, Mr A Pagliaro, Ms J Porter, Professor V Prain, Mr K Reed, Mr P Richardson, Professor M Rimmer, Professor I Robinson, Dr J Russell, Dr M Ryan, Mr M Shivdasani, Dr K Souter, Professor G Stephenson, Dr D Stockley, Professor B Stoddart (Vice-Chancellor), Mr D Stuchbery, Professor H Swerissen, Dr L Thwaites, Dr D Tillett, Mr G Villalta, Dr A Vongalis-Macrow, Professor R Walker, Dr H Westerbeek and Professor E Weigold.

SECRETARIAT: Ms A Cowburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Professor A Aikhenvald, Professor R Brownlee, Professor L Cahill, Mr T Collits, Professor R Dixon, Dr K Ferguson, Professor D Kirkpatrick, Ms B Knowles, Dr E Martens, Professor P Murphy and Dr P Stacey.

PART A: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(i) Apologies and Attendance

Apologies were received for Ms E Brown, Dr R Croome, Professor G Durden, Professor A Frost, Mr B Goddard, Dr J Jackson, Professor S Paxton and Ms F Sheean.

(ii) Approval of Agenda and ordering of Agenda Items

The Board resolved to approve the Agenda, as circulated.

The Board received the following tabled papers:

- AB06/100 *Attachment E*, Report of Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Ageing and Social Policy
- AB06/100 *Attachment F*, Report of Selection Committee: Associate Professor in Health Services Management
- AB06/100 *Attachment I*, Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee
- AB06/102 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

(iii) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB06/99.

(iv) Matters approved on behalf of Academic Board

The Board received report AB06/100 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since its last meeting:

- (a) Membership of Committees:
- (i) *Selection Committee: Chair in Sport Management*, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/100;
 - (ii) *Selection Committee: Chair in Finance*, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB06/100;

- (iii) *Selection Committee: Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Special Education or Educational Innovation*, as detailed in Attachment C to report AB06/100;
- (iv) *Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Quality Improvement Program*, as detailed in Attachment D to report AB06/100;
- (v) *Selection Committee: Associate Professor Mental Health*
Ms Glenis Beaumont, Executive Director, Bendigo Health Care *vice* Ms Kathy Byrne;
- (vi) *Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Physiotherapy (Eastern Health)*;
Dr Linsey Howie *vice* Professor Susan Paxton
Professor Gerry Farrell *vice* Professor Chris Handley;
- (vii) *Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Quality Improvement Program*
Dr Andrew Remenyi (Deakin University) *vice* Professor Ian Anderson
Ms Cheryl De Zilwa (General Manager, Windermere Child and Family Services)
vice Professor Judith Dwyer; and
- (viii) *Selection Committee: Associate Professor of Health Services Management*
Professor S Capp *vice* Professor G Hodge
- (b) Report of Selection Committees:
 - (i) *Associate Professor, Ageing and Social Policy*, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment E to report AB06/100;
 - (ii) *Associate Professor in Health Services Management*, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment F to report AB06/100;
- (c) Report of Selection and Enrolment Committee: 7 June 2006
 - (i) Proposal to revise and retitle the Rural and Regional Student Access Scheme, as detailed in Attachment G to report AB06/100;
- (d) Award of Degrees and Diplomas, as detailed in Attachment H to report AB06/100;
- (e) Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment I to report AB06/100; and
- (f) Establishment/Re-establishment of positions:
 - (i) a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to refill the position of Associate Dean, Bendigo;
 - (ii) a proposal from the Faculty of Law and Management to establish a Chair in Sport Management, in the School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management;
 - (iii) a proposal from the Faculty of Law and Management to re-establish a Chair in Finance, in the School of Business; and
 - (iv) a proposal from the Faculty of Education to refill 2 positions: Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer, in Special Education and Educational Innovation.

(v) **Report of the Vice-Chancellor**

The Vice-Chancellor reported on a number of matters of current interest.

- (a) Council endorsed the Voluntary Student Unionism report and a list of recommendations made by the VSU Working Party on Monday evening. The Board noted that Council had also resolved to support the principle of an independent student press and instructed the Vice-Chancellor to make funds available to support this.
- (b) On Monday evening, Council agreed to a review of the University's regional strategy. The proposed review follows a decision by the Federal Government not to allocate medical clinical training places to La Trobe which would have enabled the University to establish a Regional Medical School in Bendigo and Albury-Wodonga and which highlighted a need for us to reflect on our current status and chart a path that will explore opportunities for University and community benefit in a sustainable manner. The Board noted that the Review would be led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Development), Bob Goddard.

- (c) Mr Reed queried if there were any strategies being put in place to maximise academic's time to be able to deliver on the proposed RQF?

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University's strategy regarding the proposed RQF has been under review since last year, with the key problems for pre-planning having been not knowing exactly when it the RQF will be introduced and the key drivers still being unknown.

- (d) Professor Lake queried the number of post-doctoral fellowships being made available by the University. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) advised that he could not report how many would be allocated until all the applications had been received and reviewed.

PART B: MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

409.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2006 [AB06/97(M)] were confirmed.

409.2 ITEMS APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION

409.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received tabled report AB06/102 and **resolved** to recommend to Council the award of degrees and diplomas as detailed therein.

EO(AB)

409.2.2 Establishment of prizes

The Board **resolved** to establish formally the following Prizes:

- (a) Law and Management: Law of the European Community Prize, as detailed in report AB06/103;
- (b) Health Sciences: City of Greater Shepparton Prize – Bachelor of Nursing, as detailed in report AB06/104;
- (c) Health Sciences: The Caroline Pippett Memorial Prize, as detailed in report AB06/105;
- (d) Health Sciences: The Mount Alexander Postgraduate Award, as detailed in report AB06/106;
- (e) Humanities and Social Sciences: City of Greater Shepparton Prize – Bachelor of Arts, as detailed in report AB06/107;
- (f) Science, Technology and Engineering: Therapeutic Guidelines Second Year Pharmacy Improvement Award, as detailed in report AB06/108;
- (g) Science, Technology and Engineering: City of Greater Bendigo/La Trobe University Civil Engineering Scholarship Program, as detailed in report AB06/109;
- (h) Science, Technology and Engineering: La Trobe University Alumni Association Psychology Chapter Prize, as detailed in report AB06/110; and
- (i) Science, Technology and Engineering: VABC Bioinformatics Entrance Scholarships, as detailed in report AB06/111.

Fac. Reg.
Ms S Went
Ms A Forden

409.2.3 Membership of Committees

- (a) *Professional Library Promotion Committee*

The Board **resolved** to appoint Mr Geoff Payne, *vice* Ms Liz Bourke, as a member of the Professional Library Promotion Committee, as detailed in report AB06/112.

Sec. Lib Prom
Comm

The Board also noted the continuing members of the Committee were:

- Dr Lilit Thwaites – Chair
- Professor Robert Manne
- Dr John Wiltshire
- Ms Helen King

409.3 STANDING COMMITTEES OF ACADEMIC BOARD

409.3.1 Report of Selection and Enrolment Committee: 7 June 2006

The Board received report AB06/113.

(a) *Australian Certificate of Education*

The Board noted a summary of the report released by the Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop, giving proposals for an Australian Certificate of Education. It was noted that this proposal could have benefits for the selection of interstate students.

409.3.2 Report of Academic Committee: 20 June 2006

The Board received report AB06/114.

(a) *Proposal to offer a Bachelor of Oral Health Science enabling course at the Bendigo campus*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to offer a Bachelor of Oral Science enabling course at the Bendigo campus, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(b) *Proposal to offer a Bachelor of Human Services enabling course at the Albury-Wodonga campus*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to offer a Bachelor of Human Services enabling course at the Albury-Wodonga campus, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(c) *Proposal to revise the Bachelor of Orthoptic and Ophthalmic Sciences with Honours course at the Bundoora campus*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to revise the Bachelor of Orthoptic and Ophthalmic Sciences with Honours course at the Bundoora campus, as detailed in Attachment C to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(d) *Proposal to amend the Bachelor of Conservation Biology and Ecology*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Conservation Biology and Ecology, as detailed in Attachment D to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(e) *Proposal to amend the Bachelor of Environmental Science*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Environmental Science, as detailed in Attachment E to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(f) *Proposal to amend the Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science, as detailed in Attachment F to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(g) *Proposal to amend the Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Engineering (Civil), as detailed in Attachment G to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(h) *Proposal to amend the Bachelor of Nanotechnology/Bachelor of Science double degree*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Nanotechnology/Bachelor of Science double degree, as detailed in Attachment H to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(i) *Proposal to amend the Bachelor of Behavioural Science at Bendigo*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Behavioural Science at Bendigo, as detailed in Attachment I to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(j) *Proposal to amend the Bachelor of Environmental Science/Bachelor of Biological Sciences*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Environmental Science/Bachelor of Biological Sciences, as detailed in Attachment J to report AB06/114.

Fac. Reg.

(k) *New member*

The Board noted that Academic Committee had welcomed a new member, Ms Bronwyn Naismith, representing LUPA.

(l) *Discipline Codes*

The Board noted that Academic Committee had considered a discussion paper regarding unit discipline changes. The Committee noted that the Higher Education Support Act 2003 and the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines prescribe that all units taught by the University must be classified under the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) and reported to DEST. Commonwealth funding was directly linked to the discipline and its alignment to one of the twelve funding clusters.

The Board noted that the Committee resolved to endorse the unit discipline changes for implementation in 2007 subject to some minor amendment to Faculty of Law and Management codes after consultation between Professor Chanock and the Director, Academic Services.

Academic Committee also considered an issues paper regarding the assigning of unit disciplines (ASCED codes). The governing principles of assigning unit disciplines were listed as follows:

- That all new and revised units require expert academic input with regard to assigning disciplines.
- That all new and revised units must be assessed for quality assurance and compliance as per the University's Unit Guidelines and Unit Discipline Classification Principles.
- That it is recognised that the assigning of disciplines to units on rare occasions will not be supported by this framework and that any deviations from the University's Unit Guidelines and Unit Discipline Classification Principles must be appropriately documented and accountability trails established.

The Board noted that the Committee agreed that there should be an appeals process and that if a Faculty wished to deviate from the endorsed codes and guidelines, they should negotiate, in the first instance, with Academic Services. There would be an onus on the Faculty to argue their case and provide documentation. If agreement could not be reached between the Faculty and Academic Services, then the issue should be referred to Academic Committee for resolution. Mr Carboon reiterated that any deviation must be appropriately documented for the purpose of DEST audits.

409.3.3 Report of Committee for External Programs: 19 July 2006

The Board received report AB06/115.

(a) *New member*

The Board noted that that the Committee for External programs had welcomed new member Mr Mingjian Tang, the new LUPA representative.

(b) *Semester Two Enrolments*

The Board noted that there had been a growth of 29% in enrolments in Semester One of this year in comparison with Semester One last year. The projected growth for Semester Two was approximately 15% in comparison to Semester Two last year, most of which could be attributed to the Faculty of Law and Management and Education. The biggest growth is from India in Master by Coursework Accounting and Business, with good growth in Vietnam.

(c) *ESOS Act Changes*

The Board noted that the Committee had received and noted a summary of the key themes and intended changes to the ESOS Act. It was also noted that La Trobe University was one of five universities involved in in-depth discussions with DEST on the implementation of the revised Act and it would appear that the AVCC and universities have had success in limiting what were originally onerous and costly measures to be imposed on universities.

(d) *Legal Procedures*

The Board noted that the Committee had received and noted correspondence from Legal Services, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/115, reiterating the mandatory procedures for the signing of all international agreements including general Memorandums of Understanding and renewal of existing agreements.

It was noted that it was important that University staff be reminded what the mandatory procedures were and that the legal procedures pertained only to international agreements not agency agreements.

(e) *IDP*

The Board noted that the Director, IPO, had recently notified Faculties of IDP's decision to institute an immediate 2% rise in commissions. It was also noted that the Faculties were responsible for paying commissions on their enrolled students and it was important for this information to be widely promulgated and understood by all staff.

(f) *International Student Numbers Trends*

The Board noted that the Chair had met with Tim Rogers, a consultant for QS, in Singapore. Mr Rogers provided an update on the British Council 2004 report forecasting international student trends for the next twenty years. It was noted that the forecast growth was an average of 4.5% increase per annum, with the biggest growth forecast to come from Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.

(g) *Agreements of Exchange and Co-operation*

The Board noted that Agreements of Exchange and Cooperation had recently been established formally with the following institutions:

- Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay: agreement for academic exchange and cooperation
- Groupe Sup De Co Montpellier, France: double degree agreement
- Kyung Hee University, Korea: agreement of co-operation
- Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain: agreement on academic, scientific and cultural cooperation (protocol of renewal)
- Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology, Malaysia: agreement

- Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology, Malaysia: validation with full credit transfer agreement
- The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and The Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran: agreement for scientific and educational developments
- Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China: memorandum of understanding
- Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil: agreement for academic exchange and co-operation
- Yunnan Normal University (Kunming Campus), People's Republic of China: international coursework agreement
- Australian Agency for International Development, Commonwealth of Australia: agreement to deliver services to AusAID sponsored ADS, ALA and ACIAR scholarship holders
- Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam: twinning agreement
- Wuhan University of Technology, People's Republic of China: articulation arrangement agreement
- Xunta of Galicia, Spain: general agreement of collaboration for teaching, research and promotion of Galician language, literature and culture
- Nanjing Agricultural University, People's Republic of China: memorandum of understanding
- National Sun Yat-Sen University, Taiwan: memorandum of understanding

(h) *Proposal to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding - proforma*

The Board noted that the Committee had received and noted a proforma covering sheet to be used for all agreements, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB06/115.

(i) *Menzies College Study and Cultural Tours*

The Board noted that the Committee had received and noted information regarding Study and Cultural Tours being offered to Menzies College residents, providing an opportunity to travel overseas for 2-3 weeks. It was further noted that the tours offered participants the chance to meet fellow students, engage in a program of studies and cultural visits, and undertake a range of community and outreach work.

(j) *New City Campus Update*

The Board noted that the closing date for tenders at the new City Campus was next week, with construction expected to commence next month and a proposed completion date of late 2007. Enrolments at the City Campus were projected to be around 1,800 with a large amount of these expected to be international students. Programs offered at the Campus would mainly come from the Language Centre, LTI, the Faculty of Law and Management and Faculty of Health Sciences.

It was also noted that the Director, City Campus, had reported that a revised business case was currently being prepared to be provided to the August meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee. A marketing and communications plan was also being drafted. Accreditation of program offerings could not be provided on plans and that the Director, City Campus, would need to plan for physical site inspections for accreditation by September/October, 2007.

409.3.4 Report of Academic Committee: 25 July 2006

The Board received report AB06/116.

(a) *Proposal to restructure the Master of Nursing (Nursing Practitioner)*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to restructure the Master of Nursing (Nursing Practitioner), as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/116.

Fac. Reg.

<p>(b) <i>Proposal to introduce a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Science Education at Bendigo</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to introduce a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Science Education at Bendigo, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB06/116.</p>	<p>Fac. Reg.</p>
<p>(c) <i>Proposal to introduce a Bachelor of Science at Bendigo</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to introduce a Bachelor of Science at Bendigo, as detailed in Attachment C to report AB06/116.</p>	<p>Fac. Reg.</p>
<p>(d) <i>Proposal to introduce a Bachelor of Nursing enabling course</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve a proposal, for referral to Council, from the Faculty of Health Sciences to introduce a Bachelor of Nursing enabling course, subject to the availability of enabling places, as detailed in Attachment D to report AB06/116.</p>	<p>EO(AB)</p>
<p>(e) <i>Proposal to amend the nomenclature of the Bachelor of Computing to the Bachelor of Information Technology</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve a proposal, for referral to Council, from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the nomenclature of the Bachelor of Computing to the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT).</p>	<p>EO(AB)</p>
<p>(f) <i>Proposal to amend the Bachelor of Pharmacy</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering to amend the Bachelor of Pharmacy, as detailed in Attachment E to report AB06/116.</p>	<p>Fac. Reg.</p>
<p>(g) <i>Proposal to offer the existing Master of International Business in Vietnam with the Hanoi Foreign Trade University</i></p> <p>The Board resolved to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Law and Management to offer the existing Master of International Business in Vietnam with the Hanoi Foreign Trade University, as detailed in Attachment F to report AB06/116.</p>	<p>Fac. Reg.</p>
<p>(h) <i>Academic Misconduct Policy Review Working Party</i></p> <p>The Board noted that Academic Committee had received and noted a series of recommendations from the Academic Misconduct Policy Review Working Party. The Committee thanked the Director, Academic Services, and his staff for all their assistance in preparing the documentation provided.</p> <p>The Committee noted that a review of the newly implemented Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedures and Regulation had been requested at a meeting held in April 2005. Members of the Working Party included Professor Chris Handley (Chair), Mr Bruce Carboon (Secretary), Dr Robert Gaston, Dr Erika Martens and Dr Peter Stacey.</p> <p>It was also noted that there had been a high level of consultation and amendments to the regulations and policy were considered in conjunction with the University Solicitor's office.</p> <p>Academic Committee resolved to provide the documentation to Faculty Registrars and request that they provide the documentation to their Faculty Boards for comment. Committee members agreed to manage this process through their Faculties, so that responses could be provided to the Executive Officer, Academic Committee, by no later than Thursday 7 September 2006. These comments would then be provided back to the Working Party, via the Chair, Professor Chris Handley, to incorporate suggested amendments and provide further revised documentation to Academic Committee for endorsement prior to submission to Academic Board.</p>	

(i) *Discipline Codes*

The Board noted that Academic Committee had resolved to endorse the principles, responsibilities and process for the assigning of disciplines [ASCED]s to units by the University, as detailed in Attachment G to report AB06/116.

409.4 OTHER MATTERS

409.4.1 Professorial Reports

(a) *Professor Peter L Dyson (Physics)*

The Board received and noted, for referral to Council, a professorial report submitted by Professor Peter Dyson (Physics), as detailed in report AB06/117.

EO(Sec)

Dr Russell had the following queries regarding Professor Dyson's professorial report:

- Does Professor Dyson have a figure in mind with regard to his changing the internal funding formula to a fixed cost per student for central services?
- What amount of funding per student would be required to provide relief to the Department of Physics?
- What areas should miss out on funding to provide additional funding to the Department?

(b) *Professor Dennis Altman (Politics)*

The Board received and noted, for referral to Council, a professorial report submitted by Professor Dennis Altman (Politics), as detailed in report AB06/118.

EO(Sec)

(c) *Professor Chris Handley (Human Biosciences)*

The Board received and noted, for referral to Council, a professorial report submitted by Professor Chris Handley (Human Biosciences), as detailed in report AB06/119.

EO(Sec)

409.4.2 2005 Annual Reports of the Faculties

(a) *Law and Management*

The Board received and noted the 2005 Annual Report of the Faculty of Law and Management, as detailed in report AB06/120.

PART C: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

409.5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

409.5.1 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

The Board received and noted the following minutes of the Faculty Boards:

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| (a) Humanities and Social Sciences: 3 May 2006 | LHUSS/FB2006/65M |
| (b) Humanities and Social Sciences: 7 June 2006 | LHUSS/FB2006/76M |
| (c) Law and Management: 7 March 2006 | FLM/FB06/02M |
| (d) Science, Technology and Engineering: 6 April 2006 | LST/FB/06/2M |

409.5.2 Report of Council: 6 March 2006

The Board received and noted the Report of Council, as detailed in report AB06/121.

409.5.3 Appointment of Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Board received and noted the appointment of the Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, as detailed in report AB06/122.

PART D: QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

There were no "Questions with Notice" provided.

PART E: DISCUSSION

409.6 HOW CAN WE DIFFERENTIATE OURSELVES IN A CHANGING AND COMPETITIVE MARKET?

The Board received and noted report AB06/123, a discussion paper titled "How can we differentiate ourselves in a changing and competitive market?"

The Chair introduced the Expert Panel who were to lead the discussion:

- Professor Dennis Altman, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Professor Gerald Farrell, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Dr Peter Stacey, Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering
- Dr David Wilkinson, Faculty of Law and Management

Professor Altman discussed the challenges the higher education sector was currently experiencing due to decreasing government support. He referred to a speech that the Minister Julie Bishop had made (<http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Bishop/2006/07/B0010240706.asp>) on 24 July 2006 calling for Universities to clearly differentiate themselves. Professor Altman urged the University to build on its strengths and commit to distinguishing itself from other universities who were strong in similar areas (ie. Humanities, Social Sciences and Biological Sciences).

Dr Stacey spoke to a paper circulated to Academic Board - "*How can the University adapt to the changing environment resulting from the introduction of the "Melbourne Model?"*", a description taken from the University of Melbourne's website.

Dr Wilkinson discussed the internationalisation of the University. The Board noted that international students had become an integral and essential component of university funding and competition for these students had become intense. There was a growing requirement for quality programs and facilities to continue to attract these students.

Professor Farrell discussed how universities had begun to be transformed into businesses and how the higher education sector and La Trobe University had to consider how to market themselves in this new environment.

There was general agreement by Board members that the University needed to focus on differentiation and on providing something particularly distinctive to the communities it serves.

The meeting closed at 10.50am.

NEXT MEETING: **9.30am**
 Wednesday 13 September 2006
 Council Chamber
 John Scott Meeting House
 Bundoora Campus

CONFIRMED BY CHAIR _____

DATE _____