

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the four hundred and seventh meeting of the Academic Board held in the Davidson Room, Glenn College, La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus on Wednesday 10 May 2006 at 9.30am

PRESENT: Professor R W Parish (Chair), Professor C Adams, Dr S Beeton, Ms E Brown, Professor M Chanock, Dr R Croome, Professor S Crowe, Professor D de Vaus, Professor K Dodd, Professor G Durden, Mr M Fak, Professor G Farrell, Professor A Frost, Mr R Goddard, Professor E Gow, Professor C Handley, Dr T Hogan, Professor N Hoogenraad, Dr L Howie, Dr J Jackson, Professor M Lake, Ms L Lang, Ms L Lavender, Professor G Leder, Dr R Lewis, Professor L Ling, Ms V Mansell Lees, Dr G Mayer, Dr G Murphy, Dr J Oates, Mr A Pagliaro, Professor S Paxton, Mr J Penwill, Ms J Porter, Professor V Prain, Mr K Reed, Mr P Richardson, Dr J Russell, Dr M Ryan, 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, Ms G Verrinder, Mr G Villalta, Dr A Vongalis-Macrow, Dr H Westerbeek and Professor E Wiegold.

SECRETARIAT: Ms A Cowburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Professor R Brownlee, Professor L Cahill, Mr B Carboon, Mr T Collits, Mr R Cook, Professor R Dixon, Dr K Ferguson, Ms B Knowles, Dr J Le Roux, Dr E Martens, Professor P Murphy and Dr M Shortland.

PART A: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(i) Apologies and Attendance

Apologies were received for Professor H Clarke, Dr L Crase, Dr J Fahey, Professor D Finlay, Professor R Harbridge, Ms A Kelly, Dr A McClelland, Dr P Martin, Professor M Rimmer, Professor I Robinson, Ms F Sheean, Professor G Walker and Professor R Walker.

(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:

- AB06/53 *Attachment H*, Report of Selection Committee: Associate Professor of Allied Health
- AB06/53 *Attachment I*, Report of Selection Committee: Professor of Counselling and Psychotherapy
- AB06/55 *Addendum* to Award of Degrees and Diplomas

(iii) Outstanding Matters

The Board received and noted report AB06/52.

(iv) Matters approved on behalf of Academic Board

The Board received report AB06/53 and noted the following matters which had been approved on its behalf since its last meeting:

- (a) Award of degrees and diplomas, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/53;
- (b) Establishment of prizes:
 - (i) Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering: proposal to introduce a VicRoads/La Trobe University Civil Engineering Internship Program, as detailed in Attachment B to report AB06/53;
- (c) Report of the Committee for Emeritus Professors and Scholars, as detailed in Attachment C to report AB06/53;

- (d) Membership of Committees:
- (i) Selection Committee: Associate Professor of Health Services Management, as detailed in Attachment D to report AB06/53;
 - (ii) Selection Committee: Associate Professor of Mental Health (Bendigo): Professor Vaughan Prain *vice* Professor Peter Sullivan;
 - (iii) Selection Committee: Professor of Counselling and Psychotherapy: Professor Chris Handley *vice* Professor Hal Swerissen;
- (e) Course proposals:
- (i) Proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to revise the Master of Health Sciences (Public Health Practice), as detailed in Attachment E to report AB06/53;
 - (ii) Proposal from the Faculty of Health Sciences to revise the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours), as detailed in Attachment F to report AB06/53;
- (f) Report of Academic Committee: 11 April 2006
- (i) Proposal from Academic Services to remove the teaching period indicator character from the University standard unit code format, as detailed in Attachment G to report AB06/53;
[The Chair advised that this item was approved out-of-session due to a degree of urgency relating to the preparation of the Handbook for 2007. The Board noted that there had been wide consultation by the Chair prior to approval being given.]
- (g) Report of Selection Committees:
- (i) Associate Professor of Allied Health, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment H to report AB06/53;
 - (ii) Professor of Counselling and Psychotherapy, as detailed in confidential tabled Attachment I to report AB06/53;
- (h) The establishment of two Level D appointments:
- (i) Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Eastern Health); and
 - (ii) Associate Professor, Ageing and Social Work.

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

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

- (a) The 2006 Federal Budget had been announced the previous evening and had the following implications for higher education:
- medical Schools for Deakin and Bond Universities were provided with additional funding;
 - transitional funding for the VSU legislation;
 - \$10m over 4 years to assist small business operators on campus (particularly regional);
 - capital development pool increased by 50%.
- (b) There had been an increase of funding for the NHMRC, with changes in funding allocation and the inclusion of the introduction of a scheme equivalent to the Federation Fellowships.
- (c) There had been a good response to the strategic planning process. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Planning) announced that the draft strategic plan would be on the University website by Monday 15 May 2006.
- (d) Lobbying had continued with regard to the LTU medical school proposal and the University was still optimistic of receiving funding for 40 places.
- (e) Mr Reed had the following queries:
- Could the AVCC be persuaded to run a long-term television advertising campaign to increase the public's perception of the value of higher education and increase the morale of higher education staff?
 - What strategies could be put in place to undermine Melbourne University with regard to a statement that Melbourne was planning to concentrate on postgraduate training and education?
 - Would the information systems staff at Bendigo, or other areas with similar expertise, be involved in the University administration review?

The Vice-Chancellor responded with the following comments:

- The AVCC does lobby to increase the public awareness of higher education. It was noted that an advertising campaign was run by the AVCC 3-4 years ago which did not prove to be particularly effective.
- The statement made by Melbourne University had been discussed during the recent strategic planning process. La Trobe University should concentrate on providing high quality offerings.
- There were already a number of staff from various areas of the University involved in the administration review.

PART B: MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

407.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2006 [AB06/50(M)] were confirmed.

407.2 ITEMS APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION

407.2.1 Award of Degrees and Diplomas

The Board received report AB06/55 and **resolved** to recommend to Council the award of degrees and diplomas as detailed therein.

EO(AB)

407.2.2 Establishment of prizes

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

- (a) Bendigo Campus: The Frank and Verna Plim Memorial Award for the Advancement of Aboriginal Health, as detailed in report AB06/56;
- (b) Health Sciences: School of Human Communications Sciences, Clinical Achievement Award [*amendment*], as detailed in report AB06/57;
- (c) Health Sciences: Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service – Award for Excellence, as detailed in report AB06/58;
- (d) Health Sciences: Lifestyle and Rehab – Student of the Year Award, as detailed in report AB06/59;
- (e) Health Sciences: School of Occupational Therapy – Award for Excellence (Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Student), as detailed in report AB06/60;
- (f) Health Sciences: School of Occupational Therapy – Award for Excellence (Master of Occupational Therapy Practice First Year Student), as detailed in report AB06/61;
- (g) Health Sciences: School of Occupational Therapy – Award for Excellence (Master of Occupational Health Student) (report AB06/62);
- (h) Health Sciences: School of Occupational Therapy – Award for Excellence (First Year Student)(report AB06/63);
- (i) Health Sciences: School of Occupational Therapy – Award for Excellence (Second Year Student) (report AB06/64);
- (j) Health Sciences: School of Occupational Therapy – Award for Excellence (Third Year Student) (report AB06/65);
- (k) Health Sciences: Accredited Occupational Therapist (AccOT) Prize (report AB06/66);
- (l) Health Sciences: Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria – Award for Excellence (report AB06/67); and
- (m) Health Sciences: Leonie Collins Memorial Prize (report AB06/68).

Fac. Reg.
Ms S Went
Ms A Forden

407.2.3 Membership of Committees

- (a) *Library Committee*
The Board **resolved** to appoint Professor Laurie Cahill (*vice* Professor Robin Jeffrey) to the Library Committee, as detailed in report AB06/69.
- (b) *Composition of Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Ageing and Social Policy*
The Board **resolved** to appoint membership to the Selection Committee: Associate Professor, Ageing and Social Policy, as detailed in report AB06/70.

Sec.(LC)

Dr J Carr

- (c) *Composition of Selection Committee: Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Eastern Health)*
The Board **resolved** to appoint membership to the Selection Committee: Associate Professor of Physiotherapy (Eastern Health), as detailed in report AB06/71.

Dr J Carr

The Board also **resolved** to appoint an additional member to the Selection Committee, as follows:

- Ms Anne Pagram, Manager Physiotherapy, Maroondah Hospital.

- (d) *Personal Chairs Committee*
The Board **resolved** to re-appoint Professor A Aikhenvald and Professor P Dyson for a further term of three years (to April 2009).

Dr J Carr

407.2.4 Report of Committee for Emeritus Professors and Scholars

The Board received report AB06/72 and **resolved** to recommend to Council that the title of Emeritus Professor be conferred on the person named therein.

EO(AB)

407.2.5 La Trobe Alumni Prize

The Board received report AB06/73 and **resolved** to award the La Trobe Alumni Prize to:

- (a) Health Sciences: Ms Alexandra Heynatz

Ms S Went/
Fac. Reg./
Ms C Hind

407.3 STANDING COMMITTEES OF ACADEMIC BOARD

407.3.1 Report of Academic Committee: 11 April 2006

The Board received report AB06/74.

- (a) *Proposal to teach an existing unit of the LLM in Global Business Law in Sydney*

The Board **resolved** to approve a proposal from the Faculty of Law and Management to teach an existing unit of the LLM in Global Business Law in Sydney, as detailed in Attachment A to report AB06/74.

Fac. Reg.

407.3.2 Report of Committee for External Programs: 12 April 2006

The Board received report AB06/43.

- (a) *Semester One Enrolments*

The Board noted that that La Trobe commencements rose by 29% and the national higher education increase was 8.6%.

- (b) *MOUs*

The Board noted that all universities faced a challenge maintaining international and exchange agreements which met the University's strategic directions. It was intended that a proposal be put before the Vice-Chancellor that all MOU proposals from individuals or faculties have a covering paper in a standard format which outlines the objectives and outcomes of the proposed MOU and how the MOU advances the strategic directions of the University.

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

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

- China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, People's Republic of China: articulation arrangement agreement.

(d) *The Bologna Process and Australia: Next Steps*

The Board noted that the Committee for External Programs had received a discussion paper provided by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, *The Bologna Process and Australia: Next Step*.

It was also noted that the Committee had agreed that it would be dangerous for Australia to react only to the Bologna Process, which recommends a standardised 3 year undergraduate/Bachelor degree and 2 year Masters, due to the various systems in other countries ie. Asia and America which are of equal or more importance to Australian higher education.

407.3.3 Report of Research and Graduate Studies Committee: 31 March 2006

The Board received report AB06/76.

(a) *Residency Requirements for Research Higher Degrees*

The Board noted that following a request from the Faculty of Law and Management, the Research and Graduate Studies Committee considered draft revised guidelines on external candidature. It was the view of the Committee that, whilst the facility for external candidature already existed, it was important to make the information on external candidature more accessible.

The Board **resolved** to approve the revised wording of Section 3 of the Guidelines for External Candidature, as detailed in Appendix 1 to report AB06/76.

Mgr.,RGSO

(b) *Australian Research Council Post-Award Institutional Reviews*

The Board noted that the Australian Research Council had commenced a program of rolling post-award institutional reviews.

(c) *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*

The Board noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had agreed to form a small working party to review the University's documentation and procedures following finalization of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* and leading the implementation of the Code. The Working Party would consist of: Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research); Professor P Dyson; and Professor P Murphy.

(d) *Research Quality Framework*

The Board noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had received the *Final Advice on the Preferred RQF Model*, recently released by the Minister, and the Minister's announcement regarding the establishment of the RQF Development Advisory Group.

It was also noted that the Research and Graduate Studies Committee had agreed to:

- form a steering committee to oversee the RQF exercise, including resource requirements, and to include the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), two Deans and two Committee members who were also outstanding researchers; and
- form a portfolio review group comprising 4-6 outstanding researchers and chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research). It was expected that members would bring to the group broad and extensive experience such as experience on grant assessment panels, experience with the RAE and Performance-Based Research Funding (New Zealand), experience on journal editorial boards, committees and boards of learned academies, international chair selection committees, etc.

407.4 OTHER MATTERS

407.4.1 Professorial Reports

(a) *Professor Marian Pitts (ARCSHS)*

The Board received and noted, for referral to Council, a professorial report submitted by Professor Marian Pitts (ARCSHS), as detailed in report AB06/77.

EO(Sec)

Dr Russell had the following queries regarding the professorial report:

- How does Research Infrastructure Block Grant money come into the University?
- How is the funding then proportioned?

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University had put aside \$15m to spend on research in the period 2006-2008 and were awaiting a decision on RQF formulas prior to deciding where best that money would be spent on research at La Trobe.

The Vice-Principal (Resources & Administration) advised that the University budget was on the web and this document was very clear regarding how funding at the University was proportioned.

Mr Reed queried why Academic Board did not provide input into the budget process. The Vice-Principal (Resources & Administration) advised that the budget process is discussed in great detail at the Senior Planning Group which includes the Deans. It was also noted that the terms of reference of Academic Board did not allow for their input into the budget process.

PART C: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

407.5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

407.5.1 Minutes of the Faculty Boards

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

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| (a) Education: 16 February 2006 | FOE/FB06/018M |
| (b) Health Sciences: 8 February 2006 | FHS/FB06/1M |
| (c) Humanities and Social Sciences: 1 March 2006 | LHUSS/FB2006/33M |

The Chair thanked all members of Academic Board who had been involved in his recent consultations with Faculties about making improvements to the meetings of Academic Board. The Board noted that as a result of these consultations a short discussion paper with recommendations would be provided to the Senior Management Group meeting on Friday 12 May for their comment. The Chair advised that he would then circulate a copy of the paper to all Academic Board members.

The meeting closed at 10.05am.

**NEXT MEETING: 9.30am
Wednesday 7 June 2006
Venue to be advised
Bundoora Campus**

CONFIRMED BY CHAIR _____ DATE _____