

**FACULTY MEETING  
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting held at 2.00pm on **Wednesday 22 October 2008** by video-conference [SS.MMLib.B102 in Hobart and NH.L172 in Launceston].

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

Professor J. Reid (Dean and Chair), Dr T. Acuna, Dr P. Brown, Dr M. Cameron-Jones, Professor A. Canty, Ms Y. Chen, Dr J. Dermoudy, Professor J. Dickey, Dr R. Doyle, Dr J. Ellison, Professor L. Forbes, Mr M. Frith, Professor B. Gemmell, Dr G. Hannan, Ms M. Hazelwood, A/Prof N. Holbrook, A/Prof S. Jones, Professor A. Koutoulis, Dr D.J.H. Lewis, A/Prof S. Loo, Professor H. McCallum, Professor A. McMinn, Dr P. Mandal, Ms J. Mollison, Dr A. Seen, Dr. Steer, Dr G. Unwin, Professor R. White and Mrs H. Williams.

Mr W. Goninon and Ms N. Oliveira (Secretary) were also present.

**1. APOLOGIES**

A/Prof C. Birch, Dr M. Brideson, Professor Y. Choi, Dr A. Cole, Dr R. Duncan, Professor P. Haddad, Dr W. Howard, Dr J. Jabour, Dr V. Janssen, Professor C. Johnson, Dr B. Leon de la Barra, Professor C. Letchford, Professor R. Fay, Dr C. McLeod, Professor G. Meyers, Dr K. Michael, A/Prof C. Mohammed, Dr J. Osborn, A/Prof T. Ross, Dr D. Russell, Dr S. Shabala, A/Prof E. Stratford, Professor M. Tamplin, Mr R. Twining, Professor F. Vanclay and Professor B. Yates

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2007 were taken as read and confirmed.

**3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

No items of other business were raised.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING**

Nil.

**5. DEAN'S REPORT**

The Dean reported on a number of matters including:

- 2009 Faculty Budget – an overview of the budget process was provided. The following key points were made:
  - load targets were established with Heads of Schools (there would be a 4.5% increase in load relative to this year).
  - the 2009 Budget will be tight with the Faculty \$3.4M behind in real terms.
  - a business case for \$1.35M in University adjustment funds was made by the Faculty.

- in 2009, a 1% tolerance level will be applied to enrolment targets. If faculties are under enrolled by more than 1% clawback will occur and this will have to be met at the School-level. Schools exceeding target will be fully funded for the additional places achieved. This will add quite a bit of uncertainty to budgets.
- From the \$34.15M allocated to the Faculty from 4 main sources (CGS load, Research, FFPOS and Domestic Full-fee income) a budget is arrived at for each School.
- The Faculty will receive \$1M in business case adjustment funds for 2009 plus a permanent adjustment to the core budgets for C&IS and Maths & Physics to add \$200k to the funding each school would receive under the existing budget model. In turn, the Faculty has to relinquish space in Hobart (IS Building which will allow for the co-location of IMAS) and Launceston (space yet to be identified).
- The main concern is that Schools and Institutes have sufficient resources to pay profile staff and to operate. Endorsement of the Budget by the Faculty Executive Committee has been received.
- Of the Faculty's budget - 79% is staff profile costs, 2% Faculty Office, 5% for core activities. As a starting point, all Schools receive 93% of what they earn.
- The Faculty will not hold back funds for E&MW but anticipated salary savings (to be managed by the Faculty Office) will be used to fund E&MW in 2009.

The Faculty agreed to receive the report on the 2009 Budget.

- 2009 Faculty Plan - a copy of the 2009 Faculty Plan was provided for information.
- Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) - a major component of the restructuring of the Faculty is the proposed establishment of IMAS. This will see the co-location of all contributors to UTAS marine and Antarctic science activities into a single Institute outside of the Faculty. Initially, the Institute will be responsible for research post-graduate courses and research. Concerns related to the proposal were discussed.
- The Dean's position has been advertised with a closing date of Friday 28 November. A vote of thanks was moved and carried unanimously that the Faculty recognises the sterling service of Jim Reid as Dean and expresses much regret that he is stepping down as Dean.
- 2009 Applications - Faculty Comparisons 2008/09. Preliminary data indicates a slight increase in applications over 2008 (6%) and a small upturn (5.5%) in Year 12 applications. [The latest data on applications by course can be obtained at: [http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/adminreports/LATEST\\_REPORTS/](http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/adminreports/LATEST_REPORTS/)]

The impact of the government's changes to HECS for maths and science is uncertain at this stage.

6. **FACULTY TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE**

The Associate Dean, Professor Rob White, reported on new courses approved by the FTLC and Faculty Executive Committee for 2009 and other teaching and learning matters, as follows:

1. The existing **Bachelor of Environmental Design** has been revised, to introduce three specialisations – Architecture, Interior Design and Furniture Design. The degree is one of the first to be translated into the new common course structure.
2. Earlier this year, a consortium of four universities [the Australian National University (ANU), University of Melbourne (UMelb), Southern Cross University (SCU) and University of Tasmania (UTas)] agreed to offer a National Forestry Masters Program. A **Master of Forestry** and a **Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Forestry** program were approved for introduction in Semester 2, 2008.
3. The Bachelor of Forest Science and BSc Four-year Program – Forest Ecology are to be discontinued.
4. The suite of environmental management postgraduate courses, offered by the School of Geography & Environmental Studies, has been revised. The Natural Environment Management and Environmental Studies specialisations are to be discontinued. Only one stream in Environmental Management will be offered. The FTLC approved:
  - i. the introduction of a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Management
  - ii. the discontinuation of the:
    - Graduate Certificate of Environmental Studies (S5B)
    - Graduate Certificate of Natural Environmental Management (S5Q)
    - Graduate Diploma of Environmental Studies (S6B)
    - Graduate Diploma of Environmental Studies with Honours (S6W)
    - Graduate Diploma of Natural Environmental Management (S6Q)
  - iii. the continuation, with minor amendments, of the:
    - Master of Environmental Management (S7D)
    - Graduate Diploma of Environmental Planning (S6L)
    - Master of Environmental Planning (S7U)
5. The School of Geography & Environmental Studies has conducted an extensive review of teaching undertaken resulting in rationalisation of the number of units offered.
6. The introduction of a new major for the Bachelor of Computing in **Games Technology** has been approved. In addition, new schedules conforming to the new course structures have been approved. A new major in Human Interface Technology is to be considered at a FTLC meeting this afternoon.
7. Revisions to the current **Bachelor of Information Systems** program to consolidate three specializations into one and to tighten the rules, particularly,

those surrounding electives have been approved as well as significant revisions to the BIS over the next three years, commencing in 2009. Changes to the BIS have been translated into the new common course structure.

8. A **Graduate Certificate in Science Education**, which has been developed in consultation with the Department of Education, has been recommended for approval to the UTLC. The course is structured around 4 units – Content (Science) 1 and 2 and Educational Enquiry 1 and 2 – to provide professional development opportunities for teachers of science by providing access to current developments in science as well as examining how new topics can be introduced into the classroom curriculum. The program is aimed at teachers involved in teaching science and maths that are not science trained, teachers with considerable service and BTeach students.
9. The following matters will be considered by the FTLC at a meeting this afternoon:
  - New course proposal – Graduate Certificate in Renewable Energy Power Systems
  - New course proposal – Graduate Certificate in Infrastructure Asset Management
  - Terminating Passes – faculties have been asked to reconsider the usage of terminating passes.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.