

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Research and Research Training Committee

12.2 Report of the Research and Research Training Committee meeting held on 4 February 2009

The Committee met on 4 February 2009 when there were present: The Acting Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding; Professors A Bashford, J Christodoulou, E. Cowley, T Hambley, J Kril, A Masri, A McBratney, B Paltridge, K Refshauge, J Trehwella, R Waterhouse, N Weber and K White; Associate Professors A Ammit, K Marsh, P McCallum and G Tolhurst; Dr D Cabrera and Ms R Kumar. Mr M Charet was in attendance.

The full agenda for the meeting may be accessed on the web at:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/rrtc/agendas.shtml>

12.2.1 Proposals for New and Amended Courses**12.2.1.1 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music (Performance)**

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This proposal was put forward by the Conservatorium of Music to formalise and document current practice, in which a performance or recital to complete one award course could be used as the audition for admission to another award course. The proposal was unanimously approved by the Research and Research Training Committee.

Recommendation

That the Academic Board:

- (1) *approve the proposal from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to amend the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music (Performance), and*
 - (2) *recommend that Senate endorse the Academic Board's approval of the proposal, noting there are no subsequent amendments to the Resolutions of Senate; and*
 - (3) *approve the amendment of the Resolutions of Faculty relating to the course,*
- with effect from 1 January 2009, as set out in the report presented.*

12.2.2 Probationary Candidature

An apparent contradiction in the current documentation relating to probationary research candidature was reported to the Committee, with the *Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Rule 2004*, stating that a candidate "may be accepted by a faculty on a probationary basis for a period not exceeding one year" but the current Annual Progress Review form allowing probation to be extended by "a further semester". It was resolved that the Dean of Graduate Studies revise the wording of the Annual Progress Review form to stipulate that the maximum period of probation is one year, as follows (additions indicated by underline, deletions indicated by strikethrough):

4.8 Probation (Please complete for candidates who commenced 6-12 months prior to Review)

- (b) Please recommend one of the following:
 - The probation period has been satisfactorily completed
 - An extension to the probation period is required ~~for a further semester~~ (NB the maximum probation period is 12 months)

Recommendation

That the Academic Board approve a minor change to the Annual Progress Review form with immediate effect, as presented.

12.2.3 Academic Board Phase Three Faculty Review Reports *LTC Report, pages F4-F5*

The Research and Research Training Committee considered the recommendations in the following Faculty Review Update Report which related to research issues. A full copy of the reports has been enclosed with the report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting of 11 February 2009. The Committee also noted the update reports from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies and the Faculty of Pharmacy, but as these reports were held over to the March meeting of the Learning and Teaching Committee, they are not included here.

(1) Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the update report arising from the Phase Three Academic Board Faculty Review of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources.

12.2.4 Proceedings of the Committee

12.2.4.1 Report of the Chair

(1) Action taken

The Acting Chair noted that he had approved:

- admission to candidature and appointment of examiners for one Higher Degree;
- the deferment of public availability of one thesis;
- the waive of signature requirement for one thesis containing publications

12.2.4.2 Report of the Academic Board

The Committee noted the report of the Academic Board meeting of 10 December 2008.

12.2.4.3 Other Reports

The Committee also noted:

- update reports from the PhD Review Working Party, Master of Philosophy Working Party and Open Access Working Party;
- the report of the PhD Award Sub-Committee meetings of 11 November 2008, 9 December 2008 and 20 January 2009;
- the report of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), who noted an audit of the University's ethics administration and policy;
- an update report on the Research Management Program
- the report on the Academic Board Phase 3 Review: Faculty of Pharmacy;
- Update Reports from the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources from the Phase 3 Academic Board Review of those faculties;
- A request for volunteers to discuss the extension of confidentiality in research theses to cover data provided by third parties.
- A request that faculties audit the use of PRSS and SSP funding, to report to the next meeting of the Committee.

Minor Course Amendment Proposal

Faculty/Board of Studies: Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Contact person: Adrienne Sach

1. Name of award course

Doctor of Philosophy
Doctor of Musical Arts
Graduate Diploma in Music (Opera)
Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Opera)
Master of Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Conducting)

2. Purpose of proposal

To advise the Academic Board of amendments to the Rules of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and seek approval from both the Board and Senate. This amendment will allow a student to seek permission to allow the final recital of a performance degree program to be used as the audition for entry into a higher degree performance program.

3. Details of amendment

An additional point to be added to the **1.2 Admission to postgraduate courses** section of the Rules of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music as follows:

1.2 Admission to postgraduate courses

1.2.7 An applicant ~~for admission to a performance course~~ may request permission for a the final recital of a Sydney Conservatorium of Music performance award course to be counted used as the audition for admission to a higher degree performance award course, provided the recital takes place within six months of intended admission. The request must occur before the recital takes place. Approval for use of the final recital as an audition is required from the relevant Chair of Unit.

4. Transitional arrangements

N/A

5. Other relevant information

- This proposal formalises current practice. At present the final recital of a performance degree can be used as the audition for entry to a higher level performance degree if (1) a student requests this prior to the recital taking place, and (2) written approval is obtained from the relevant Chair of Unit.
- At present, two separate sets of paperwork are required in this circumstance: (1) the regular recital report, and (2) an audition report. If necessary, different assessors are present to handle the requirements of the recital and that of the audition. The requirement for two sets of paperwork and for viable assessors is to remain in place.
- This matter was discussed and approved at the Conservatorium Graduate Studies Committee on 20 October 2008. Approval from the College Board of the Conservatorium is pending.

6. Signature of Dean