

AGENDA ITEM 11**Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee****11.2 Report of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2009**

The Learning and Teaching Committee met on 17 June 2009 when there was present: The Acting Chair (Professor B Sutton) presiding; Associate Professors S Barrie, T Ho and M Scoufis; Drs S Cattle, S Cumming, M Edmund, C Groenlund, I Koprinska, H McKenzie, T Mogg, B Rooney, R Roubin, R Saunders and C Taylor; Ms H Drury, S Hanfling, J Gavan, R Kumar (from 10.30am) and A O'Hara; and Mr N White. Professor T Asproumorgos and Ms L Young were in attendance.

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

http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/learn_teach/agendas.shtml

11.2.1 Academic Board Faculty Reviews**(1) Faculty of Arts**

The Committee was informed that since the Academic Board Review, the Faculty's Dean of Arts and Heads of School were working together on the recommendation for better risk management in regards to the Faculty's size, diversity and geographic spread. A number of initiatives had started in response to the recommendation for better connection of staff and students with the Faculty community. These included an overhaul to the Faculty website, with a new calendar system and student interface, and a new Student Advisory Committee with direct access to the Dean. The Faculty was also trying to boost School representation in Faculty decision making. This includes committee and governance overhaul to develop a closer mesh between two areas of the Faculty – school line-management and Faculty committee structures. The Faculty would also be working towards better methods of benchmarking, the review's third broad recommendation area relevant to learning and teaching.

The full report is available on the Committee's website at:

http://www.usyd.edu.au/ab/committees/learn_teach/agendas.shtml

Recommendation

That the Academic Board note the Academic Board Review Phase Three Report for the Faculty of Arts as presented.

11.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee**(1) Students at Risk Working Party**

The Committee heard that the Working Party had enabled healthy discussion on the relevant issues and were beginning the challenge of redrafting the policy, incorporating discussion points raised so far.

(2) Assessment Working Party

The Committee was informed that the Assessment Working Party is also at the stage where policy is being redrafted.

(3) Review of Academic Board

The Committee was updated on the latest developments in the restructure of the Academic Board, with discussion focussing on the Board's role as guardian of academic standards and quality maintenance. The possible restructure of the Board's standing committees and changes to membership, in response to concurrent membership with SEG and the Board held by many

members, was discussed. There was also discussion around the definition of standards and standardisation in relation to tertiary education, with emphasis on the importance of the University maintaining its high standards and not being restricted by national standardisation.

(4) Infrastructure

The Committee vigorously discussed the importance of open access across the University to information about new and developing infrastructure. The effect of such knowledge on curriculum planning, for example, in relation to knowledge of new shared teaching spaces, was recognised. The Committee also discussed the relationship between infrastructure and pedagogy, agreeing careful consideration of infrastructure built today was vital in order for it to be a relevant teaching and learning space in the long term future.

(5) Reports

The Committee noted the following reports:

- Report of the Academic Board meeting held on 27 May 2009
- Oral report of the Acting Chair