

BOARD OF GRADUATE RESEARCH

**Extracts of Minutes of a meeting held at 1.10 pm on Friday 30 June 2006,
in the meeting room, Research House, Hobart**

Present:

Professor Andrew Glenn, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Associate Professor Margaret Barrett
Dr Kate Crowley, Acting Dean of Graduate Research (Chair)
Dr Mark Hovenden
Dr Anthony Koutoulis
Mr Andrew Perry, TUPA Representative
Dr Elaine Stratford

Secretary:

Gail Reardon, Assistant Manager, Student Centre

In attendance

Mrs Toni Hickey, Manager of the Student Centre, represented the Academic Registrar for Item 4

Apologies

Apologies: Professor Carey Denholm, Dean of Graduate Research ,
Professor Judi Walker, Dr Natalie Moltschaniewskyj, Professor McPhie

Academic Registrar Report

Mrs Hickey reported that:

- an Executive Officer (Policy) 0.8 fractional position had been created on a 12 month basis, and that Sara Franz would take up this position. The Executive Officer (Policy) would assume the role of Secretary to the Board and be dedicated 0.4 to Graduate Research.
- a meeting had been held to discuss the annual review system.

Business arising from previous minutes

Both updates were reported in the Acting Dean's report and the Secretary's report. The Board expressed interest in a web link from the Graduate Research web page to the ABC interviews with graduate candidates.

Dean's Report

The Acting Dean reported that:

- Assoc Prof Barrett would be Acting Dean while Dr Crowley was on leave for the following 3 weeks
- Dr Crowley's focus would be on completions, and on those candidates with extended or prolonged candidature.
- 400 candidates had attended professional skills workshops

- An item forshadowed for the August meeting was Responsible Conduct in Research
- Dr Crowley drew the Board's attention to the AVCC Disability Guidelines

The report was received.

The Board discussed the report and focus on completions. The Acting Dean advised that she would draft up a paper from the points below and circulate a "completion plan" to Board members. Assoc Prof Barrett offered to initiate the paper while Dr Crowley was on leave. Suggestions and comments from Board members in discussion were:

- a seminar on 'when enough is enough';
- the importance of exit strategies;
- the importance of remembering that a scholarship was for 3 years, not 3.5 years, and the impact that extensions to scholarship have on scholarship funding;
- a workshop for supervisors on scoping projects;
- how the funding from completions affects funding to Schools;
- the possibility of scholarships being restricted to 3 years and further funding dependant on satisfactory progress being made;
- a 'probation' system for candidates who are given a C annual review result
- a performance management style of system, with more emphasis on the preliminary research plan, and on milestones throughout candidature

Load and activity reports

The Secretary advised the Board that the load report reflected an adjustment to the report which had been identified in 2006 through the use of the new DESTPAC data reporting package.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Report

Professor Glenn reported that the introduction of the Research Quality Framework had been delayed, and advised that the Federal Minister of Education was expected to sign the revised framework by the conclusion of 2006.

Professor Glenn noted that he would be discussing the RQF with Schools, and intended to build on the Research Quality Index Exercise by intruding the outcomes from the Exercise into 2007/8 budget planning to encourage research quality issues in University planning processes.

Candidate's examination

The Board discussed the examination reports from a recent examination without identifying the candidate or examiners involved. The Acting Dean noted the suggestions from the Board.

Graduate Research Unit Report

Mid year scholarship round

The Secretary reported that for the mid-year round which closed on 30th June, 39 applications had been received and approximately another 10 could be anticipated by close of business.

2005 Annual reviews

The Secretary reported that to enable candidates and staff to complete the 2005 outstanding annual reviews, a Word document of the annual review had been created and circulated to Schools.

The Board indicated its support for the form being put into place for the 2005 reviews.

The remaining annual reviews to be received were a total of 164.

The Board discussed 2006 annual reviews and supported the use of a paper-based system for 2006, incorporating its suggestions and feedback.

The 2006 annual review form would be updated, discussed with the Acting Dean, circulated to Board members and the final draft presented to the next Board meeting.

Cotutelle and conjoint arrangements

Papers were provided to the Board for consideration and feedback prior to the next Board meeting

GRU Review

Board members asked for clarification of the terms of reference for any GRU review, the composition of any review team and any timeline noting the importance of involving the Board in any review of the GRU's activities noting that this review may be part of a broader review of S&AS.

Tasmanian University Postgraduate Association report

Mr Perry, reported on discussions with the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism and that the financial modelling for TUPA funding was still under discussion, but that the body would retain its advocacy role. All honoraria for office holders would not exist under VSU, and it may then be difficult to attract valuable students into participating.

Mr Perry also reported that eight universities were putting their support behind student organisations, and that support could be seen as a drawcard to attract students to those universities. He provided the Board members with a copy of an article in the Australian newspaper indicating that support services for students would give those universities a competitive edge in the student market.