1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, extending a particular welcome to Professor Greg Craven, incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shirley Alexander, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Equity), University of Technology, Sydney (newly appointed external member of Academic Board), Ms Anne Cummins, acting Dean of Students, Ms Ann Applebee, acting Director, Institute for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, Ms Sarah Rose, student Senate representative for 2008, and Mr Peter May, Manager (Planning and Quality).

2. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF SELF-REVIEW RELATING TO ACADEMIC BOARD’S EFFECTIVENESS

Mr Peter May elaborated on his analysis of the results of the self-review of the Board’s effectiveness as follows:

- the survey had a response rate of 73 percent (19 out of 26);
- a high proportion of responses were positive regarding the Board and its effectiveness, particularly in relation to teaching and learning matters;
- a small but significant proportion of responses had expressed concern and/or uncertainty about the extent of the Board’s effectiveness in relation to research and research training, community engagement and discussion on strategic matters;
- a small but significant proportion of responses expressed concern and/or uncertainty in relation to the effectiveness of the annual schedule of Board meetings and the effective communication of Board matters and decisions to staff and students; and
- an analysis of the attendance of Academic Board members at meetings during 2006 found that 26 percent attended all five meetings, with 71 percent attending four or more meetings (the membership of the Board was reviewed in late 2007 which resulted in a change in composition from 38 to 28 members).


The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) reported that work had commenced on a draft Research Plan that was designed to provide a framework for strengthening the University’s research focus during the period 2008-2012 and to lay a solid foundation for the longer term. Academic Board noted that the plan reflected the University’s commitment to:

- maintain its status as a teaching and research University;
- develop its existing research strengths; and
- identify new areas of research activity for the future.

Professor Wilson’s presentation encompassed the following:

- the external context and developments which will impact on ACU’s research performance, e.g. change of government and the consequent effect on research funding, diversity as a continuing focus in the sector and the increased government commitment to evaluations of the quality of the research higher degree student experience;
the importance for the University of considering its Mission and Catholic character in determining its research directions and priorities;
• primary goals for the next five years;
• research performance data 2002-2006; and
• research income, in particular the Research Infrastructure Block Grant.

4. REPORT BY VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor foreshadowed his presentation regarding the future strategic direction of the University at the next Academic Board meeting on 14 May 2008.

Professor Craven, in referring to the presentation by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), emphasised the fundamental importance of research to the future of ACU. Professor Craven pointed out that the University must focus primarily on the conduct and publication of research of the highest possible quality in areas of demonstrable strength. He, like Professor Wilson, expressed the view that the University must determine its research directions and priorities having regard to its Mission and Catholic ethos. He stressed the unique position of ACU in that it must relate effectively to three separate entities, the Church, government and the general community. He stated that the issue of diversity was also a key one for the institution.

5. POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR EXAMINATIONS

Academic Board approved the Examination Policy and Procedures – Staff and the Examination Policy and Procedures – Students.

6. REVISED TIMETABLING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Academic Board approved the revised Timetabling Policy and Procedures.

7. STUDY PERIODS AND GUIDELINES FOR OFFERING UNITS IN 2009

Academic Board approved the Study Periods and Guidelines for Offering Units in 2009.

8. POLICY ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OFFERED ACROSS AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Academic Board approved the Policy on Academic Programs offered across Australian Catholic University.

9. COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Academic Board approved the:

(i) curriculum plan for the Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture for introduction in semester 1, 2008 for Catholic Health Australia cohorts in Sydney and Adelaide (the course proposal was approved by the Board on 16 May 2007);
(ii) course review proposal and curriculum plan for the Bachelor of Psychological Science and Graduate Diploma in Psychology for introduction at the Brisbane and Melbourne campuses in semester 1, 2009; and
(iii) course review proposal and curriculum plan for the following postgraduate professional psychology programs for introduction at the Melbourne campus in semester 1, 2009:
- Master of Psychology (Clinical);
- Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental);
- Doctor of Psychology (Clinical);
- Doctor of Psychology (Educational and Developmental);
- Master of Psychology (Clinical)/Doctor of Philosophy; and
- Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental)/Doctor of Philosophy.

Faculty of Health Sciences

(i) Subject to the approval by Senate of the course proposal, Academic Board approved the curriculum plan for the Master of Clinical Nursing for Nurse Practitioners for introduction at the Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and North Sydney campuses in semester 1, 2009.

(ii) Academic Board approved the:
(a) discontinuation of the Diploma in Nursing and Advanced Diploma in Nursing -
   (i) in North Sydney from December 2007;
   (ii) in Brisbane and Melbourne from December 2008;
(b) introduction of the Diploma in Tertiary Preparation (Nursing) -
   (i) in North Sydney from semester 1, 2008 (change in nomenclature effective from 2009); and
   (ii) in Brisbane and Melbourne from semester 1, 2009.

(iii) Academic Board approved the change to sequencing of units and change to the schedule of unit offerings forming part of the course rules for the Bachelor of Nursing.

Faculty of Education

(iv) Academic Board noted the executive approval by the Chair for the introduction of the Bachelor of Educational Studies as an exit point from the Bachelor of Education (Primary) effective immediately.

10. RECIPIENTS OF 2007 FACULTY MEDALS

Academic Board noted the following recipients of the 2007 Faculty Medals:

Faculty of Education
Ms Joranda Maria JONES, Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts (NSW);

Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Honours Medal winner – Ms Majella ALLEN, Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (Qld);
Pass Medal winner – Ms Grace CHOW, Bachelor of Psychological Science (Vic);

Faculty of Health Sciences
Honours Medal winner – Ms Bianca Louise SHARE, Bachelor of Exercise Science (Honours) (Vic); and
Pass Medal winner – Mr Daniel Cicioni KOLSKY – Bachelor of Exercise Science (Vic).
11. REPORT OF MEETING OF UNIVERSITY MEDALS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2008

Award of 2007 University Medal

Academic Board approved the award of a University Medal for 2007 to Ms Bianca Louise SHARE, School of Exercise Science (Vic).

Amendment of Rules and Guidelines for the Award of University Medals

Academic Board approved the amendment of the Rules and Guidelines for the Award of University Medals.

Cut-off score for 2008 University Medals

Academic Board approved the cut-off score of 6.3 for 2008 University Medals.

12. COURSE CHANGES – APPROVAL OF CONSEQUENTIAL RULE CHANGES

Subject to Senate approval of the new course proposal, Academic Board approved:

(i) new course rules;
(ii) amendment of course rules;
(iii) amendment of the Schedule to the Nomenclature Guidelines; and
(iv) amendment of the Schedule to the Admission Rules arising as a result of Senate and Academic Board approval of Faculty Board recommendations for course changes, and including minor changes approved by the respective Faculty Board.

13. REPORTS

Academic Board noted the following reports:

- Confirmed minutes of Faculty of Education Board meeting held on 31 October 2007;
- Confirmed minutes of Faculty of Arts and Sciences Board meeting held on 2 November 2007;
- Confirmed minutes of Faculty of Health Sciences Board meeting held on 16 November 2007;
- Report of the Academic Board Standing Committee meeting held on 23 January 2008;
- Report of the meeting of the University Research and Research Training Management Committee held on 6 February 2008 – members noted that Associate Professor Jeffrey Dorman was the recipient of the 2007 Excellence in Postgraduate Research Supervision Award;
- Report on the 2007/08 Admission Cycle; and
- 2007 Academic Honesty Reports from each Faculty.