

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BOARD**

Confirmed minutes of Meeting 05/7 of the University Graduate School Board held on Thursday, 8 December 2005, in Conference Room 6.295, Level 6, Building 10, City Campus at 9:30 am.

Present: Prof M Tennant (Chair), Assoc Prof P Ashton, Prof A Benjamin, Prof D Eamus, Mr R Hill, Prof J Hughes, Prof H Nguyen, Dr B Leigh, Assoc Prof C Mitchell, Ms N Muckle, Prof D Stokes (for Prof I Palmer), Prof C Zhang

Apologies: Dr J McKenzie, Dr P Tooth, Prof E White,

In attendance: Ms R Harris (HSS, assisting Assoc Prof Ashton), Mr P Luscombe (Secretariat)

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

The above apologies were received and noted. The Dean welcomed Professor Don Stokes to the meeting, representing the Faculty of Business (in place of Professor Palmer) and also Mr Ross Hill, a recently elected student member of the Board.

2.& 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES & BUSINESS ARISING

The minutes of meeting 05/6 (15/11/05) were not available at the meeting.

4. DEAN'S REPORT

There was no report.

5. RANKING AND STARRING OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Dean explained that starring items would be unnecessary as decisions had to be made on items 6.1 and 6.2.

6. POLICY AND PROCEDURE MATTERS

The Dean commenced the discussion explaining that the Commonwealth Government required Universities to use a competitive process in determining allocation of APAs, however it did not specify this process. The UTS ranked applicants competitively across the University.

Professor Tennant said that UTS would probably be allocated 24 APAs and 10 doctoral scholarships this year but the official number would not be known until February. Although the numbers available had not risen the competition for scholarships had intensified thus forcing up the entry level. This year the cut-off point was 28.

In addition, Professor Rowley had recently advised the Dean that she had determined a method whereby UTS could fund a further eight scholarships, but which must be allocated in areas within the focus of the University's strategic directions.

6.1 APA and UTS Doctoral Scholarships

The document “2006 Scoring for Scholarships and RTS” was circulated and the Dean explained the process by which the applications had been ranked in this document – the faculties had scored the applications; Professor Tony Moon had moderated the scores across the University; they had then been circulated to faculties, challenges had been made which the Dean of the Graduate School had reviewed and responded to. The Dean proposed that the list, as circulated, be endorsed unless serious irregularities were brought to light during discussion.

The University had received 248 applications representing all faculties, IIS and ISF. Scholarships were available to cater for the cut-off point of 28 – however this included 12 applicants with a score of 28 and 4 would have to be eliminated by further ranking.

At this point a short break in proceedings was provided for discussion between the Dean and Board members with specific queries on the ranking process.

On reconvening, Professor Eamus requested that an applicant (no 84) in the Faculty of Science be reassessed as he believed that the process might not take sufficient account of the cross-disciplinary nature of the project being proposed for research (economic theory and ecology).

Professor Tennant agreed to review, with Professor Hughes’ assistance, the issues raised in discussion.

In ranking the applicants scoring 28 it was agreed, provided the Rules did not disallow it, that an academic based assessment would be used implementing the following criteria, in order –

University Medal 1st Class Hons. Research Masters 2nd Class Hons.

The Dean agreed also:

- to investigate one applicant, above the cut-off point, who had indicated interest only in a RTS
- to seek confirmation of students who would definitely receive the University Medal and the category that honours students would be awarded.

Professor Benjamin, drawing particular attention to the possible weighting of the last column (publications and professional achievement etc) in the ranking process, expressed his dismay that the system would not necessarily reward a University Medallist with an APA. He said that this tended to detract from the University’s public standing. After some discussion it was agreed that all University Medallists should be awarded APAs.

RESOLVED AGS/05/28

- .1 that the 12 applications with a score of 28 be ranked within that score on the basis of apparent academic merit indicated, in priority order of:
 - recipient of University Medal
 - 1st class honours candidate
 - research masters candidate

- 2nd class honours candidate
- .2 that, subject to the Dean, assisted where necessary by Professor Hughes, resolving the issues raised in discussion, the APA and RTS scholarships for 2006 be allocated in accordance with the document “2006 Scoring for Scholarships and RTS”.

6.2 R L Werner and Gerard Brennan Scholarships

The Dean said that the R L Werner Scholarship was traditionally awarded to the highest ranked applicant and the Gerard Brennan Scholarship to the highest ranked Indigenous Australian applicant who scored above 20 points.

RESOLVED AGS/05/29

- .1 that the RL Werner scholarship for 2006 be awarded to Khandaker Islam.
- .2 that the Gerard Brennan Scholarship be awarded to Roy Monaghan.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:00 am.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE