MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES IN SCIENCE
HELD IN THE ECONS CONFERENCE ROOM ON TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 2008

Present: Professor George Stewart (Chair), Professor Bob Grove, Professor Lyn Abbott, Professor Geoff Hammond, Dr Patrick Finnegan, Dr Jane Emberson, Ms Jenny Gamble, Ms Marjan Heibloem, Mrs Vickie Falcetta, Associate Professor Michael Wise, Associate Professor Myra Keep, Dr Karl-Heinz Wywoll, Professor Bruce Elliott, Professor Lawrie Abraham, Professor Don Robertson, Associate Professor Ian McArthur, Dr Nancy Longnecker, Professor Linc Schmitt, Professor Geoff Stewart, Associate Professor Dave Morison, Dr Greg Acciaioli, Associate Professor Les Jennings, Ms Tess Vermeulen

Apologies: Associate Professor Nick Milne

Imelda Ooi, Secretary

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED – 15
that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2008 be confirmed.

2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited members to declare conflicts of interest in relation to any item on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. PROPOSED CHANGE IN UNIT NAME FOR PATH3311 BIOThERAPEUTIC REGENERATION

The School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine requested that the name of PATH3311 Biotherapeutic Regeneration be changed to “Biotherapeutics & Regenerative Medicine” as it felt that the new name would attract more students’ focus on the course and provide them with a better employment opportunity.

RESOLVED – 16
that the proposed name change of PATH3311 Biotherapeutic Regeneration to “Biotherapeutics & Regenerative Medicine” be endorsed.

4. RESCISSION OF ANHB3308 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY REF: F5075

The School of Anatomy & Human Biology wished to rescind ANHB3308 Developmental Biology due to lack of qualified staff to teach the unit and low enrolment numbers. The School advised that removing the unit from its major pathways would not prevent students from completing an ANHB Major and would have minimal impact on students as the unit had already been suppressed in January 2008.

RESOLVED – 17
that the rescission of ANHB3308 Developmental Biology be endorsed from 2009 onwards.
5. TEACHING OF ANIM3315 FUNCTIONAL ZOOMORPHOLOGY

Members were informed that ANIM3315 Functional Zoomorphology was usually available every second year and was next due to be offered in 2009. The School of Animal Biology would like to change the next offering of this unit to 2010 to allow for changes in staff availability. The unit would thus be listed as not available for 2009.

RESOLVED – 18
that ANIM3315 Functional Zoomorphology, be listed as not available in 2009 and be offered in 2010.

6. STAT3302 RESEARCH BIOSTATISTICS NOT AVAILABLE FOR 2009

Members were informed that the School of Animal Biology had requested that the unit STAT3302 Research Biostatistics be listed as not available in 2009, with a decision to be made at a later stage as to whether the unit should be cancelled. The class had been too small to be viable.

RESOLVED – 19
that STAT3302 Research Biostatistics, be listed as not available in 2009.

7. DISCONTINUATION OF EARTH SCIENCE MAJORS

Members were informed that the FNAS Teaching and Learning Committee had proposed that the following majors namely, Geographical Information Systems and Environmental Management; Geoscience; and Earth Science Chemistry, within the Earth Science programme be discontinued with immediate effect, as they had not been available for new enrolments for the last two years.

RESOLVED – 20
to recommend to the Faculty Board of Natural and Agricultural Sciences that the following majors – Geographical Information Systems and Environmental Management; Geoscience; and Earth Science Chemistry, be discontinued with immediate effect.

8. UWA HANDBOOK: SCIENCE FACULTIES’ POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Members had before them a proposal from Dr Jane Emberson for changes to be made to the Science Faculties’ policies and guidelines section of the UWA Handbook as outlined in Attachment A of the Agenda. Dr Emberson provided an addendum to Attachment A which was tabled at the meeting. The addendum contained some minor revisions which had resulted from discussions by the Teaching & Learning Committee in the Faculties of Life and Physical Sciences and Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Speaking to the item, Dr Emberson stated that there were a number of informal policies currently in place in the Science Faculties which had been agreed to by the joint Board of Studies but had never been formalised in the Handbook. She felt that it would be good to have the policies clearly spelt out in the UWA Handbook for students to use as a guide. The Teaching & Learning Committee of both Faculties were happy with the proposed changes.

RESOLVED – 21
that the proposed changes to Science Faculties’ policies and guidelines as outlined in Attachment A of the Agenda and the addendum to the attachment, be endorsed.

9. SCIENCE FACULTIES’ RULES

Members had before them a proposal from Dr Jane Emberson for changes to Science Faculties’ Rules.

Speaking to the item, Dr Jane Emberson stated that the Science Faculties had always applied time limits to credit derived from a prior diploma course as well as prior degree courses, so the word ‘degree’ appeared limiting and suggested it should be deleted. She also proposed that Rule 9.2.4.3(1)(a) under course structure, be amended to spell out that the three science majors must be in three different areas.
In relation to foundation packages, there had been some suggestion of changing them because some now required only 24 points and others required 30-36 points. Dr Emberson felt that this was not necessary given that the rule about three science majors in the foundation packages already applied. However, if this was warranted, she outlined the changes to be made in the Mathematics & Computer Science Foundation Package and Life Sciences (Human & Behavioural) Foundation Package in the Agenda which were agreed to by members at the meeting.

RESOLVED – 22
to recommend that the following changes to Science Faculties’ Rules be endorsed, subject to approval by Academic Council:

(i) Time Limits

9.2.1.1 Where a student is granted credit towards a bachelor’s degree course by virtue of work completed in another degree course at this or another institution, the student must complete the requirements for the new degree course within ten calendar years of the date on which that previous study began.

(ii) Course Structure

9.2.4.3 (1) The course consists of units to a minimum total value of 144 points and a maximum total value of 168 points comprising—

(a) one of the foundation packages set out in 9.2.5, comprising Level 1 units to the value of 48 points and including units leading to at least three of the Science majors listed in Rule 9.2.6.2, which must be in three different subject areas; [...]  

(iii) Foundation Packages

A. Mathematics & Computer Science Foundation Package

(d) Level 1 units to the value of 24 points, chosen in consultation with a Faculty Adviser, and including at least one pair of units from another Science Foundation Package and leading to a third science major.

B. Life Sciences (Human & Behavioural) Foundation Package

(a) two units from each of at least two of Groups A, B, C, D, E, F or G in Table 9.2.5f [...]—at least 24 points;

and

(b) if only 24 points have been taken under (a), one pair of units from another Science Foundation Package, leading to a third science major;

and

(c) if necessary to make up the required number of points, Level 1 units chosen in consultation with a Faculty Adviser—maximum of 12 points.

10. MAKING UNITS AVAILABLE AT 2 DIFFERENT LEVELS AND CHANGING UNIT CODES

Members had before them a proposal from the Teaching and Learning Committee of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (FNAS) to change the unit code for STAT2210 Biometrics 1 to STAT1110 Biometrics 1. This unit was traditionally taken in second year by students in the 4-year Science degrees. Currently most students took the unit in their first year.

In addition, it was proposed to have the following units – ECON3323 and ECON2223 Business and the Environment; and ECON3311 and ECON2224 Environmental and Resource Economics, available at levels 2 and 3 (currently only level 3), in order to allow flexibility within the majors and programmes in FNAS.

RESOLVED – 23
to recommend to the Faculty Board of Natural and Agricultural Sciences that the following be endorsed:

(i) the unit code for STAT2210 Biometrics 1 be changed to STAT1110 Biometrics 1; and

(ii) the units ECON3323 and ECON2223 Business and the Environment; and ECON3311 and ECON2224 Environmental and Resource Economics, be made available at levels 2 and 3.
11. **ENVT2221 GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY**

Members had before them a proposal from the Schools of Plant Biology and Earth & Geographical Sciences for the 12-point unit BIOL2262 Conservation Biology: Global Diversity Hotspots, to be replaced with (up to) two 6-point units, one of which would be based on ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and the Biosphere. Professor Hans Lambers advised that the Schools initially planned to introduce a new unit but due to staff shortage, decided that it would be better to use an existing unit and modify its content to cater to students’ needs.

The Schools had also proposed that the name of ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and the Biosphere, be changed to ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and Biodiversity, to reflect the change in context and content.

Professor Lambers pointed out that the Schools would be changing the unit BIOL2262 Conservation Biology: Global Diversity Hotspots, in 2009 and, therefore, there was no point in getting somebody to teach the unit for one year only. Hence, the Schools proposed that the changes be implemented for semester 2 2008. The Senior Faculty Administrative Officer advised that students would be contacted about the proposed changes.

**RESOLVED – 24**

To recommend to the Faculty Board of Natural and Agricultural Sciences that the following be endorsed with effect from semester 2 2008:

(i) replacement of 12-point unit BIOL2262 Conservation Biology: Global Diversity Hotspots, with (up to) two 6-point units, one of which would be based on ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and the Biosphere; and

(ii) the name of ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and the Biosphere, be changed to ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and Biodiversity.

12. **INTRODUCTION OF A NEW MAJOR IN THE BSc 50110: CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Members had before them a proposal from the FNAS Teaching and Learning Committee to introduce the Climate and Environment major in 2009 for the 3-year BSc degree. Dr Karl-Heinz Wyrvoll advised that the initiative was to cater to the demands of students. The major would be relevant for students interested in the environmental sciences and would include the climate-specific units from the 4-year Bachelor of Science (Climate Studies).

It was also proposed that the units ENVT2220 The Climate Systems; and ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and Biodiversity, be approved as BSc units.

**RESOLVED – 25**

To recommend to the Faculty Board of Natural and Agricultural Sciences that the following be endorsed with effect from 2009 onwards:

(i) introduction of Climate and Environment major in the 3-year BSc degree; and

(ii) the units ENVT2220 The Climate Systems; and ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and Biodiversity, be approved as BSc units.

13. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MAJOR AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME**

Members had before them a proposal from the FNAS' Teaching and Learning Committee to change the Environmental Management major in view of the introduction of the Climate and Environment major. Speaking to the item, Dr Karl-Heinz Wyrvoll advised that the proposed changes would provide students with a focus on the management aspects of the Environmental Management major. As this is a core major in the Environmental Science programme, the programme structure and rules would need to be amended accordingly. Dr Nancy Longnecker, Co-ordinator of the Science Communication programmes, pointed out that the content of ENVT3321 Climate Change Policy and Planning overlapped with that of
COMM3303 Science Communication for Change in Industry and Community, and stated that she would meet with Dr Wyrwoll to discuss the overlap. She also recommended that COMM3303 be listed as an optional unit in Group E, Table 9.2.6(22B) – Climate and Environment Major Sequence Options, and in Group C, Table 9.2.6(26B) – Environmental Management Major Sequence Options. Dr Wyrwoll was happy with the recommendations.

A brief discussion ensued in regards to FNAS’ proposal for the following units to be approved as BSc units:
- ECON1120 Environmental Economics
- ECON2221 Global Climate Change and Biodiversity
- ECON2223 Business and the Environment
- ECON2224 Environmental and Resource Economics
- ENVT3321 Climate Change Policy and Planning
- SCIE3366 Project and Risk Management
- SCIE3367 Management Decision Tools

The Chair expressed his concern that some of the units were not ‘science’ units as they appeared to focus more on business and that they should, therefore, be restricted to the Environmental Management major only. Dr Wyrwoll responded that these days, students were required to have more business and management skills. The units proposed would, therefore, provide a useful background for BSc students.

It was felt that the non-science options for the Environmental Management major could already be accommodated under the provisions of the 30 point non-science rule. It was suggested that the changes to the Environmental Management major be approved but that the request to include the units as standard BSc units be considered at the next meeting of the Board. This would enable the proposers to put forward a case for each of the units.

RESOLVED – 26

to recommend to the Faculty Board of Natural and Agricultural Sciences that the proposed changes to the Environmental Management major and the Environmental Science programme, be endorsed with effect from 2009 onwards.

14. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEOGRAPHY MAJOR

Members had before them a proposal from FNAS for a simplification of the rules for the Geography major with the removal of the five streams in the major. Speaking to the item, Dr Karl-Heinz-Wyrwoll advised that this was due to the loss of staff members and the limited number of units available to students in the Physical Geography stream. It was hoped that the amendment to the Rules would strengthen the weak stream. Dr Longnecker again pointed out the overlap of ENVT3321 Climate Change Policy and Planning, with COMM3303 Science Communication for Change in Industry and Community, and would be discussing with Dr Wyrwoll regarding the overlap.

RESOLVED – 27

to recommend to the Faculty Board of Natural and Agricultural Sciences that the following be endorsed with effect from 2009 onwards:

(i) the following units be added to the Geography major as level 2 and level 3 options:
- ENVT2220 The Climate Systems; and
- ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and Biodiversity
- ENVT3321 Climate Change Policy and Planning (from 2010 onwards - subject to final unit approval); and
- ENVT3320 Climate Dynamics (from 2010 onwards - subject to final unit approval); and

(ii) the units EART3324 Environmental Geomorphology of Sheltered Coasts; and EART3325 Environmental Geomorphology: Streams & Catchments; be consolidated into a single 6-point unit, EART3333 Environmental Geomorphology of Coasts and Rivers.
15. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY MAJOR AND PROGRAMMES

Professor Hans Lambers advised members that the proposed changes to the rules for the Conservation Biology major; the Conservation Biology programme in the BSc 50110 and the Conservation Biology and Management Programme in the BSc 70100 resulted from the proposed introduction of ENVT2221 Global Climate Change and Biodiversity (6 points) and deletion of BIOL2262 Conservation Biology: Global Diversity Hotspots (12 points).

RESOLVED – 28

to recommend to the Faculty Board of Natural and Agricultural Sciences that the following be endorsed with effect from 2009 onwards:

(i) the selection of the second 6 points (to complete the replacement of the 12-point unit BIOL2262) from:
  - ENVT2210 Environmental Policy and Law
  - ANIM2204 Vertebrate Zoology
  - PLNT2204 Land Plant Diversity and Systematics
  - GENE2240 Introduction to Genetics

and

(ii) to replace the units BIOL3362 CB: Threatening Processes Research Project Pt 1 (6 pts) and BIOL3363 CB: Threatening Processes Research Project Pt 2 (6 pts) with 12 points selected from:
  - ENVT3334/35 Land and Water Management Research Project –Pt 1/2 (12 pts)
  - ENVT3333 Land and Water: Case Studies in Land and Water Management
  - PLNT3306 Australian Vegetation
  - ANIM3353 Wildlife Conservation and Management