MINUTES OF THE FACULTY OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES BOARD MEETING HELD IN THE ECONOMICS & COMMERCE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THURSDAY 7TH AUGUST 2008

PRESENT: Professor George Stewart (Chair), Dr Jane Emberson, Ms Jenny Gamble, Professor Linc Schmitt, Dr Allan McKinley, Professor Bob Grove, Associate Professor Ian McArthur, Associate Professor Dave Morrison, Associate Professor Ian Dadour, Associate Professor Michael Wise, Dr Linda Jeffery, Ms Heather Morton

APOLOGIES: Professor Geoff Hammond, Professor Geoff Stewart, Professor Bruce Elliott, Mr Roger Dickinson, Dr Silvana Gaudieri, Dr Thelma Koppi, Dr Karen Wallman, Mrs Jennifer Stevenson, Mr Hubert Jurkiewicz, Dr John Henderson, Professor Lyn Abbott

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Judy Fetherston

Ms Imelda Ooi, Secretary

1. MINUTES REF: F3059

RESOLVED – 57
that the noting of decisions taken by circulation to Faculty Board on 16 July 2008 be confirmed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REF:

The Chair invited members to declare interests in relation to any items on the agenda. No such conflicts were declared.

ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF ACADEMIC SECRETARIAT

3. PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF BSc PROGRAMME IN ORGANIC AND ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY AT PSB ACADEMY REF: F24455

Members had before them a proposal from the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences for the introduction of a new BSc programme in Organic and Analytical Chemistry to be offered offshore at PSB Academy. The Dean spoke briefly to the item stating that the proposed programme came at an opportune time to satisfy the strong demand for chemistry-based degrees in Singapore as evidenced by the market research carried out in the country. It would also cater for recent polytechnic graduates and provide them with a pathway to a higher degree. Dr Allan McKinley, the Acting Head of School, stated that a new unit would be introduced namely, CHEM33XX Analytical Chemistry and Occupational Health and Safety, which would be based on content from several units currently taught at UWA. The material would be adapted for the Singapore market and would be supplemented by material contributed by staff at PSB Academy that would be specific to industrial and occupational health and safety regulations in Singapore. It was noted that PSB Academy currently offered training courses in safety and health.

The proposal was unanimously supported by members.

RESOLVED – 58
to recommend to Academic Council the proposed introduction in 2009 of the BSc programme in Organic and Analytical Chemistry at PSB Academy, Singapore.
4. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO 2ND AND 3RD YEAR STRUCTURE OF PSYCHOLOGY REF: F5075**

Members had before them a proposal from the School of Psychology to change the second- and third-year structure of the undergraduate degree in Psychology. The Head of School, Professor Dave Morrison, was asked to make a case at the meeting as to why the proposed changes needed to be fast-tracked for 2009. Professor Morrison said that on the face of it, the proposal looked rather radical but in effect the units taken would remain largely untouched and students would still take the same number of units as in a three year degree. He provided members a copy of the list of Psychology units to be offered in 2009. The unit content would be the same except that the delivery of its second- and third-year unit would be different as the School proposed to offer them only in alternate years.

Professor Morrison went on to say that currently, the School of Psychology offered 16 units across years 1-3 of the undergraduate degree. In an attempt to reduce the overall teaching and unit co-ordination demands on staff, the School proposed to reduce these to 14 units in 2009 (transitional year), and down to 10 units in subsequent years which would result in a reduction of lectures offered each year by around 25%. The reduction in the teaching load meant that staff would have more time available for research activity and to improve the quality of their teaching. The alternating of units every other year meant that students would be free to spread their choices across second and third year. While students currently had to do four units in second year and eight units in third year, they could do five in second year and seven in their third year of enrolment. It was crucial that the proposed changes were fast-tracked for 2009 as he wanted to give students sufficient warning so that they could plan their enrolment ahead.

For the School to accommodate the proposed changes, Professor Morrison stated that removal of the prerequisite requirements for its second- and third-year units would be required. PSYC1101 and PSYC1102 however, would remain prerequisites for all units. The core set of methodology units namely, PSYC2203, PSYC3301 and PSYC3302 would remain as a structured stream i.e. students would need to complete PSYC2203 and then proceed to PSYC3301 and PSYC3302. Professor Morrison stressed the methodology units were important as they equip students with the skills to understand psychology. The specialist research unit PSYC3311 would also require students to complete PSYC2203. The rest of the second- and third-year units would, however drop their prerequisites and become ‘stand-alone’ units. The amended structure would enable the School to cover ‘new’ topics regarded as central to psychology in other institutions e.g. industrial/organisational psychology, and health, which would appeal to students in other faculties as well. Student experience would also be vastly improved under the new structure as they would be able to take units that suited their abilities, interest and timetable.

One member queried whether a student who failed a third-year unit would have to wait a year to enrol in that unit under the proposed structure of alternating units. Professor Morrison responded that there would be other optional units for the student to enrol in and the student might not necessary want to enrol again in the failed unit. Professor Morrison agreed that the change would result in more students enrolling in any particular unit but that the number limited to each tutorial group would remain the same. One member commented that under the proposed structure, student would in fact have to do at least five units in their second year (which would be a heavy load) if they wanted to finish in three years. It was noted that Human Movement students tended to take five HMES units in their second year as well but otherwise it would be rare for students to undertake such a load in one discipline.

The Chair highly commended the proposed structure stating that it was in keeping with the aspirations of the Faculty as discussed at the recent Faculty workshop. It was also supported by all members.

**RESOLVED – 59**

To recommend to Academic Council the proposed changes in 2009 to the second- and third-year structure of the undergraduate degree in Psychology and the relevant Rules amended accordingly to reflect the changes.

5. **STUDENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, SINGAPORE  REF: F1158**

Members had before them a proposal for the establishment of a student exchange programme with Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Speaking to the item, the Chair stated that the Dean of the College of Science from NTU had discussions with him recently and was keen to establish strong collaborations with UWA. Following that meeting, NTU had sent down several representatives to
initiate discussions with a number of the Faculty’s schools and disciplines namely, Physics, Chemistry and the School of Mathematics and Statistics in order to provide opportunities for the exchange of students and cooperative links in the areas of teaching and research. The Chair went on to say that NTU had an excellent reputation in all academic areas particularly in the physical sciences.

The Vice-Chancellor and the Chair would be meeting with the President of NTU and the Dean of the College of Science in the coming week, and it was proposed that the exchange agreement be signed on that occasion. The Chair believed that an established link with NTU would be of significant benefit to the Faculty. A draft Memorandum of Understanding setting out the details of the exchange had been attached to the agenda.

(Secretary’s note: The draft Memorandum of Understanding had been approved by the Board of the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics by circulation on 5 August 2008).

RESOLVED – 60
that the Faculty approve the draft Memorandum of Understanding for a Student Exchange Programme between the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, the University of Western Australia and the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

6. CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH TEMASEK POLYTECHNIC, SINGAPORE, IN PSYCHOLOGY REF: F1158

Members had before them a proposal for the establishment of a credit agreement with Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore, in psychology. The proposal had been agreed to in principle at the June Faculty Board meeting and was now presented to the Board for formal approval.

Speaking to the item, Associate Professor Dave Morrison said that he had visited the Polytechnic together with the Dean a year ago to discuss the credit arrangements. Initially, Temasek Polytechnic had asked for one year’s credit to enable its students to transfer to the BSc (Psychology) if they were enrolled at PSB Academy. However, after some discussions between the Head of School and the Faculty Office, it was found that only 42 points of credit could be offered. Temasek Polytechnic had indicated that they were happy with the credit offer. Professor Morrison said that the School would like to trial it for a three year period. He was optimistic about the arrangement and hoped that it would be able to attract good students into the programme. Members supported the agreement.

RESOLVED – 61
to recommend that the credit agreement with Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore, in Psychology be established from 2009 onwards.

7. OFFSHORE COURSES: GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGY REF: F5075

Members had before them a proposal to offer the Graduate Diploma in Psychology offshore in Singapore via PSB Academy. Speaking to the item Professor Dave Morrison said that members would be aware that the Faculty already offered the BSc (Psychology) programme offshore in Singapore. The course was traditionally offered to those who had already an undergraduate degree, but wished to specialise in Psychology. As the units required for the Graduate Diploma in Psychology were already being taught at PSB Academy as part of the undergraduate program, it seemed sensible to make arrangements for the Graduate Diploma in Psychology to be made available to potential applicants especially when there was a strong interest from students there for the course. It was noted that a number of applications had already been received from those who had completed undergraduate degrees and who if the Graduate Diploma in Psychology were available, would not be required to take the full 144 points for the BSc (Psychology) but only 84 points which make up the major sequence for Psychology and which were the required components of the Graduate Diploma in Psychology. It was noted that this would be attractive to offshore students as they were not able to undertake the Graduate Diploma program unless they had been given advanced standing for year 1 and 2 units. This was due to the requirement that onshore international students enrol on a full-time basis.

RESOLVED – 62
to recommend that the Graduate Diploma in Psychology be offered offshore in Singapore via PSB Academy from 2009 onwards.

8. PROPOSED NEW UNIT

The proposed new unit chart is attached (Attachment A).

Confirmed

CHAIR
**FACULTY OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

Proposal for new units – meeting of Faculty Board held on 7 August 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit No.</th>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Points Value</th>
<th>Brief Description of Unit Content</th>
<th>Courses in which offered</th>
<th>Semester offered in</th>
<th>Faculty Rules to be amended (Specify)</th>
<th>Faculty Resolution Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM3319</td>
<td>Analytical Chemistry and Occupational Health and Safety</td>
<td>6 points</td>
<td>Occupational health and safety, workplace issues, and analytical chemistry.</td>
<td>BSc (Organic and Analytical Chemistry)</td>
<td>Non standard</td>
<td>9.2.7S1 (new)</td>
<td>R58/08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I confirm that the processes leading to the proposals for the introduction of the new units listed above have included appropriate consultation with all other schools/faculties with a potential interest in the proposed new units. I am satisfied that the proposed new units will not overlap significantly with any other faculty.

Signed  _________________________________________________  
DEAN