NOTING OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CIRCULATION TO BOARD OF STUDIES IN SCIENCE DATED 2 APRIL 2008

The following items were circulated to Faculty Board members for consideration on 2 April 2008. Members were requested to advise the Administrative Officer if they had any objections to the circulated items being approved. As there were no objections from members, the items are hereby minuted accordingly.

Imelda Ooi
Administrative Officer

ITEMS FOR NOTING

The following items were noted by members:

a. **Changes to Second Year Physics Major Ref: F5075**

As a result of changes to the second-year mathematics offerings in 2008 i.e. the introduction of new units namely, MATH2200 Applied Mathematics and MATH2020 Multivariate Calculus and Linear Algebra and the suppression of MATH2213, MATH2214 and MATH2223, the School of Physics had requested to modify its second-year offerings in order to accommodate the changes in the mathematics offerings.

It had been resolved (R3/07), at the Life and Physical Sciences Faculty Board meeting on 18 September 2007 that the following be endorsed from 2008 onwards –

(i) Deletion of PHYS2211 Astronomy and Computational Physics;
(ii) Introduction of a new unit - PHYS2220 Atoms, Nuclei, Particles and Galaxies and
(iii) Moving PHYS2212 Physics of Macroscopic Systems from second semester to first semester

b. **BSc (Psychology) – Inclusion of SCIE1106 Molecular Biology of the Cell as an Optional Unit Ref:**

In order to provide greater flexibility for students, the School of Psychology had requested with immediate effect, that in the Rules for BSc (Psychology) programme, the Psychology Level 1 options under Group A be amended to include SCIE1106 Molecular Biology of the Cell (6 points) taken in combination with one of the following biology units – ANHB1101 Human Biology I, ANHB1102 Human Biology II, BIOL1130 Core Concepts in Biology and BIOL1131 Plant and Animal Biology. This had been approved (R2/08), at the Life and Physical Sciences Faculty Board meeting on 21 January 2008.

c. **Minor Change to Rules For BSc (Nanotechnology) Ref: F6294**

Currently, the Mathematics prerequisite units for PHYS2202 are: MATH1010, MATH1020 and MATH2200. In the BSc (Nanotechnology), students are only required to complete MATH2209 and MATH2020. This meant that under the current prerequisite Rules, students would not be eligible to enrol in PHYS2202. To rectify the problem, the Faculty had consulted the School of Mathematics & Statistics, School of Physics and the Co-ordinator of the BSc (Nanotechnology) programme, to find a solution to enable students to enrol in PHYS2202. The School of Physics had agreed that the prerequisites for PHYS2202 be changed to:

“must have passed (MATH1010, MATH1020, PHYS1101, PHYS1102) and (MATH2200, PHYS2201) or (PHYS2201, SCIE1109, MATH2209)”.

It had been resolved (R8/08), at the Life and Physical Sciences Faculty Board meeting on 25 February 2008, that the Rules for the BSc (Nanotechnology) programme be amended with immediate effect so that students were required to complete: either (CHEM2230 Nanochemistry, MATH2020, MATH2209) or (MATH2020, MATH2209, MATH2200).
d. Proposed Changes to the Bachelor of Computer Science, Bachelor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences and Associated Combined Courses Ref:

In response to a review in late 2006, the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering had proposed changes to its Bachelor of Computer Science, Bachelor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences and associated combined courses for the two degrees. The changes involved the introduction of a new additional major called ‘Software Management’ as well as some changes to units in existing majors. For the combined Bachelor of Computer Science/Bachelor of Science, the changes would apply to the Bachelor of Computer Science component only.

ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF ACADEMIC SECRETARIAT

1. RESCISSION OF BSc (SCIENCE EDUCATION) REF: F8480

Professor Grady Venville had advised that the BSc (Science Education) would not be continuing in 2008 and beyond as enrolments had been too low for it to be viable.

RESOLVED – 1
that the BSc (Science Education) programme be withdrawn with immediate effect.

2. GRADUATE OUTCOMES REF: F5026

RESOLVED – 2
that the graduate outcomes for the BSc (Advanced Science), BSc (Biophysical Science), BSc (Green Chemistry), BSc (Physical Science), BSc (Science Communication), BSc (Science Education) and BSc (Scientific Computation) be approved subject to amendments being made to the outcomes for the following programmes as suggested by the Academic Student Adviser, Dr Jane Emberson:

*BSc (Advanced Science)*
the first dot-point to be changed to ‘an in-depth understanding of two scientific subjects’ as this program now requires completion of two science majors.

*BSc (Biophysical Science)*
to add an outcome to reflect that students can complete this program with a major in either biophysics or chemistry (or both).

*BSc (Science Communication)*
outcomes to include ‘an in-depth understanding of one scientific discipline’ and ‘a broad understanding of related fields’.

*BSc (Science Education)*
no outcomes to be recorded as the programme had been deleted from 2008 onwards.

Another member commented that for the BSc (Advanced Science) mention should be made of the written and oral communication skills that students will attain.

It should be noted that as all the programme outcomes for the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences had now been submitted, acceptance of the graduate outcomes for the individual programmes would be provisional on reviewing them as a whole set.

3. WITHDRAWAL OF BIOC2250 BIOCHEMISTRY REF: F5075

The School of Biomolecular, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences had advised that due to the restructure of degree programmes in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, the requirement for students to take BIOC2250 in the BSc (Animal Science) programme had been modified. This had led to a steady decline in the number of students taking the unit. To this end, the School had requested that the unit be suppressed with immediate effect and that it be withdrawn from 2009 onwards, as it is no longer viable to run the unit.

RESOLVED – 3
that BIOC2250 Biochemistry offered in the BSc (Animal Science) programme, be suppressed with immediate effect.
4. **PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE ADMISSION RULES FOR THE HONOURS PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY REF:**

In December 2007, the Faculty had sought and obtained approval from the Chair of Academic Board for a waiver of the admission Rules for the Honours program in Psychology and to adopt the Faculty minimum for entry in 2008, i.e. a 65% average in the third-year units of the major sequence.

Currently, Rule 9.2.8A.46 states as follows:–

Students must have completed –

(a) a major sequence in Psychology, as defined under Rule 9.2.6.34A, with an average mark of at least 65 per cent in the Level 3 units (48 points), including a grade of distinction or better in at least four units, which must include either PSYC3301 Psychological Research Methods: Design and Analysis or PSYC3302 Psychological Measurement and its Application, and either PSYC3310 Psychology: Specialist Research Topics or PSYC3311 Psychology: Specialist Research Topics;

or

(b) equivalent as recognised by the Faculty.

The School of Psychology had set their 2008 admission requirements at a higher level to ensure that the number of students admitted would not exceed the capacity for supervision. However, the School found that it had the capacity to admit a further eight students in the 2008 intake. The students had not met the specified admission requirements in (a) above but had met the Faculty’s minimum requirements.

The School of Psychology had requested that the Rules for entry to the Honours program in Psychology for 2009 be specified as –

"Entry to Honours in Psychology requires a minimum average mark in level 3 psychology units of 65%. Entry to this program is quota restricted; the number of places available is usually 70 but may vary with staff availability. Students who obtain distinctions or better in PSYC3301, PSYC3302, PSYC3310 and/or PSYC3311 will enhance their position in the quota selection rankings."

The School felt that the proposed change to the Rules and the application of a quota would provide flexibility for the School to admit as many students as they can accommodate in a given year.

**RESOLVED – 4**

that entry to the honours programme in Psychology for 2009 be amended to:

(i) students must have achieved an average of 65% in the third-year units of the major sequence in Psychology;

and

(ii) entry to the programme is quota restricted.

5. **REQUEST TO CHANGE TITLE OF UNIT ANTH2224 AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ART AND SOCIETY REF:**

The Discipline of Anthropology and Sociology had requested to change the title of ANTH2224 Australian Aboriginal Art and Society to ‘Aboriginal Art: Production of Meaning’ as this better reflected the content and purpose of the course.

**RESOLVED – 5**

that the request to change the title of ANTH2224 Australian Aboriginal Art and Society to ‘Aboriginal Art: Production of Meaning’ be endorsed.

6. **PROPOSED COMBINED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND BACHELOR OF MUSIC REF;**

The Deputy Head of the School of Music and the Manager, Student Affairs, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, had discussions with the Academic Student Adviser, Dr Jane Emerson, regarding the proposal for a combined Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science. The proposal was the outcome of the School of Music Review (2006 – 2007) and requests from both current and prospective students at UWA EXPO.
The academic objectives of the proposed combined course were to achieve proficiency in studies relevant to the two degree courses and possible interfaces such as music technology, acoustics studies etc.

The proposed structure would comprise a total number of 258 – 264 points required for completion, made up of Bachelor of Music (144 points); and BSc (114 – 120 points). Several students were undertaking the first year Bachelor of Music in 2008 with a view to transferring to the combined course in 2009.

RESOLVED – 6
that the proposal for a combined Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science in 2009 be endorsed, subject to approval by Academic Council and final drafting of the Rules by Legislative Committee.

7. PROPOSAL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF BSc HONOURS OFFSHORE  REF:

Members had before them a proposal prepared by Dr Mark Cregan, Director of the Faculty offshore programmes, for the administration of BSc Honours offshore for those students completing at PSB Academy at the end of April this year. A number of them had indicated that they would be interested in taking honours offshore, whilst others were quite interested to come to Perth. About ten students might become eligible for honours, and of these somewhere between three and five might want to take honours in Singapore.

A working party had been formed including all the honours supervisors for the programmes in the School of Biomolecular, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences from which the students would be graduating. They had agreed that offshore honours would be possible but that they would want the students to come onshore for their assessment. They would come mid-year when the colleges were relatively empty, so accommodation should not be a problem. The other limiting factor was that not all projects would lend themselves to being supervised offshore and so the numbers of such projects on offer were likely to be small. If the offshore projects on offer were less than the number of students wanting to take them, offers would be made on academic merit (i.e. the top five students wanting offshore honours would get the five offshore projects on offer).

Yet to be determined was the fee structure for the Singapore-based students. Due to the different environment under which the Singapore-based Honours students would be operating (i.e. the perceived value in the Singapore market for an Honours degree, the expense of the required additional travel to Perth for assessment, the high value of the Australian dollar, and the use of non-UWA infrastructure offshore), it had been proposed that the fee for the Singapore-based Honours programme be set at AUD$15,000 (approx SGD$19,500). This fee would retain a relative equity with onshore international student fees where the average fee is currently AUD$24,200.

One member questioned the two-tier fee structure which is already in place for students who are studying the BSc at PSB Academy. Dr Cregan advised that the rationale for the cheaper fee structure was to reflect the lower level of services available to the offshore students as opposed to the onshore students who have access to a comprehensive range of services and activities. The member also questioned how many trips a year students would need to make to the Crawley campus and whether the travel would compromise performance. Dr Cregan advised that the number of trips would depend upon the honours program but stated that normally, it would be two to three trips during the year which would fall before or after lab/coursework and, therefore, not necessarily compromise performance. The costs of travel would be borne by the student, but this would be recompensed by the reduced enrolment fee. More importantly, Dr Cregan pointed out that it should be noted that the major benefits of offshore honours were the research collaborations, consequential research funding potential and improved access for UWA academics to lucrative Singapore research funding. These were noted by the Chair.

RESOLVED – 7
that the proposal for the administration of BSc Honours offshore be endorsed and forwarded to the Faculty Board of Life and Physical Sciences for approval.