MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE MEETING –
MONDAY 5th May 2014

SUPPLEMENTARY– AGENDA

PART 2 – ITEM(S) FOR DECISION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC

5.1. CHANGES TO CURRICULUM APPROVAL BY DELEGATION F34091

Item 5 of the Agenda relates to changes to curriculum approval by delegation and Attachment P provides an overview of the approval process.

PART 3 – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

7. CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT – NEW CURRICULUM PROPOSALS FOR 2015

Item 7 of the Agenda relates to new curriculum proposals. Attachment Q provides guidance on course development criteria for honours proposals.
Boards of Studies: Approval Process by delegation for changes to curriculum

Faculty
Submits changes to curriculum

Board of Studies (BoS)
Considers all new unit proposals, structural changes to majors and any associated matters referred by the Chair

Chair
Approval of minor curriculum related changes that have no impact on the structure of a major (such as unit rules, assessment items, outcomes statements) are delegated to the Chair. Minor curriculum related changes may also be referred to the Board at the discretion of the Chair

Executive Officer
Approval of administrative changes are delegated to the Executive Officer

Recommendation to the Board of Coursework Studies for endorsement

Academic Council for approval
Boards of Studies: Course Development Criteria for Honours Proposals

Criteria for assessing Honours proposals (Framework):

1. Logic, cogency and coherence of a academic justification provided for principled exceptions to the standard Honours program structure in that it has an eight-unit value and should normally comprise:
   - One research thesis unit equivalent to four standard units – a total of 600 hours workload
   - Four standard units – with a 150 hours workload each
2. Logic, cogency and academic coherence of satisfying the revised educational principles.
3. Academic coherence and cogency of description of the structure of the Honours research component

Criteria for assessing Standard Units as part of the Honours proposal:

1. Academic coherence in relation to how the outcomes of the proposed unit align with the pedagogy and assessment practice.
2. Appropriateness of the level at which these units are proposed to be offered.
3. Standard workload of 150 hours applies for all units. Logic, cogency of academic justification for principled exceptions to the standard workload.
4. Academic coherence in relation to how the proposed units define the research component of the honours course (see footnote 1).

Criteria for assessing Thesis Unit as part of the Honours proposal:

1. Academic coherence in relation to how the outcomes of the proposed thesis unit align with the pedagogy and assessment practice.
2. Appropriateness of the level at which the thesis unit is proposed to be offered.
4. Academic coherence in relation to how the proposed thesis unit define the research component of the honours course (see footnote 1).

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1 The research component of the Honours course may be delivered entirely within the Honours Dissertation unit or may also include work done in some or all of the coursework units. Research component must address the following, all of which must be assessed:

- A research proposal;
- A literature review;
- A description of relevant research methods;
- A digital object, called the Research Dissertation, which may or may not include some or all of the other items on this list, and which represents the scholarly archived record of the research and its outcomes;
- An oral presentation; and
- A demonstration of the discourse conventions of research in the discipline.

2 Given it might be difficult to supply unit content details for Honours at Phase 2 stage, Faculties have been advised that a few disciplines may need to defer decisions about specific Honours units until they are in a position to decide on things like articulation with postgraduate coursework and the future availability of individual staff to teach particular research-based topics. If that applies to Honours in specific discipline, Faculties need not provide the detail requested for Honours units (Form C) by the Phase 2 deadline. It can wait until later in the year – due date to be advised. However, those who see benefit in considering Level 4 units in relation to Levels 1-3 have been encouraged to provide the content information that Form C asks for as part of the Phase 2 process.

3 A research dissertation will typically be one of the following as determined by the discipline:

- a 12,000 – 18,000 word text object (with embedded figures and tables); or
- a research manuscript of at least 6,000 words in a format suitable for publication in a reputable journal of the discipline; or
- a creative object constructed within a research framework (a musical composition, a piece of creative writing, an architectural design, or a work of art), accompanied by an exegesis of at least 2,000 – 4,000 words.

An exegesis would normally be written and examined in an Honours coursework unit, and include documentation of the creative object, a summary of the research proposal, a discussion of research methodology and the place of the research in the field or discourse of the discipline.