PROPOSED RESTRUCTURE OF THE DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (40830) – Ref. F6299

The proposed structure has been developed following input from a Faculty HDR Board meeting and two subsequent meetings involving Professors John Cordery, David Plowman, Geoff Soutar, Tim Mazzarol and Peter Robertson.

The restructure has been designed to meet the recommendations of the Cycle 3 Working Party, in relation to Professional Doctorates. There was an in principle support for the changes to the DBA at the last meeting of Full faculty held in December 2011. A summary of the proposed structure of the DBA is given below:

Course Structure
- One third or less as assessable coursework units (five existing units MGMT8791-MGMT8795) (points value of 42)
- Thesis (points value of 102)

Admission requirements
Master of Business Administration degree of this University (or equivalent) and appropriate professional experience (minimum 7 years).

Credit /Advanced Standing Provisions
Advanced standing not permitted for any coursework unit (all units being necessary and to preserve the cohort nature of the intake)

Progression (Confirmation of Candidature)
Progression from the coursework stage to the thesis requires a minimum grade 65% in each of the five coursework units.

Thesis requirements
Consists of up to 60,000 words (including footnotes, references and appendices)

Course Duration
The normal time limit shall be three years of fulltime study or part time equivalent

Exit Provisions
Exit provisions may allow for the award of a Master’s degree where:
- the Board classifies a thesis submitted for the award of the degree of DBA as Passed for the award of the degree of master (MPhil) with no requirement for correction or with a requirement for corrections
- No exit degree on completion of coursework component. Consideration was given to the award of MBR at the completion of the coursework units, however, students would not be eligible for award of Master’s degree at this point, as they would not have the required 96 credit points. The maximum credit/advanced standing which could be awarded for their prior master’s degree would be 48 points (half the course total) and the 5 coursework units of the
DBA would amount to only 30 credit points, leaving a shortfall of 18 points. Credit points for these units could not be multiplied to arrive at the required number as this would breach Academic Council policy. Students would need to complete further work to the equivalent of the 18 points – e.g. a Research Report, or three additional advanced postgraduate units from the Business School offerings, to be eligible for the award. It was decided against adopting this.

**Intake number and frequency**
- 16 per intake one intake per year

It is proposed to change the unit name of MGMT8795 DBA Proposal and Defence to MGMT8795 Research Proposal and Defence.

It is also proposed to change the point value of the following units to reflect the amount of study required. MGMT8795 Research Proposal and Defence includes a substantial amount of research which requires students to spend no less than 450 hours of study including work with supervisors.

All other units to change from 8 point to 6 point units. The change in the number of unit points from 8 points to 6 points is to bring the course in line with NC2012 requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>CURRENT</th>
<th>PROPOSED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT8794 Literature Review and Criticism</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT8795 Research Proposal and Defence</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MGMT8794 Literature Review and Criticism**
Students prepare a critical review of the literature relating to their proposed area of research. This includes identification of the seminal work in the area; a summary of the major research problems previously studied and their contributions; and the identification of gaps in the literature, suitable research questions and appropriate methodologies.

**MGMT8795 Research Proposal and Defence**
This unit requires students to bring together the elements of the research methodology units and apply them to their own research. Students will write and orally defend a 20,000 word report that encompasses: (a) research topic, (b) rationale for undertaking topic, (c) key definitions, (d) selective literature review including relevant theories, (e) hypotheses or key questions, (f) methodology to be employed and justification for that methodology, (g) evidence of capacity to obtain relevant data, (h) where appropriate, survey questionnaire(s), (i) evidence of ethical considerations and requirements. The report is prepared in consultation with a nominated staff member. The defence takes the form of an oral presentation which may result in students having to resubmit their report for final assessment.

Prerequisites: MGMT8791, MGMT8792, MGMT8793 and MGMT8794.

Rules were attached to the agenda

**RESOLVED 6**
that Faculty Board recommend the restructure of the Doctor of Business Administration to Academic Council to meet the recommendations of the Cycle 3 Working Party, in relation to Professional Doctorates.
Applicability of the Student Rules, policies and procedures

1.(1) The Student Rules in the Student Procedures, Rules and Policies section apply to students in this course.

(2) The policies and procedures in the Student Procedures, Rules and Policies section apply except as otherwise indicated in the rules for this course.

Academic Conduct Essentials module

1.A(1) Except as stated in (2), a student who enrols in this course for the first time irrespective of whether they have previously been enrolled in another course of the University, must undertake the Academic Conduct Essentials module (the ACE module).

(2) A student who has previously achieved a result of Ungraded Pass (UP) for the ACE module is not required to repeat the module.

(3) A student who has not achieved a result of Ungraded Pass (UP) for the ACE module when their progress status is assessed will not have made satisfactory progress even if they have met the other requirements for satisfactory progress in the rules for this course.

(4) A student who does not make satisfactory progress in terms of (3) is assigned the progress status of ‘On Probation’.

Admission

2. To be considered for admission to this course an applicant must have—
   (a)(i) the Master of Business Research—Administration degree of this University, or equivalent as recognised by the Faculty, at a level that satisfies the Faculty that the student has the capacity to complete the Doctor of Business Administration; or
   (ii) the requirements for provisional admission to the course for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of this University;
   and
   (b) a pass in any test which may be prescribed by the Faculty a minimum of seven years’ appropriate experience;
   and
   (c) meet the Faculty’s English proficiency requirement.

Course structure

3.(1) The course consists of—
   (a) all units in Tables a and b (Doctor of Business Administration core units)—444.42 points.
   and
   (b) one of the thesis units in Table b (Doctor of Business Administration thesis units)—102 points.

(2) Students must successfully complete all units in Table a with a minimum mark of 65 per cent in each unit in order to progress to the units in Table b.

Submission and examination of thesis
4. The thesis must be a sound and rigorous piece of original research, the findings of which provide a significant and original contribution to scholarship through their contribution to the understanding of management or business issues, policies, strategies or practice. [Approved addition to University Policy]

5.(1) The thesis must be presented in the form of typescript and must not exceed 7560,000 words excluding tables, bibliography and appendices. [Approved exceptions and additions to University Policy]

(2) The thesis must include an abstract of about 300 words.

(3) Students must submit four copies of the thesis and one unbound copy of the abstract.

(4) Prior to the submission of the thesis—
   (a) the Director of Doctoral Programs and supervisor(s) must recommend to the Faculty's Board of Higher Degrees by Research the names of three examiners, one of whom may be internal to the University; and
   (b) the Director of Doctoral Programs must informally invite the three nominees to act as examiners and must report their responses to the Faculty's Board of Higher Degrees by Research.

(5) Before appointing examiners for the thesis the Faculty's Board of Higher Degrees by Research may refer the thesis to the Director of Doctoral Programs for a report on its form and content and to the University Librarian for a report on its physical form.

(6) On receipt of the reports referred to in (5), the Board may declare the thesis unfit for examination in its submitted form.

(7) A thesis declared unfit in terms of (6) may be resubmitted only if accompanied by a certificate from both the Director of Doctoral Programs and the University Librarian confirming that it has been put into a form suitable for examination.

Satisfactory progress

6.(1) To make satisfactory progress in a calendar year a student must pass units to a value of at least half the total value of units in which they remain enrolled after the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty. The coursework component of the course, a student must pass all units in which they remain enrolled after the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty.

(2)(i) To make satisfactory progress in the thesis component of the course, a student must present an annual report outlining progress to the Faculty's Board of Higher Degrees by Research unless that Board determines that the student submit half-yearly reports;
(ii) a student who submits two successive unsatisfactory reports, or who fails to submit reports, will not have made satisfactory progress.

Progress status

7.(1) Students who make satisfactory progress are assigned a progress status of 'Good Standing' by the Faculty and are permitted to re-enrol.

(2) Unless the Faculty determines otherwise in exceptional circumstances, students who fail to make satisfactory progress are assigned a progress status of 'Excluded' by the Faculty.

(3) Students seeking to re-enrol in the course after being assigned a progress status of 'Excluded' must submit, after a period of at least twelve months, sufficient reason to the Faculty, in writing, demonstrating why an improvement in performance could reasonably be expected.

(4) Students who have been assigned a progress status of 'Excluded' and are subsequently permitted by the Faculty to re-enrol are assigned a progress status of 'On Probation' and must meet any conditions determined by the Faculty.
(5) Students who meet the conditions determined by the Faculty under (4), are assigned a progress status of 'Good Standing' by the Faculty.

(6) Students who have been assigned a progress status of 'On Probation' and who fail to meet conditions determined by the Faculty are assigned a progress status of 'Excluded'.

Time limits

8. (1) Unless the Board of Higher Degrees by Research permits otherwise, the time limit is four years from the date of first enrolment in the course for a full-time student or the equivalent as determined by the Faculty's Board of Higher Degrees by Research for a part-time student.

(2) The Faculty’s Board of Higher Degrees by Research, in recognition of exceptional circumstances, may approve an extension not exceeding one year to the maximum period of candidature for the Doctor of Business Administration as set out in these rules.

[Approved exception to University Policy]

Approved leave (suspension of candidature)

9. The Board of Higher Degrees by Research may, on written application, grant a period or periods of approved leave, called suspension of candidature, which unless the Board, in recognition of exceptional circumstances, approves otherwise will not exceed one year throughout the duration of candidature.

Table a – Doctor of Business Administration core units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT8796</td>
<td>Advanced Research Seminar I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT8796</td>
<td>Advanced Research Seminar II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT8796</td>
<td>Advanced Research Seminar III</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT8796</td>
<td>Advanced Research Seminar IV</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT9800</td>
<td>Doctoral Thesis (128 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT9858</td>
<td>Doctoral Thesis (128 points)</td>
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All units have a value of 6 points unless otherwise stated.

MGMT8791 Business Research: Principles and Processes
MGMT8792 Qualitative Methods in Business Research
MGMT8793 Quantitative Methods in Business Research
MGMT8794 Literature Review and Criticism
MGMT8795 DBAResearch Proposal and Defence (18 points)

Table b – Doctor of Business Administration core thesis units

All units have a value of 6 points unless otherwise stated.

MGMT9800 Doctoral Thesis (102 points)

MGMT9858 Doctoral Thesis (102 points)

1 These units are normally undertaken in the first four semesters of enrolment.
12 full-time; 23 part-time