MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COURSEWORK STUDIES
Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor as Chair (Winthrop Professor Bill Louden)
Chair of the Academic Board (Winthrop Professor Karen Simmer)
Deputy Chair of the Academic Board (Winthrop Professor John Cordery)
Executive Director (Academic Services) and Registrar (Mr Peter Curtis)
Academic Secretary (Ms Sylvia Lang)
President of the Guild of Undergraduates (Mr Matthew Mackenzie)
Chair of the Board of Studies (Bachelor of Arts) (Winthrop Professor Alan Dench)
Chair of the Board of Studies (Bachelor of Commerce) (Winthrop Professor H. Y. Izan)
Chair of the Board of Studies (Bachelor of Design) (Associate Professor Kate Hislop)
Chair of the Board of Studies (Bachelor of Science) (Winthrop Professor Grady Venville)
Faculty of Business (Winthrop Professor David Plowman)

STANDING INVITEES
Senior Academic Reviewer (Winthrop Professor Ian Reid)

OBSERVER
Dr Claire McIlroy, Senior Legislative Officer (Academic Policy Services)

BOARD OF COURSEWORK STUDIES MEETING – THURSDAY, 25th OCTOBER 2012

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Members are advised that this supplementary agenda has been formatted to be ‘electronic device friendly’ by including bookmarks to provide easier navigation throughout the document. Click here for details.

Part 1 of the agenda, which relates to items for communication, is to be dealt with en bloc by motion of the Chair. Part 3 items are for discussion and decision. A member may request the transfer of an item from Part 1 to Part 3.

PART 1 – ITEM FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC

8. DIAGRAMATIC REPRESENTATIONS OF CYCLE 2 COURSE STRUCTURES – Ref F32907

Attached (Attachment E) for members’ noting are diagrammatic representations of cycle 2 course structures, which have been developed, in accordance with approved University Policy on Postgraduate Structures and Objectives, for ease of reference.

For noting.

PART 3 – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

9. MASTER OF ORE DEPOSIT GEOLOGY BY COURSEWORK (70590): REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM UWA POLICY – Ref F3485

By R06/08, Academic Council approved the following in relation to jointly badged courses:

(i) “That, in any jointly badged courses involving UWA, the students must be enrolled by UWA in accordance with its admissions requirements.”
(ii) That, in any jointly badged courses, students must normally undertake at least 50% of the work through UWA in order to be awarded a UWA degree.

(iii) That, in any joint courses, those students undertaking less than 50% of the work through UWA be awarded a degree ‘in association’ with, rather than by, UWA.”

Attached (Attachment F) for members’ consideration is a request, from the Centre for Exploration Targeting, which:

(a) seeks a waiver to (ii), as above; and
(b) proposes that applicants may also be admitted to the course based on completion of a Bachelor of Science (of relevant studies) and at least 3 years of professional experience which must demonstrate the learning outcomes, as described in the attachment.

For discussion.

10. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF COURSEWORK STUDIES AND THE POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK APPROVAL PROCESS – Ref F28134

Members will be reminded that the Board of Coursework Studies (BCS) has been established as a Standing Committee of the Academic Council to:

- consider and make recommendations to Academic Council on policy matters relating to the structure and content of undergraduate and postgraduate coursework; and
- receive and consider proposals from faculties for the introduction of, and major changes to, coursework units, majors and courses, and make recommendations to Academic Council on these and associated policy matters.

At its meeting of September 2012, Academic Council noted that “work was currently underway to review the membership of the Board of Coursework Studies”. Attached (Attachment G) for discussion is a memorandum, sent via email by the Executive Director (Academic Services) and Registrar to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, with regard to the review of the membership of the Board of Coursework Studies and the postgraduate coursework approval process.

For discussion.
Diagrammatic Representations of Cycle 2 Course Structures

(For Web Posting)

TRIM FILE REFERENCE: F32907

FILE PATH ON SERVER: C:\Documents AND SETTINGS\KKRISHNA\DESKTOP\COVER SHEETS\DOCUMENT CONTROL TEMPLATE.DOC

DOCUMENT STATUS

[ ] Draft  [ ] Ready for Review  [x] Final

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Cycle 2 courses – Diagrammatic representations of structures

**Named awards: Master’s course, Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate**  
(e.g. Master of International Journalism, Master of Landscape Architecture, Master of Geoscience, Graduate Certificate in Business Communications, Graduate Certificate in Urban Design, Juris Doctor, etc.)

At least 65% of units must contain a substantial body of content that relates directly to the disciplinary field of the award name.

At least half of these units must be unique to the named award.

At least half of these specialist units must be at Level 5.

**Generic awards: Master’s course, Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate**  
(e.g. Master of Curriculum Studies, Graduate Diploma in Curriculum Studies, Master of Professional Engineering, Master of Laboratory Medicine, Master of Physical Sciences, etc.)

**Named award courses**  
*(Single specialisation course)*

**Generic award courses**  
*(Multiple specialisations course)*

- **A** A basic component of all forms of the course, comprising either core units or optional units chosen from a limited set. This must make up 25% - 50% of the course.
- **B** 25% - 50% of units that must relate specifically to the disciplinary field of the specialisation, of which:
  - at least half must be at Level 5; and
  - at least 25% must be unique to the specialisation.
- **C** Options that may be shared across two or more specialisations.

*Overall, at least 50% of the total course (whether ‘named’ or ‘generic’) must also comprise units offered at Level 5.

¹Disciplinary or specialist units forming a part of named degrees may form part of the specialisation in generic degrees and vice-versa.
19 October 2012

To the Board of Coursework Studies;

RE: Masters by Coursework, Ore Deposit Geology (70590) compliance with UWA policy & exemption request.

The Centre for Exploration Targeting (CET) has been the primary point of contact (along with faculty coordinators) for all enrolments into the Master of Science by coursework degree (MSc Ore Deposit Geology-70590). With the restructure of UWA degrees in 2012, the units within the course changed codes, coordinators and unit content to comply with guidelines as specified by UWA. In spite of any changes, the course continues to enrol international and domestic students. There are a number of applicants for 2013 who are currently ‘on hold’.

This one year full-time (or equivalent part-time) course now has to comply with policies relating to enrolment requirements and unit load for UWA degree conferral. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the importance of 70590 MSc course to the minerals industry and UWA, and to seek support for our request to the Board of Coursework Studies to gain an exception to the UWA rule which requires 50% of units to be undertaken at UWA for UWA conferral of the degree.

The Minerals Geoscience National Masters program (MGM) has been running as a co-operative program between the University of Western Australia (UWA), University of Tasmania (UTas) and James Cook University (JCU) since the year 2000 with the inclusion of Curtin University of Technology (CUT) as a service (unit) provider. This co-operative relationship between the four universities has been labelled the “G4”. The MGM has been financially supported by the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) via the Minerals Tertiary Education Council (MTEC) since the G4 co-operative relationship was established. In this time there have been a large number of MGM students, industry personnel and academic staff who have attended the many courses on offer across the institutions (as shown in Table 1 & 2 attached) along with a steady flow of graduates of the program (Table 3.0).

The program is having an impact locally, nationally and internationally by delivering quality, professional geosciences education and training, and is recognised in industry as the leading minerals geoscience MSc coursework program.

UWA, as part of this co-operative program, delivers 4 coursework units which are run on a biennial basis. The units are: MING5501 Applied Structural Geology, MING5502 Exploration Targeting, MING5503 Ore Deposit Field Excursion and MING5504 Advances in Ore Deposits. In addition to these coursework units, UWA offers the option of undertaking (as 50% of the degree) a project option (MING5511 & MING5512). This is an existing co-operative degree, with an existing structure in which students can undertake units across all the G4
Institutions. Historically (and currently) UWA home students are required to undertake two 6-point units at UWA to be conferred with a UWA degree. As this is a co-operative, rather than collaborative, arrangement, students from UTAS and JCU do not receive a UWA co-badged degree but instead receive a degree conferred by their home institution.

All 17 units within the cooperative program, either administered at UWA or by one of the other G4 institutions, are 2-week block release delivery. In spite of the intensive delivery, all units adhere to the UWA unit requirements which states that each 6 point unit requires 150 hours of student workload with the inclusion of pre-reading, workshops, lectures, assessment and field related tasks (if applicable). The block release structure was determined at conception as the most appealing delivery to students returning from industry for up-skilling (on a part-time basis) while not eliminating international full-time students (as they can undertake a project and 4 coursework units to complete in one year).

Recent correspondence with faculty and David Plowman has highlighted two (2) important areas of non-compliance of the Master of Science in Ore Deposit Geology (70590) with UWA policies.

(1) Firstly, the MSc (ODG) rules of admissions permits entry to applicants that have either a:

- BSc (of relevant studies) plus 4\textsuperscript{th} year (honours, 4\textsuperscript{th} year geosciences or Graduate Diploma) OR
- BSc (of relevant studies) and at least 3 years of professional experience.

To comply with university policy, and following the lead of the Faculty of Education, we will establish a clear list of the professional competencies that would justify admission into the 48-point masters for those admitted by way of a three-year degree and professional experience. These would be as follows:

- Credit provisions apply only to those meeting assessable professional experience including:
  - Awareness of issues related to the minerals industry
  - Basic competence in geoscience as applied to the minerals industry (as appropriate to masters level entry)
  - Experience in leading and managing others
  - Engagement in ongoing professional learning

Based on above credit provisions, future 70590 applicants would need to supply the following documentation for entry:

- Undergraduate transcripts (to highlight their relevant units in the area of geoscience)
- Certificates (proof) of the completion of professional courses
- Internal technical company reports and/or maps (reviewed under confidence)
- 3D Model presentations where appropriate
- A letter of reference from senior management detailing leadership/management experience.
The School of Earth and Environment (SEE), Dean of Faculty and Director of the CET all agree to this admission clarification (as indicated by the signing of this document).

(2) Secondly, and the primary purpose of this letter, is to seek an exception, as a special case, to the 50% course requirement for the award of a UWA qualification. As noted the Masters 70590 course is established in a way which requires students to undertake units at co-operative universities. Each cooperating institution will enrol their own students and each has a specific (single-badged) degree with which their students will graduate. The degree is a compilation of 8 coursework units which can be selected from across all four institutions, with UWA students currently required to complete 2 coursework units at UWA. This structure has been agreed on by all G4 institutions, the industry board of MTEC and has proven (through student feedback) to be appealing to the 70590 cohort. Although adherence to the requirement for each of the enrolled UWA 709590 students to undertake 50% of the course at UWA is possible, it will inevitably undermine the national cooperative program by reducing the UWA enrolments and rendering our course financially unsustainable. The new rules of 50% UWA unit load cuts across the current arrangement of the 70590 course structure. A reduction in student enrolments and association with UWA will significantly reduce the ‘halo’ effect which the course has in the industry. As a high percentage of course participants are in (or quickly advance to) senior decision-making positions in industry, UWA derives significant benefits and industry support through the current arrangements.

It is our request to the Board of Coursework Studies to consider the exemption course 70590 from the 50% rule requirement on an ongoing basis. We are also conscious of the need to make course 70590 a named degree. This can be easily done and there is agreement within the Faculty.

Thank you for the consideration of our request and we anticipate correspondence of the outcome when agreement has been finalized.

Kind Regards,

[Signature]
Campbell McCuaig
Director Centre for Exploration

[Signature]
Matthew Tonts
Head of School of Earth and Environment

[Signature]
Tony O’Donnell
Brendan Waddell, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Science for Tony O’Donnell
Dean of Faculty of Science
### MGM Completions 2000-2008

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Table 3.0  Summary of the numbers of students who graduated the requirements for the MGM in each calendar year, 2000-2012
Dear Bill

Following the recent approval (by circular) by Academic Council of the paper on the “Scope of responsibility of Faculties and BCS in relation to the review and approval of postgraduate coursework courses”, it is perhaps timely to now address the membership of the BCS and contemplate how the BCS might best manage the approval process.

The BCS constitution essentially gives it two roles: one, to consider and recommend to Academic Council on policy with regard to coursework degrees; and two, to consider and recommend to Academic Council on specific proposals from faculties for all coursework units, majors and courses.

The first role is straightforward. In its more complex second role, in order to discharge its academic governance function, while acknowledging the expert academic role of faculties, the Board, with Council’s approval, currently exercises its responsibilities through its Standing Working Party on Postgraduate Coursework. At the course level, the scrutiny is straightforward, focusing primarily on structural issues and issues of adherence to Academic Council rules and policies for postgraduate coursework. With regard to units the Board will in future only review 10% of unit proposals. This will ensure that it fulfills its QA role in academic governance for the Council, but does not overly intrude in faculties’ academic management.

There is an opportunity to streamline further the management of these functions with the appointment of a Dean of Coursework Studies. The responsibilities of the Dean as advertised include “course development and approval” for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses, and it is suggested that through the Dean, it would be possible for BCS to delegate responsibility for steering straightforward course proposals direct to Council when it was clear the proposal was fully aligned with the University’s policies and rules for postgraduate coursework. Any proposal with departures from University policy would be discussed initially with the Faculty concerned and if identified issues are resolved, the proposal would pass direct to Academic Council, and if not, the proposal would be discussed at BCS. And importantly, at that meeting of BCS, the Dean of Faculty or nominee would attend for discussion.

This proposition meets four objectives:

i. it further streamlines the management of the approval process,
ii. it directly involves the new Dean of Coursework Studies in the approval process
iii. it recognises greater faculty ‘ownership’ of postgraduate coursework,
iv. it involves all faculties in meetings of BCS without unduly expanding its standing membership

You may wish to circulate this memo to BCS for comment on Thursday, as a potential enhancement of current practice.

Regards

Peter