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 4th year (honours, 4th 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

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Attachment F3

The Centre for Exploration Targeting (CET) is a partnership between The University of Western Australia, Curtin University of Technology, and Industry.
## 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