

TEACHING AND LEARNING SPACE ON UNSW KENSINGTON CAMPUS

RESOLVED AB03/26

ACADEMIC BOARD MEETING 1 JULY 2003

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That Academic Board:

- i) notes the Report on Teaching and Learning Space on UNSW Campus and be advised as follows:
 1. On the Kensington campus, management and booking of lecture theatres through the CATS system has proved to be successful, although it is clear that the efficiency of utilisation of lecture theatres is still less than ideal. There is a need for a review of the historical basis on which bookings are made.
 2. All lecture theatres should meet reasonable standards in terms of physical facilities and provision of audiovisual/information technology equipment. Although a program of refurbishment of theatres on the Kensington campus has been under way, lack of sufficient funding has meant that the heavily used theatres in the Central Lecture Block have not yet been refurbished, a situation that is particularly unsatisfactory.
 3. There is a campus-wide shortage of centrally managed small and medium-sized teaching spaces with flat floors, moveable seating and acceptable audiovisual facilities. The true extent of this shortage of tutorial/seminar rooms is unclear because many such rooms have been withdrawn from the CATS system by Schools. Priority should be given to ensuring that all potential tutorial/seminar rooms are included on the system.
 4. Further examination of the availability of tutorial/seminar rooms on the Kensington campus needs to be undertaken in the context of a discussion of UNSW Teaching and Learning policy, especially with respect to possible increases in small-group teaching and the use of problem-based learning approaches. The policy issues need clearer definition, possibly by the Committee on Education or another appropriate authority.
5. The guidelines that define acceptable examination spaces, as well as the basis for the formulation of such guidelines, should be reviewed by the Academic Services Committee.
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and,

- ii) requests the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Quality Improvement) to report to the November, 2003 meeting of Academic Board on the implications and implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Report.