

DECISIONS BY THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

1. **Proposed Draft Cultures, Societies and Identities Syllabus.** The Board agreed that a further paper should be prepared, addressing the issues raised by the Board, and the matter listed again for the Board's attention.

2. **University Developed Board Endorsed Courses.** The Board noted the report and endorsed the following course: **Masculinity and Femininity: Explorations in Representations of Gender** (The University of Newcastle, 1 unit/1 year or 2 units/1 year, three participating high schools). The Board further agreed to extend until the 2005 HSC the current period of endorsement for:

Mind and Morality (University of Sydney, 1 unit/1 year)

Problem Solving and Communication in Science (University of Sydney, 1 unit/1 year)

Understanding the Learning of Science (University of Sydney, 1 unit/1 year)

Nature of Knowledge and Learning (University of Sydney, 1 unit/1 year)

Step up into Teaching (Australian Catholic University, 1 unit/1 year)

Springboard into Teaching (Southern Cross University, 1 unit/1 year)

Advanced Mathematics (University of Newcastle, 2 units/1 year)

Digital Media 1 (Southern Cross University, 2 units/1 year)

Modern Perspectives in Science (University of Wollongong, 1 unit/1 year)

3. **Review of the Australian Qualifications Framework Guidelines for the Senior Secondary Certificates of Education.** The Board endorsed the revised Guidelines.

4. **MCEETYA request regarding the Employability Skills Framework.** The Board noted the paper.

5. **Stage 6 Primary Industries Curriculum Framework.** The Board noted the consultation report for the above revised Curriculum Framework and agreed that the revised Curriculum Framework should be endorsed for submission to the Deputy Premier.

6. **Stage 5 Mathematics Descriptions of Levels of Achievement.** The Board endorsed Option 2 as the method of reporting and credentialling Mathematics for the School Certificate. It also agreed that the Office of the Board should consult further on the appropriateness of the current wording in the Draft Stage 5 Descriptions of Levels of Achievement.

7. **New Assessment components and weightings and clarification of Examination Specifications for Stage 6 Science courses.** The Board approved the proposed Assessment components and weightings for the above courses for implementation with the Year 11 cohort in 2004 and the Year 12 HSC cohort in 2005. The Board further approved the clarifications to the Examination Specifications for the HSC examination in each course.

8. **HSC Assessment in a Standards-Referenced Framework: proposed advice for schools for 2004 and beyond.** The Board approved the development of advice along the lines of that provided in the paper to assist schools to further develop their knowledge and skills in standards-referenced assessment for the HSC. The Board further agreed that schools should be invited in 2004 to submit bands for their students along with their HSC marks as a voluntary practice and that the Office of the Board should develop ways to assist schools interpret and refine their judgments.

9. HSC Assessment: A Guide to Developing Best Practice Procedures in Schools.

The Board agreed that, subject to some editorial refinements, the above revised document should be endorsed for publication. The Board noted that the advice on HSC Assessment in a Standards-Referenced Framework would be incorporated in this document.

The Board had a discussion on provisions for Gifted and Talented Students in the senior years of schooling which incorporated a report on a Churchill Fellowship visit to the US by an officer of the Office of the Board.

The Board received the draft document ***Registered and Accredited Individual Non-Government Schools (NSW) Manual*** and noted that it will be distributed for consultation later in the week. The Board agreed that the Board's Registration and Accreditation Committee should receive delegation to endorse the final draft of the Manual for submission to the Deputy Premier at a special meeting on 8 October.