

**COMMITTEE OF CHAIRS OF ACADEMIC BOARDS/SENATES
OF UNIVERSITIES IN NSW AND THE ACT**
Friday, 31 October 2003 at Macquarie University, North Ryde

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Committee considered a request from Engineers Australia, Sydney Division to review categorisation for HSC Industrial Technology. The meeting determined that Category B remained appropriate.
- We discussed recent AUQA audits of universities and considered the document provided by Professor Ray Cooksey entitled *Ongoing Analyses of Commendations and Recommendations in AUQA Audit Reports*. We noted the important role that Academic Boards are expected to play in the quality assurance of the core activities of universities.
- We discussed the self-audit being undertaken by the University of New England Academic Board and the self-review being undertaken by the University of Newcastle Academic Senate. We noted the importance of clarity in communication and the monitoring of policy implementation by Academic Boards.
- We noted relevant materials concerning National Governance Protocols for Public Higher Education Institutions, including the anticipated release of a statement by Chancellors and the AVCC.
- Professor George Cooney provided a report from the Technical Scaling Committee, and summarised his Committee's preparations for the development of the 2003 UAI.
- The Committee discussed a briefing paper entitled *Advanced Standing at Universities for HSC Students* with Professor Gordon Stanley and Mr David Patterson of the Board of Studies. The Committee agreed to participate in a pilot project that would determine the possible development of a system of recognition for HSC achievement in university level courses.
- The Committee met with members of the Academic Board Network Group (Secretariat Staff at each of the Universities) and discussed the following issues:
 1. The form and nature of the two-way communication between Academic Boards and Councils.
 2. Academic Board and Secretariat procedures to monitor and review policies and their implementation.
 3. Mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of information and the benchmarking of policies and procedures across Academic Boards and Secretariats.
 4. The form and nature of interactions between Secretariat Staff and Academic Board Members.
 5. Mechanisms to ensure effective action following discussion of items at meetings.