

**COMMITTEE OF CHAIRS OF ACADEMIC BOARDS/SENATES
OF UNIVERSITIES IN NSW AND THE ACT
Thursday, 28 March 2002 at the University of Wollongong**

SUMMARY POINTS

- We amended and approved Standing Orders for the Committee of Chairs, noting that they could be subject to further amendment following the review by the NSWVCC of its committees.
- We noted that a national study "University Courses in Secondary Credentialing" had been submitted to DEST and would be published soon. The Board of Studies preferred an option where such courses could be available in *all* schools rather than provision through individual arrangements.
- We noted the revision of the Board of Studies Guidelines for University Developed Board Endorsed Courses (UDBEC) and that the Chair would report to the Board of Studies on 9 April that the revised guidelines were acceptable to the Committee. The guidelines would be distributed to all universities and made available on the Board's website. We noted that the deadline for UDBEC was May to allow appropriate planning and notice to schools and prospective students.
- We discussed the involvement of nominees of the Committee on Board of Studies Curriculum Committees, noting that nominations should be made through the Office of the Chair of the Committee of Chairs. Nominations to Board of Studies Examination Committees could be made directly to the Board of Studies.
- We discussed possible issues to be contained in the Report of the Review of the New HSC (which will be provided to the Board of Studies on 9 April). The Committee discussed the teaching changes in the sciences that had been introduced in the New HSC. We would consider and respond to the report at our next meeting on 30 May.
- We noted the Report of the Technical Scaling Committee on the UAI 2001. The TSC report indicated that considering the changes to the HSC, the process had gone well. Misunderstandings in the community about the difference between the UAI (a rank, not a mark) and the HSC still needed to be cleared up at every opportunity.
- We discussed issues related to AUQA, noting that a trial audit had been held at UNSW, where an inclusive approach had been adopted. We noted the preparation by some universities for AUQA Audits in 2002 and 2003.
- We discussed follow-up business from the National Meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards (eg the role of the chair, the three-way interaction of council-board-management, and performance indicators for boards). A report from the National Meeting would be circulated shortly. We noted that the Committee would move towards an agreed way of assessing the performance of Academic Boards/Senates. A national survey arising from the University Governance Conference at Macquarie University in 2001, which picked up on development and performance issues of governing bodies, would be placed on the 30 May agenda.
- **Next Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, 30 May 2002, at the Australian National University.