

Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards/Senates of Universities in NSW and the ACT

A meeting (00/3) of the **Committee of Chairs** will be held at 10.00 am on Thursday, 2 November 2000 in the Conference Room of the TC Lamble Building at the University of New England.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

5.0 HSC ISSUES

5.3 Challenge to Calculation of UAI

- 5.3.1 A letter has been received from Sydney Grammar School which contains legal advice challenging the calculation of the UAI.
- 5.3.2 The basis of the challenge is the modification of the scaling procedure and the variable maximum mark (see also Item 5.2). Sydney Grammar School is concerned that these procedures may particularly affect candidatures in Visual Arts, Biology and Geography.
- 5.3.3 The legal opinion also criticises the procedural fairness of limited consultation with schools over this process, and the lack of transparency in the failure to disclose publicly the details of the scaling algorithm.
- 5.3.4 The letter is not of itself a legal challenge but asks for a response to this and other material enclosed with it.
- 5.3.5 The Committee may wish to consider the advisability of recommending to the NSWV-CC that they obtain expert legal opinion.
- 5.3.6 The correspondence from Sydney Grammar School is attached.

For consideration

5.4 Counting University Subjects in UAI

- 5.4.1 The NSWV-CC's Technical Committee on Scaling recently considered the question of senior high school students including the results for university subjects completed during their final years at school in their UAI.
- 5.4.2 The Technical Committee on Scaling found that there are no technical impediments to doing this, noting that mechanisms are already in place which would allow this to be easily accommodated.
- 5.4.3 The Technical Committee feels, however, that it is the responsibility of the Committee of Chairs to initiate any such action, and to develop guidelines and policy which take into account:
 - questions of equity across the State; and
 - any perceived problems with "double dipping", ie a subject counting towards both the UAI and a degree.

5.4.4 The Technical Committee advises that, in principle, “double dipping” should not be an issue. It has already been sanctioned with the former Distinction courses, and with VET courses that can be used to gain advanced standing for subsequent TAFE courses. Further, the principal role of the UAI is to provide an indicator of subsequent success in University studies. The successful completion of a standard university subject provides significant and valuable evidence in this regard.

5.4.5 The Technical Committee on Scaling requests direction from the Committee of Chairs.

For discussion

12.0 ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNING BODIES OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

12.1 Professor Robert Smith has forwarded the attached information about the Association of Governing Bodies of Universities and Colleges (AGB), a US-based organisation concerned with University governance.

For noting

13.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Distribution List:

Professor Hilary Winchester (Newcastle) (Chair)
Professor Rick Pashley (ANU)
Professor Marie Carroll (Canberra)
Professor David Green (Charles Sturt)
Professor Alf van der Poorten (Macquarie)
Professor Geoff Quaife (UNE)
Professor Tony Dooley (UNSW)
Professor Martin Hayden (Southern Cross)
Professor Lawrence Cram (Sydney)
Professor Alan Johnson (UTS)
Associate Professor Marsha Durham (University of Western Sydney)
Professor Joan Cooper (Wollongong)

Professor George Cooney
Professor Gordon Stanley
Mr David Patterson
Professor John Mack