Minutes of a meeting of Academic Senate held on 13 July 2012 at 9.30am in the Senate Room, Level 3, Lincoln Building.

Present:  
Professor P Radan (in the Chair)  
Ms M Brodie  
Professor J Croucher  
A/Professor Robyn Dowling (ex officio on behalf of A/Professor I Solomonides)  
A/Professor M Evans  
Professor M Gabbott  
Professor J Greeley  
Mr T Hendry  
Mr H Moraes  
A/Professor S Page  
Professor J Sachsu  
Professor S Schwartz  
Professor J Simons  
Ms L Simpson  
Professor S Thurgate  
A/Professor J Torr  
Professor G Town  
A/Professor Estella Valverde (ex officio on behalf of Professor M Mollering)  
Professor D Verity  
Professor G Whiteford  
Professor R Widing  
Mr J Wylie (ex officio on behalf of Ms Anderson)  
Dr R Yager

In Attendance:  
Ms R Grewal  
Ms S Kelly  
Ms Z Williams

Apologies:  
Ms D Anderson  
Dr M Arrow  
Dr W Bradford  
Mr A Dahdal  
Professor J Fitness  
A/Professor S George  
Professor J Hedberg  
Ms B Kosman  
Mr O Luck  
Professor N Mansfield  
Professor M Mollering  
Ms B Mclean  
Ms C O’Sullivan  
Professor J Piper  
Mr N Pochynok  
Dr J Tent  
Professor B Thompson
1. APOLOGIES /WELCOME

Academic Senate noted that apologies were received from: Ms D Anderson, Dr M Arrow, Dr W Bradford, Mr A Dahdal, Professor J Fitness, A/Professor S George, Professor J Hedberg, Ms B Kosman, Mr O Luck, Professor N Mansfield, Professor M Mollering, Ms B Mclean, Ms C O'Sullivan, Professor J Piper, Mr N Pochynok, Dr J Tent and Professor B Thompson.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2012

Resolution 12/188

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2012 be signed as a true and correct record.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The following items were starred for discussion:

7. Other Results for Noting

4. CONSIDERATION OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

Resolution 12/189

That the items not starred for discussion be noted and, where appropriate, be adopted as recommended.

(The adopted items are recorded in these minutes according to the sequence of the agenda.)

5. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

5.1 Nil

6. 2012 MID-YEAR EXAMINATION RESULTS

6.1 Consideration of Schedule of Results, Mid-Year 2012

Academic Senate considered the reports submitted by the Faculties with their Mid-Year 2012 examination results.

Faculty of Human Sciences – Professor Greeley spoke to her report and highlighted key issues.

Faculty of Science – Professor Thurgate spoke to his report and highlighted key issues.

Faculty of Arts – Professor Simons spoke to his report and highlighted key issues.

Faculty of Business and Economics – Professor Gabbott spoke to his report and highlighted key issues.

Academic Senate discussed the reports and the issues raised.

The Chair thanked all the Faculties for their reports. He also thanked the administrative
and academic staff for processing the end-of-year examination results within the condensed timeframe.

The Chair asked the Academic Senate’s permission to be authorised to sign-off any additional examination results that will become available after the meeting.

**Resolution 12/190**

(a) That Academic Senate thanks the Faculties for their Session 1 2012 examination reports;

(b) That the Chair of Academic Senate is authorised to approve examination results released after 13 July 2012 on behalf of Academic Senate.

6.2 Candidates who have now Satisfied Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates

The candidates who have now satisfied requirements for the undergraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates were presented for the consideration of Academic Senate.

In addition the report with students qualified for Honours was tabled at the meeting and considered by Academic Senate.

**Resolution 12/191**

That the candidates in the reports under items 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 have satisfied requirements for the awards stated, subject to confirmation of interim awards for six candidates.

6.3 Undergraduate Candidates who may Qualify once I/F Grades are Resolved/Amended

The undergraduate candidates who may qualify once I/F grades are resolved were presented for the consideration of Academic Senate.

6.4 Candidates who have now Satisfied Requirements for Postgraduate Coursework Certificates/Diplomas/Degrees

The candidates who have now satisfied requirements for the postgraduate coursework certificates, diplomas and degrees were presented for the consideration of Academic Senate.

6.5 List of Prizewinners

Academic Senate resolved as recommended the list of prizewinners submitted for its consideration at the meeting.

**Resolution 12/192**

That prizes be awarded to the students nominated for the prize awards.

6.6 Approval for the Communication of Results

Academic Senate considered the communication of results.

**Resolution 12/193**

That the schedule of results be approved as the official record and that the Academic Registrar be authorised to convey these results to students.

Professor Rob Widing left the meeting at 10:05am
Ms M Brodie joined the meeting at 10:05am
Mr T Hendry joined the meeting at 10:10am
7. OTHER RESULTS FOR NOTING

Prof Verity, Chair of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, remarked that it was noteworthy that some OUA units had a particularly high failure rate, with one particular unit having a failure rate of 69% amongst a class of 360 students.

He expressed the view that any one (or more) of a number of plausible factors, such as the general level of preparedness of students as they entered these units or certain particularities in the online delivery mode being employed, might cause such high failure rates. He went on to recommend that Senate should seek to understand precisely which factors were the most important contributors to these outcomes. This would allow the University to more effectively address this issue, both in existing OUA units and in any distance mode units it might decide to offer itself in the future.

Prof Verity agreed that this was an issue that should be investigated further by SLTC. He committed to forming a working party to work with CoE (and through them with OUA) to obtain more information and to report on this matter to a Senate meeting later in the year.

Academic Senate noted the following results:

7.1 ICMS Study Period 3, 2011
Academic Senate noted the results.

7.2 OUA Term 3, 2011
Academic Senate noted the results.

7.3 OUA Term 4, 2011
Academic Senate noted the results.

7.4 Macquarie City Campus IBT 2, 2011
Academic Senate noted the results.

7.5 Macquarie City Campus IBT 3, 2011
Academic Senate noted the results.

7.6 Macquarie City Campus Study Period 3, 2011
Academic Senate noted the results.

7.7 Session 3, 2012
Academic Senate noted the results.

7.8 Vacation 2012
Academic Senate noted the results.

8. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

8.1 COURSEWORK ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
Academic Senate noted the report of Coursework Admissions Committee meetings held
on 2 February and 7 June 2012 and resolved as recommended:

**Resolution 12/194**

That, as recommended by the Coursework Admissions Committee, the successful completion (Pass) of four Macquarie University OUA units be required for students seeking to transfer from the OUA BA to an internal or external undergraduate place in the BA at Macquarie University with effect from 1 January 2012.

### 8.2 HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Academic Senate noted the report of Higher Degree Research Committee held on 6 July 2012 and resolved as recommended:

**ADDITIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTIONS FOR JOINT PHD DEGREES**

**Resolution 12/195**

That, as recommended by the Higher Degree Research Committee, the following institutions be approved as partner institutions for the purpose of Joint PhD degrees:

- Dundee University
- Imperial College London
- University of Bristol

**COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS**

**Resolution 12/196**

That the students included in the Report of the Higher Degree Research Committee of 6 July 2012 have satisfied the requirements of the awards stated.

**NOMINATION OF VICE-CHANCELLOR’S COMMENDATION**

**Resolution 12/197**

That Lindsay Nicole Ferrara’s PhD thesis entitled “The grammar of depiction: Exploring gesture and language in Australian sign language (Auslan)” be awarded a Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation.

**Resolution 12/198**

That Qin Pei Yuan’s PhD thesis entitled “Study of reconfigurable antennas and their applications in mimo systems.” be awarded a Vice-Chancellor’s Commendation.

### 9. OTHER BUSINESS

#### 9.1 SAVINGS CLAUSES

**Resolution 12/199**

That in accordance with Rule 20 of the Bachelor Degree Rules, the Saving Clause be invoked to enable Mr Weatherstone to satisfy degree requirements for Master of Geoscience by completing only 31 credit points of the required 32 credit points of study, provided all other requirements have been met.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10:20am.

Professor P Radan
Chair