UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
FACULTY OF INFORMATICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 1/08 held at 1.30pm on Thursday 14 February 2008 in Building 8, room G25.

PRESENT: A/Prof R Macgregor (Acting Chair), Ms Sarah Amos (for Ms A Meldrum), A/Prof P Doulai (for Mr P Vial), Dr J Goard, A/Prof P Hyland, Ms B James, Dr W Li, Prof F Naghdy, Prof P Ogunbona, Dr H Tootell (for Dr K Michael), A/Prof G Williams, and Dr A Worthy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Lonard (Secretary).

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

*1.1 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Dr ZQ Zhou and Dr K Michael. Mr P Vial is on study leave. Ms A Meldrum is on secondment.

The Chair welcomed Dr Joanna Goard who is replacing A/Professor Peter Nickolas, Ms Sarah Amos (for Ms Annette Meldrum), A/Professor Parviz Doulai (for Mr Peter Vial), and Dr Holly Tootell (for Katina Michael).

*1.2 Arrangement of Agenda

1.2.1 Items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2, 3, 8.1 and 9.3 were starred for discussion.

1.2.2 A motion to adopt the draft resolutions for the items not starred was carried.

*1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 11 October 2007

The minutes of the meeting of 11 October 2007 were confirmed.

1.4 Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

*2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – VERBAL REPORT

A/Professor Rob Macgregor was asked to take on the role of Chair of the Committee while A/Professor Graham Williams is Acting Dean. There being no recent UEC or FEC Chairs’ meetings, A/Professor Macgregor gave no Chair’s report.

A/Professor Graham Williams gave a brief report, which encompassed the following:

- ESDF Grants: The Faculty did well in the last round, receiving six out of the ten grants awarded. One project not on the list of recipients, but worth mentioning, was the SMAS project, separately funded by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International). The project is led by Dr Anne Porter, A/Professor Graham Williams and Dr Mohan Chinnapan. A forum is being held on Friday 15 February for those who are interested in learning how to video activities for subjects (eg. Maths problems, etc).
Faculty Service Agreements: information has not yet been released.

Grants for Equity projects (mentioned at the last meeting): no applications were received from the Faculty of Informatics. There will be another opportunity for applications mid year. Staff should start thinking about putting in an application. While women are no longer considered an equity group, they are still eligible for funding within this Faculty. The primary focus of the grants this year is first year students.

*3. REPORT FROM LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

Ms Bronwyn James advised that the following subjects were to receive Learning Development aid in 2008: ECTE171, ECTE250, INFO202, ECTE955, and ISIT950.

4. REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY

5. REPORT FROM STUDENT MEMBER

6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON STRATEGIC PLANNING OBJECTIVES

6.1 2007-2008 Faculty Plan Progress Report

7. SCHOOL ITEMS

7.1 Course Concepts Approved in 2007

   Noted

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (SCSSE)

7.2 New Prize: Internetrix Prize for Server Technology

Resolved FEC08/01:
That FEC recommends approval of the new prize ‘Internetrix Prize for Server Technology’, effective immediately.

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL, COMPUTER & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING (SECTE)

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY (SISAT)

7.3 New Prize: Internetrix Prize for Strategic e-Business Solutions

Resolved FEC08/02:
That FEC recommends approval of the new prize ‘Internetrix Prize for Strategic e-Business Solutions, effective immediately.

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED STATISTICS (SMAS)
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

8.1 Dean’s Scholars Proposal Paper

A/Professor Graham Williams spoke to the Proposal Paper put forward by the Faculty Executive Officer.

The Dean’s Scholars program was approved by the Faculty in 2007. During the establishment of the recruitment process for the program, some issues were raised. The Committee was asked to discuss the issues and recommendations in the Proposal Paper and form resolutions.

A/Professor Williams led the discussion by working through each recommendation as follows:

1. Entry requirements: the Committee agreed to increase the UAI cut-off to 93 instead of 90.
2. Transfer after first year only after completing full-time load of 48 credit points: Discussion centred on what ‘full-time’ means, as it can be interpreted as a 36 credit point load per year. The Committee agreed to adjust this criterion to include 48 credit points over two consecutive sessions, instead of ‘full-time load over 48 credit points over two sessions’.
3. Part-time students: The Committee agreed that the Dean’s Scholars program would not cater for part-time students.
4. International students: The Committee agree that International students would not be catered for.
5. Course transfers: The Committee agreed that transferring students would only be eligible if they were currently enrolled in a Dean’s Scholars degree from another Faculty.
6. Limiting intakes per year: The Committee agreed that students would not gain automatic entry into the program with a UAI above 90.
7. WAMs and transfer/articulation: The Committee agreed that a minimum WAM performance of 80 be applied for both the continuation in and the transfer into a Dean’s Scholars degree in the Faculty.

A/Professor Williams listed some other points which need consideration:
- What activities should be organised for the Dean’s Scholars students, ie. Seminars, lunches, invitations to attend Careers Markets for the Faculty.
- Schools need to consider their own accelerated programs, events and ways of engaging the Dean’s Scholars students.

A/Professor Williams proposed that the resolutions be drafted by himself, the Faculty Executive Officer, the Faculty Officer and the acting Chair of the Committee, and circulated to members for approval.

Resolved FEC08/03:
That A/Professor Graham Williams, A/Professor Rob Macgregor, Ms Solveig Dewhurst and Ms Angelina Lonard draft a set of recommendations to amend the Dean’s Scholars program for 2009, and circulate the resolutions to the FEC for approval.

8.2 Telstra Prize

This item was discussed at the end of the meeting. Dr Joanna Goard raised the issue of how the criteria for the prize was to be interpreted, hence creating discussion from the Committee about the methods with which to determine the recipients of the award.
Professor Fazel Naghdy stated that if the prize description was to remain the same, it would be up to the discretion of the Heads of the Schools to determine the recipients.

A/Professor Williams suggested the Committee think about ways to interpret the Prize criteria. This item will then be resubmitted at the next meeting of the FEC.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 2008 Meeting Schedule and Deadlines for Course Proposals

The acting Chair advised members to take note of the meeting dates and course proposal deadlines contained in the agenda.

*9.2 Graduate Qualities

Dr Holly Tootell provided a brief update on the progress of the Faculty Graduate Qualities Working Party.

The Working Party gave a presentation at the Faculty Planning Day in 2007. Since then, the Working Party has met. Dr Joanna Goard will step in to replace A/Professor Peter Nickolas. The Working Party's aims this year are to form the Graduate Qualities and roll them out to the Faculty; Dr Tootell will attend FEC to provide regular updates; the Schools will be asked to provide best practice examples for their subjects to be included on a Graduate Qualities webpage.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm Thursday 3 April. A reminder that this meeting is the last meeting to submit major course proposals for Spring session 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3:30 pm.

Angelina Lonard
FEC Secretary
19 February 2008