A meeting of the FAO/Subdeans' Group will be held on Friday 9 March 2007 in the Senate Room from 9.30 to 11.00am.

A G E N D A

1. Update from Academic Council

Trudi will report on the items on the Academic Council agenda for the meeting of 7 March 2007.

2. File references on Agendas and Minutes

Please ensure that you include the TRIM reference numbers on all agenda and minute items. It is important that we have the reference number included so that the item can be tracked as it moves through the committee system.

For noting.

3. Archival Copies of Agendas and Minutes

You will recall that at the last meeting of this Group the legislative requirement to have an archival copy of all agendas and minutes was discussed. It was agreed that this would be done moving forward. The problem is possible gaps in the archives. Archives and Records has agreed to determine what is missing and to consider strategies to fill any gaps in the records. Consultation with faculties will take place as needed over the next few months.

For noting.

4. Change to University General Rule 1.5.2.1

A late change was made to University General Rule 1.5.2.1. This was made to clarify the colours of the silk linings and facings for professional doctorates. The correct version of the rule is on the www and is attached here for reference.

For noting.

5. G08 Credit Transfer Agreement

The Go8 Vice-Chancellors have agreed a credit transfer agreement which will guarantee students credit when transferring between G08 universities. The provision of this agreement requires no change in the credit transfer rules that UWA currently has in place.

This is a very important exercise both from a national and international perspective. With the increasing focus on student mobility, particularly in Europe with the Bologna Process, it is important that Australian universities are seen to be flexible and accommodating to those who wish to transfer.
Faculties are asked to promulgate the agreement within their faculties. It is important that UWA embraces the underpinning acceptance on which the agreement is based - that standards and assessment regimes between G08 universities are compatible.

A paper which was written for the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Group (VCAG) is attached for information.

Trudi will speak to this paper.

6. Waiver of Rules Policy

There has been some confusion regarding this policy in recent times. The attached paper has been prepared in order to clarify some issues that have arisen with this policy and to ensure that those involved in the process of seeking waiver of a rule are aware of their roles.

A specific question on changing one of the University General Rules is asked at the end. A decision is needed.

For discussion.

7. Statute NO. 7 Admission to Courses of the University

There has been some discussion at Senate about clause 3 of this statute which provides:

3. All applicants for admission to a course of the University are required to produce satisfactory documentary evidence of their qualifications and proof of identity and citizenship and may be required to produce evidence of good character.

In a discussion on other amendments to this and related statutes, Senate suggested that it might be timely for the University to review the appropriateness of the existing discretionary requirement for applicants for admission to courses of the University to produce "evidence of good character".

The following issues were raised during preliminary discussion of this matter by Senate:

* Why was this requirement needed? It was suggested that it was probably needed for those professional courses where it was necessary to undertake some kind of screening e.g. Medicine where the University might wish to screen for those with a drug addiction or for those who for any reason might not be suitable for courses involving patient contact.
* Was evidence of "good character" the correct expression? "Character" was very nebulous. Would evidence of "good behaviour" be a better requirement?
* One member voiced concern about the provision being discretionary rather than applicable to all students.

The overall thrust of the discussion was not that the requirement should be removed but rather that it should be reviewed. The review would encompass the reasons for such a requirement and the most appropriate way of expressing it.

Do faculties/others reply on this clause? Are there any instances where it has been useful?
For discussion and comments on how useful this clause is, whether it should be retained and if amended, possible rewording.

8. Any other business

Please note a copy of this agenda together with attachments will shortly be available on the FAO site: http://www.fao.uwa.edu.au/fao__sub_deans_meeting_dates_and_notes