SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of meeting: Wednesday, 12/07/2006

Present:
Em. Prof. Geoffrey Bolton (Chair)
Prof. John Yovich (Vice Chancellor)
Mr Brian Aitken
Ms Janice Bowra
Mr Terry Budge
Ms Alison Gaines
Mr Gerry Georgatos
Mr Garry Hunt
Sir William Heseltine
Mr Philip Hocking
Mr Tony Ianello
Ms Carolyn Jakobsen
Mr Malcolm Macpherson
Judge Kate O’Brien

Secretary: Jeremy Rigg

Observers
Mr Michael Brewis
Mr Ian Callahan (DVC – Corporate)
Mr Lloyd Johnson
Prof. Gary Martin (DVC – Enterprise & International)
Prof. Jim Reynoldson
Prof. Andris Stelbovics (DVC – Research)
Prof. Jan Thomas (DVC – Academic)
Prof. Michael Borowitzka (President, Academic Council)
Prof. Arnold Depickere

Apologies
Prof. Yianni Attikiouzel, Mal Bradley, Prof. Stuart Bradley, Assoc. Prof. Michael Campion, Assoc. Prof. Nick Costa, Ms Shirley McPherson.

Meeting commenced at: 16:35 pm

1. MEMBERSHIP

The Chancellor welcomed Mr Tony Ianello to his first Senate meeting, and Mr Jeremy Rigg as the new University Secretary.

Executive Council has now approved Judge Kate O’Brien’s renewal as a member of Senate through to 20 June 2009, and her second term as Deputy Chancellor has come to an end. The Chancellor moved that Senate express its thanks to Judge Kate O’Brien for her valued contribution in this role.

The term of Sir William Heseltine as a member of Senate comes to an end as at 24 July 2006. The Chancellor moved that Senate record its great appreciation of his efforts since becoming a member of Senate in July 2000.

(i) To express to Judge Kate O’Brien Senate’s thanks for her valued contribution as Deputy Chancellor.
(ii) To express to Sir William Heseltine Senate’s great appreciation of his efforts as a member of Senate.

2. APOLOGIES

Prof. Yianni Attikiouzel, Mr Mal Bradley, Prof. Stuart Bradley, Assoc. Prof. Michael Campion, soc. Prof. Nick Costa, Ms Shirley McPherson.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (MURDOCH UNIVERSITY ACT s17A)**

Nil.

4. **CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF VETERINARY TRUST**

The Senate received a report on the activities and directions of the Trust from Mr Brian Aitken. Key points during the discussion included:

- The Trust has cash and equities of approximately $2 million invested.
- The Trust is assisting with funding for key staff positions at the School, to enhance staff number and quality, as well as standards of excellence in education and research.
- One of the next major challenges for the School is the upgrade of its imaging facilities, now that technology is moving to digital imaging.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHANCELLOR AND RELATED MATTERS**

The Chancellor noted that he had circularised the issue of the appointment of a Deputy Chancellor to members of Senate, and that Ms Alison Gaines had been put forward as a nominee. The Chancellor spoke to Ms Gaines’ capabilities for the role, and moved that she be appointed as Deputy Chancellor for a term of two years.

It was noted that a number of other changes in Committee membership are required as a result of Sir William Heseltine’s term as a Senate member coming to an end. Several appointments had been put to the Governance & Nominations Committee by way of circular resolution. The Committee has recommended to Senate that it approve, effective as of 24 July 2006:

(i) the appointment of Judge Kate O’Brien as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee;

(ii) the appointment of Ms Alison Gaines as Chair of the Legislation Committee; and

(iii) the appointment of Mr Tony Ianello and Ms Shirley McPherson as members of the Resources Committee.

Sir William Heseltine commented that, in his experience as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, it had been useful to have a member sitting on both the Resources Committee and the Audit & Risk Committee.

**Resolved:**

S/26/2006

(i) To appoint Alison Gaines as Deputy Chancellor for a term of two years, expiring 11 July 2008.

(ii) To approve the appointment of Judge Kate O’Brien as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee effective as of 24 July 2006.

(iii) To approve the appointment of Ms Alison Gaines as Chair of the Legislation Committee effective as of 24 July 2006.

(iv) To approve the appointment of Mr Tony Ianello and Ms Shirley McPherson as members of the Resources Committee effective as of 24 July 2006.
6. **VICE CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

Senate received the Vice Chancellor’s report and the Vice Chancellor spoke to some additional items. Key issues covered included:

- The parameters for determining the allocation of various Commonwealth funding pools are in a state of flux, with the result that there are short lead times between when parameters are set and the University is measured on its application for funds.
- The RQF Development Advisory Group is in the process of determining how funds will be allocated, with data to be gathered in 2008 and funding impacting the University budget in 2009.
- The Learning & Teaching Performance Fund is under review, but detailed guidelines have not been issued by DEST as yet. Allocation of funds will no longer be based on a “whole of university” approach, but split across four broad areas of discipline. The split of funds will not necessarily be equal across these areas, and there will also be changes to performance indicators and their weightings.
- A letter had recently been circulated to members of Senate outlining changes to the accreditation processes for Universities under the Revised National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes.

The Chancellor noted that a number staff receiving honours were listed in the Vice Chancellor’s report. The Chancellor moved that Senate offer its congratulations to the Vice Chancellor for his recognition in receiving Membership of the Order of Australia, and further moved that Senate communicate its congratulations to Professors Anne McMurray and Phil Jennings, and Dr Susan Read on their awards.

The Vice Chancellor noted the University’s success in the recent announcement of the 2006 Carrick Citation Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning, with Ms Geraldine Box, Dr Christine Creagh, Dr Julia Hobson, Associate Professor Lorraine Marshall, Dr Jennifer Mills and Dr Angus Morrison-Saunders all being recipients of awards. It was moved that Senate communicate its congratulations to these six recipients.

**Resolved:**

*S/27/2006*

(i) To offer Senate’s congratulations to the Vice Chancellor, Professor John Yovich, for his recognition in receiving Membership of the Order of Australia.

(ii) To communicate Senate’s congratulations to Professors Anne McMurray and Phil Jennings on their receiving Membership of the Order of Australia, and to Dr Susan Read on her award of the Medal of the Order of Australia.

(iii) To communicate Senate’s congratulations to Ms Geraldine Box, Dr Christine Creagh, Dr Julia Hobson, Associate Professor Lorraine Marshall, Dr Jennifer Mills and Dr Angus Morrison-Saunders on being awarded a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education.
7. **ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT**

The DVC (Academic) spoke to her written report. Key points covered included:

- The comments of the Vice Chancellor in relation to changing parameters for funding were endorsed. It was noted that this environment creates a tension for the University between teaching outcomes and funding levels, in endeavouring to determine its optimal course mix.

- The performance of the University against its Key Performance Indicators was reviewed. Of particular note was the effort that had been put in by the Divisions and the Schools to improve the measure of the percentage of graduates who are able to gain their preferred mode of employment.

- The biennial Whole of University experience survey of students showed high ratings and improvements on all ratings except in relation to computing facilities.

- The introduction of the Vice Chancellor’s Symposium has created a useful forum for academic discussion on professional development, with the second forum to be held on 17 July on the “Scholarship of Engagement”.

- Work is being undertaken to improve the University’s postgraduate offerings.

- The paradigm for course delivery is shifting in focus from teaching to learning. This presents challenges in relation to the existing infrastructure that need to be managed, as it is more suited to the teaching paradigm.

- The trends in flattening of student demand, increased diversity of students, increased average hours per week students are engaged in work, and increased expectation of course flexibility also present challenges for resource management.

- In this environment, there is increasing pressure on students in terms of retention rates and on staff in terms of the need for developing new and flexible modes delivery.

Senate commended the DVC (Academic) on her report. The Chancellor moved that Senate receive the Education Report

**Resolved:** To receive the Annual Education Report.

S/28/2006

8. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - LOAD REPORT**

All observers left the Senate room

Senate dealt with this item in camera. See the separate, confidential minute of this item.

9. **MINUTES**

Senate confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 24/05/2006. It also noted a report of action taken to implement previous resolutions of Senate.

10. **ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

Senate noted the minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council held on 14/06/2006. There were no recommendations requiring a Senate resolution.
11. **AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Senate noted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit & Risk Management Committee held on 30/05/06. There were no recommendations requiring a Senate resolution.

12. **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Senate noted that the Environmental Committee meeting for June was not held as a quorum was not available.

13. **RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Senate noted the minutes of the meetings of the Resources Committee held on 23/05/2006 and 27/06/2006.

A discussion ensued in relation to Item 11 from the minutes of 27/06/2006, being the Residential Services Outsourcing Proposal. It was queried whether the Committee had given sufficient consideration to the potential risks of outsourcing. The Vice Chancellor and the Chair of the Resources Committee noted that concerns of this nature were discussed at the meeting and the Committee is seeking more information in relation to the proposal to address these.

The Chancellor moved that the recommendations of the Resources Committee be accepted.

**Resolved:** To approve the following payments for the period 15/03/2006 to 16/05/2006 inclusive:

<table>
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<th>Creditors</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Taxation Office</td>
<td>$873,804 (PAYG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Taxation Office</td>
<td>$915,103 (PAYG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Taxation Office</td>
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<td>Australian Taxation Office</td>
<td>$899,305 (PAYG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keywest Constructions P/L</td>
<td>$518,077 (St Ives prog. payment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Revenue</td>
<td>$666,510 (Payroll tax – April ’06)</td>
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**Resolved:** To approve the following write offs for the period to 31 March 2006 inclusive:

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<th>Creditors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alberto Cozzi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backstop Corporation</td>
<td>$2,740.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Lovelady</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<td>Dept of Environmental Protection</td>
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<td>Environmental Solutions</td>
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<td>Health Care World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psyllium Husk Performance Pellets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pullinger Readhead Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solectair</td>
<td>$2,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pretoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Corporation</td>
<td>$4,091.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zip Television</td>
<td>$31,709.7</td>
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**Resolved:** To approve the following payments for the period 17/05/2006 to 20/06/2006 inclusive:

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<th>Creditors</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Taxation Office</td>
<td>$868,020 (PAYG)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Australian Taxation Office $ 895,512 (PAYG)
B & E Fire Protection $ 132,000 (Air conditioning)
Canopi Network $ 190,819 (3Q Callista payment)
State Revenue $ 454,067 (Payroll tax – May ‘06))
Synergy $ 179,567

14. OFFICIAL SEAL

Senate noted the report provided in accordance with resolution S/54/2004.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

Judge Kate O’Brien encouraged all Senate members to be enriched by the art exhibition that was currently on University campus following NAIDOC week.

Meeting concluded at: 18:35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting of the Senate held on 12/07/2006.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR GEOFFREY BOLTON - CHAIR

Dated: September, 2006