

**Australian Universities Quality Agency Ltd
ACN 092 938 200**

**AUQA Board Meeting 2007/3
10.00am Tuesday 26 February 2008**

**AUQA Board Room
Level 10, 123 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000**

Minutes

1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Present

Emeritus Professor Deryck Schreuder (Chair)
Mr Ian Hawke (Deputy Chair)
Mr Clive Hildebrand
Professor Bill Lovegrove
Professor James McWha
Mr Colin Walters
Mr Terry Werner
Dr David Woodhouse

Mr Patrick Coleman, Professor Alan Pettigrew, Professor Ian O'Connor and Emeritus Professor Michael Koder sent apologies.

Observer Carolyn Alport was in attendance for non-confidential items. Audit Directors Rob Carmichael, Rudi Lidl and Mark Hay, and Corporate Accountant Katy Wong were in attendance for some non-confidential items.

Board Secretary – Dr Antony Stella

The meeting started at 1000 hrs with the Chair's welcome.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING 2007/4 HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2007

The Board **confirmed** the Minutes of meeting AB2007/4 held on 29 November 2007 as accurate records of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The significant matters and items that were deemed to require discussion had been starred on the Agenda. Directors were invited to indicate if they wished to change the status of any items. No requests were received.

On a motion from the Chair, the Board agreed to accept the papers for the unstarred items and to **approve** the recommendations therein.

Due to recovery from dental surgery, the Chair of the Board suggested that Deputy Chair Ian Hawke chair the remainder of the meeting. Ian Hawke agreed and the other Directors approved the motion.

The starred items were then taken for discussion.

4 AUDIT MATTERS

4.1 Audits 2007

The Board **received** a report on the 2007 audit program.

4.2 Audits 2008

The Board **received** a report on the 2008 audit program.

4.3 Audits 2009

The Board **received** a report on the 2009 audit program.

4.4 Progress Reports

The Board **received** a report on the Progress Reports submitted to AUQA by the auditees after the previous board meeting.

4.5 Auditors

The Board **approved** the additional honorary auditors for the AUQA Auditor Register recommended by the Auditor Vetting and Planning Committee.

5. AUQA POLICY AND BOARD ISSUES

5.1. Review of AUQA

The Board **received** the final report on the Action Plan to address the affirmations and recommendations of the external audit report of AUQA.

5.2 AUQA Strategic Plan 2007-2012

The Board **received** the updated strategic plan of AUQA.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

***6.1 Federal Government update**

The Directors reflected on the issues that might affect AUQA in the context of the new Federal government, developments in the policies of the Labor administration and the related changes in the HE sector. In particular, DEEWR's progress on matters such as the IAF, research assessment,

compacts for funding of the universities, and the transnational quality strategy were discussed and the implications for AUQA were noted.

***6.2 AHEQA (Labor 2006 white paper)**

The Board noted that this document was produced when the current government was in Opposition. Its status has now been clarified by the government. It is to be seen as reflecting earlier thinking which inform policy rather than representing a statement of current policy.

The Board noted that AUQA will continue to seek a meeting of the Chair of the AUQA Board and Executive Director with the Deputy Prime Minister (in her capacity as education minister) to discuss the government's policy in that regard. AUQA's progress with Cycle 2 will be an important factor in taking these discussions forward.

(Action: Chair, ED)

***6.3 National Accreditation Body**

Directors received a paper drafted by staff in response to the current Commonwealth inquiry about a national accreditation agency.

The Board acknowledged the value of the paper and made suggestions for further fine-tuning. The collective view of the Board was that the amended version of the paper should be submitted in the name of the Executive Director rather than a formal submission from Board.

David Woodhouse asked the Directors who had any further comments on the paper, please to submit them in a couple of days to meet the deadline for submissions.

(Action: ED)

6.4 International issues

The Board **received** an update on current USA preoccupations in QA; and a paper on some international trends.

7. FINANCE MATTERS

***7.1 Finance Committee Matters**

Through the chair of the Finance Committee, the Board **received and approved** the final financial report 2007. It noted with pleasure that the result was considerably more positive than expected; and that the accounts have received an unqualified audit report.

The Board discussed at length the budget for 2008 recommended by the ED and the Finance Committee. The Board noted that MCEETYA has not yet approved the requested increase in formula funding, but that this matter is still under active discussion.

The Board **approved** the budget as recommended while noting with some concern that the budget did not include the remuneration increases for academic staff that the Board had approved previously. The Board agreed that, should an increase in formula funding become available or significant

economy be made, the first call on such funding should be to make the salary adjustments.

***8. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Board **received** a brief report from the Chair of the Board, including a useful recent visit by himself and the ED to the South Australian Minister for Education.

The Chair and ED will continue their discussion with the governments. Directors will assist the Chair and ED in facilitating meetings with relevant stakeholders in government.

(All Directors)

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board received a report from the Executive Director on AUQA activities.

10. DEST / MCEETYA MATTERS

10.1 MCEETYA Matters

Directors discussed the developments related to MCEETYA in the changing environment.

Directors noted that the Deputy Prime Minister is leading discussions in the context of COAG about skills development and other education issues. They recognise that the relation between COAG and MCEETYA is evolving in new directions.

It was noted that although the current focus is on school education, it is extending to VET and this will have major implications for HE.

Directors noted that there are three AUQA related issues with JCHE - Board composition, advice on federal follow-up in the context of IAF, advice on follow-up with States and Territory governments – and that JCHE is still consulting the relevant governments on these matters.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Meeting AB2008/2

3 June 2008