PRESENT Winthrop Professor Paul Waring (Acting Chair), Associate Professor Sandra Carr, Dr Jill Finlayson, Winthrop Professor Jennet Harvey, Clinical Professor Richard Herrmann, Associate Professor Patricia Martinez, Associate Professor Liam O’Connor, Professor Patricia Price, Winthrop Professor David Ravine, Professor Don Robertson, Professor Frank van Bockxmeer, Clinical Associate Professor Sam Vasikaran.

APOLOGIES Winthrop Professor Martyn French (Chair), Dr Cyril Mamotte (Representative, Curtin University), Clinical Professor Greg Sterrett.

DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited members to declare potential for conflict or perceived conflicts of interest with regard to items on the agenda. None were declared.

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Teaching Committee held on 9 July were confirmed after making the following amendments. The amended minutes now read:

Item 2.3, Second dot point
..... An expression of interest form is being developed and the completed form will need to be submitted to the interim Board of Studies by 30 November. During discussions, it had become apparent that the School should be involved in two majors:

a Biomedical Science
This major may be suitable for students destined for Medicine or Dentistry. The Faculty of preference would be FLAPS rather than FMHDS, and the Dean of Medicine had indicated that he would have no objections to this arrangement.

b Pathology
This major would be suitable for students who wished to undertake a broader BSc focusing on research.

2 BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Update on Improving Current Third and Fourth Years of MBBS Course

- Associate Professor O’Connor provided an overview of the first case-based tutorial developed for Third Year students on “Breast carcinoma presenting with metastases to spine”. This model, which is web-based, would form the basic framework for tutorials in Pathology. Electronic copies of the model had been provided to the various disciplines to enable the preparation of their tutorials. A copy of Associate Professor O’Connor’s presentation is attached to these minutes.

The model was received positively. The following comments were made:

- Cases for Third and Fourth Years would need to be pitched at appropriate levels.
- Although the model was designed for self-directed learning, tutorials could be set up in conjunction with a tutor should students need to raise issues for discussion.

- The efficacy of self-directed tutorials would be improved if there were also opportunities for face-to-face tutorials.

- The case-based tutorials were independent of the timetable.

- Students could work independently, or in collaboration with other students.

- Appropriate IT support would be required in order to establish and maintain this new web-based teaching resource.

2.2 Update on Improving Pathology Teaching in Fifth and Sixth Years of MBBS Course

The Acting Chair recalled the discussion paper prepared by Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran on “Laboratory Exposure for Medical Students” which had been circulated to members of the Teaching Committee for comment at its meeting held on 11 June. To date, no feedback had been received. The proposal aimed to provide students with an opportunity to follow a sample for investigation from the point of patient bedside, through to laboratory process and final diagnosis. Registrars would have the responsibility of guiding students through this learning experience. To facilitate the integration of this proposal into the medical course, the Acting Chair invited Associate Professor Sandra Carr to provide an overview of the Fifth and Sixth Year courses.

Associate Professor Carr tabled information on the University’s medical curriculum, schedules for Fifth and Sixth Year specialty clerkships, and membership lists for the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Year Committees. She advised that there would be some time available for coverage of laboratory practice in the two week course on clinical skills presented at the commencement of Fourth Year. Learning in Fifth and Sixth Years is based in the clinical setting. There is no opportunity for students to come together in Fifth Year, however, two Campus Weeks in Sixth Year may provide an opportunity for students to receive exposure in the laboratory environment. In addition, interested students in Fifth Year could be targeted to undertake a clinical option designed for this purpose.

Associate Professor Carr suggested that the School should engage with the various undergraduate committees with a view to integrating Pathology based material into cases currently being presented.

It was agreed that Professors Waring and French, and Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran would have further discussions with Associate Professor Carr to progress this proposal.

Action

Winthrop Professor Waring
Winthrop Professor French
Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran
Associate Professor Carr

Associate Professor Carr also undertook to speak to the medical curriculum map at the next meeting of the Teaching Committee.

Action

Associate Professor Carr

2.3 Proposed Changes to the Third Year of the BSc Degree

Notes of discussions held on 2 July 2009 with regard to the development of majors in “Pathology” and “Biomedical Science” had been circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting (also attached to these minutes). Professor van Bockxmeer provided an overview of these discussions and options that were available for the new course structure in Pathology.
Subsequent to the meeting on 2 July, it had been decided that the general structure for the two Pathology majors would be based on a set of eight core units (each valued at 6 points) and a series of complementary units. Of the core units, two would be compulsory in First Year, two in Second Year, and four in Third Year. The future configuration of the currently offered 12 point units in Pathology is yet to be decided. Members noted the importance for Third Year units to provide students with a sound basis in Pathology from where they could move forward into their selected paths. It would also be necessary for any new units to be economically viable.

The Acting Chair advised that he would be meeting with Professors French and van Bockxmeer to progress the issue and to prepare an expression of interest for submission to the interim Board of Studies by 30 November.

**Action**

Winthrop Professor Waring  
Winthrop Professor French  
Professor van Bockxmeer

### 2.4 Proposed Changes to the MLM Degree

Clinical Professor Herrmann noted that discipline groups were yet to bring their scientists together in order to obtain a greater involvement in the MLM. The Acting Chair suggested that it would be useful for Clinical Professor Herrmann and himself to meet with discipline groups at this stage.

**Action**

Winthrop Professor Waring  
Clinical Professor Herrmann

Due to insufficient time, the remaining agenda items were not discussed.

### 3 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 10 September 2009 at 8.00am in the ten Seldam Seminar Room 1.6, First Floor, M Block, QEII MC.

The meeting closed at 9.10 am.