The University of Western Australia  
SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held in the Ten Seldam Seminar Room 1.6, First Floor, M Block, The Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre on Thursday, 26 February 2009 from 8.00am to approximately 9.10am.

PRESENT

Professor Paul Waring (Chair), Clinical Professor Martyn French, Professor Jennet Harvey, Clinical Professor Greg Sterrett, Brett Tizard, Professor Catherine Cole, Associate Professor Patricia Price, Clinical Associate Professor Dominic Mallon, Dr Ashley Murch, Dr Melissa Gillett,

APOLOGIES

Professor Frank Christiansen, Clinical Associate Professor Kerryn Christiansen, Associate Professor Frank Van Bockxmeer, Brett Tizard.

DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil declared.

1 MINUTES

Minutes from the 22 January 2009 meeting were approved.

2 REPORT FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

2.1 PathWest strategic planning.

Professor Paul Waring provided an update from the recent PathWest strategic planning offsite and informed the committee that the sentiment was that teaching and research need to be preserved despite the downturn in the economy.

2.2 UWA strategic planning.

The Faculty is holding an offsite on March 3rd to develop and align its strategic plan with the University’s 2009-2013 Operational Priorities Plan (OPP). Following this meeting, the Executive will be tasked with developing the School’s strategic plan, which would need to occur after the proposed Research retreat.

2.3 Building plans.

The proposal for the School to be housed on the 3rd floor of the new PathWest building may not occur, as the PMH laboratories may require this space if the relocation is brought forward to meet the new State Govt’s election promise. In that event, the plan would be to re-furbish M block using the $1.2m provided to the School by the Vice Chancellor.

2.4 New adjunct and clinical appointments

23 new adjunct and clinical staff joined the School in the past month.

3 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL MANAGER

Professor Waring gave an update in place of the School Manager, who was absent.

3.1 Administrative position
The full time admin assistant position has been accepted by Jennette Judge-Poupel, who will commence on March 4th.

3.2 Teaching assistant

Lily Ngu commenced on Feb 12th for a 12 month fixed term appointment. She will work as an RA 0.8 FTE employed on an SCGH grant and 0.2 FTE as a teaching assistant for Path 3301.

3.3 Academic pathologist

The 0.5 FTE position was approved by PathWest for 12 months.

3.4 Teaching timetable

The semester 1 timetables have been distributed.

3.5 Management committee

To improve communication within the School, Brett Tizard will be forming a management committee, which shall meet monthly to discuss day to day and logistical issues.

3 UPDATE FROM TEACHING COMMITTEE

Professor Martyn French provided an update from the teaching committee:

3.1 MBBS

The Faculty decided, at the recent MBBS teaching retreat, to move ahead with a 4 year, stand-alone, integrated MD degree with no prerequisites. It was also decided that the B. Health degree would not be a suitable entry to the MD degree.

3.2 Science

The scrapping of the B Health “pre-med” stream, likely means that many more students will be undertaking a BSc with units or majors in biomedical disciplines and that the overall quality of the students will improve. This creates a huge opportunity for the School to teach pathology in the new BSc course. Associate Professor Frank Van Bockxmeer will take this into account when re-designing the BSc course.

3.3 Master of Laboratory Medicine

The proposal to re-focus the MLM course on local scientists has met with widespread enthusiasm within PathWest, the Dean and PathWest executive. Clinical Associate Professor Richard Herrmann has agreed to be the academic coordinator and will be joining the teaching committee in that capacity. Anatomical Pathology are working on using this degree to train pathology assistants. Paul Waring is having discussions with Curtin regarding co-badging the degree and with PathWest management regarding scholarships.

4 UPDATE FROM RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Professor Paul Waring provided an update in Frank Christiansen’s absence.

4.1 Research Database

Brett Tizard is collating information requested by Professor Frank Christiansen.

4.2 Research Strategic Planning Retreat

Dates for the proposed Research Retreat will be announced shortly

5 REPORTS FROM DISCIPLINE REPRESENTATIVES
The majority of the disciplines have now incorporated teaching and research representatives on their committees and are actively developing their strategies and plans.

Professor Cathy Cole informed the committee that she had handed over the chair of the Haematology DPC to Dr Jill Finlayson, who will now join the Executive Committee in her place. Professor Waring thanked Professor Cole for her contributions.

6 IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Professor Waring discussed the UWA OPP and solicited suggestions regarding the top 3 achievements for 2008, the top 3 challenges for 2009 and the top 3 priorities for 2009-13.

Action: Professor Waring to circulate the OPP.

7 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 28 March.