The University of Western Australia

SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

MEMBERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 March 2009 from 8.00am to approximately 9.00am.

M I N U T E S

PRESENT

Professor Martyn French, Professor Frank Christiansen, Clinical Associate Professor Keryn Christiansen, Dr Melissa Gillett, Mr Brett Tizard, Dr Jill Finlayson, Clinical Professor Greg Sterrett, Dr Ashleigh Murch, Professor Frank Van Bockxmeer, Winthrop Professor Jennet Harvey

APOLOGIES

Winthrop Professor Paul Waring, Clinical Associate Professor Dominic Mallon

DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

1 MINUTES

Welcome Jill Finlayson (Chair of Haematology DPC)

Professor Martyn French discussed the minutes of the previous meeting, held 26 February 2009.

2 UPDATE FROM DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL

Professor Martyn French will provide an update on:

2.1 FMDHS and PaLM strategic planning

Professor Paul Waring and Brett Tizard attended the Faculty Strategic Planning Day to help develop the Faculty’s Operational Priorities Plan. The development of School’s Operational Priorities Plan will commence in July/August and will be completed by October 2009.

2.2 Academic titles

The revised Academic Titles are now available for all UWA funded academic staff. Adjunct and Clinical members of staff are currently not able to access these titles however it is anticipated that this anomaly will be corrected when the new EBA comes into force.

2.3 New adjunct and clinical appointments

The next round of 13 adjunct and clinical appointments was forwarded to the Faculty’s Adjunct Committee.

2.4 Richard Allcock’s promotion

On behalf of the School, Professor French passed on congratulations to Dr Richard Allcock on his successful promotion application.
2.5 Academic pathologist 0.5 FTE

Dr Liam O’Connor will commence on 14th April 2009 and be based on the first floor of M Block. He will be reviewing the 4th Year Pathology Units with a view to creating case based learning materials.

3 UPDATE FROM SCHOOL MANAGER

Brett Tizard provided an update on:

3.1 Management Committee

Nominations have been called for membership on the newly formed Management Committee. This Committee will be responsible for facilitating and managing the delegated operational tasks within the School. Membership is open to all staff including general and professional staff and excluding members of the Teaching, Research Advisory and Executive Committees. The membership criteria provide an opportunity for a broader representation across the School and its respective sites.

3.2 2009 Budget Overview

A copy of the final and approved Faculty Budget was distributed to all Committee Members. Funding for the School fell by 6% compared to 2008 however smoothing by the Faculty Office limited this loss to a 4% reduction. The School Budget calculations estimated a 5% reduction in funding.

It was noted that the returns for research inputs and outputs as well as the return per student had been reduced. In order to maintain current funding levels, productivity will need to increase.

4 UPDATE FROM TEACHING COMMITTEE

Clinical Professor Martyn French will provide an update on:

4.1 MBBS

Changes to the curriculum and the Future Framework are driving a need to amend teaching methodologies towards a more case based approach. Dr Liam O’Connor will be employed for the next twelve months to assist with the transition to case based learning.

4.2 Science

Professor Frank Van Bockxmeer prepared a discussion document for the Teaching Committee outlining the possible changes to the pathology teaching for Science students. There has been considerable discussion with stakeholders with input from both within and external to the School. A copy of this discussion document is attached to the Minutes.

4.3 Master of Laboratory Medicine

Professor Richard Herrmann has agreed to undertake a review of the current MLM course with a view to creating a new course that will support the professional development needs of PathWest and other pathology-based professionals. Ms Janette Judge will be acting as Executive Officer to the MLM review.

The issue of PathWest-funded Scholarships and other support mechanisms was discussed.

5 UPDATE FROM RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Professor Frank Christiansen provided an update on:

5.1 Research Database
Data collection about the research activities of the School and PathWest is well underway. Many sites and disciplines have forwarded documentation of their research activities and this information is being compiled.

5.2 Research Strategic Planning Retreat

The Planning Retreat will be held after all of the research activity data has been compiled and analysed. It is anticipated that this will occur in May/June.

6 UPDATE FROM DISCIPLINE REPRESENTATIVES

Clinical Professor Greg Sterrett briefly outlined a proposal to create a Pathology Assistant course at the Masters level. This could take a similar format to courses based at US Universities.

Dr Jill Finlayson stated that strategic planning had begun at the Haematology Discipline Planning Group. This will include teaching and research activities.

7 STATISTICAL/BIOINFORMATIC SUPPORT

Professor Martyn French raised an item from the Research Committee – namely that research groups within PathWest and the School are in need of statistical advice and support. A number of options were discussed and it expected that the Research Committee will investigate these and report back to the Executive Committee.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 23 April.