PRESENT

Clinical Professor Martyn French (Chair), Dr Jill Finlayson, Winthrop Professor Jennet Harvey, Clinical Associate Professor Richard Herrmann, Dr Cyril Mamotte (Representative, Curtin University), Dr Patricia Martinez, Professor David Ravine, Clinical Professor Greg Sterrett, Professor Frank van Bockxmeer, Clinical Associate Professor Sam Vasikaran, Winthrop Professor Paul Waring.

Ms Cora D’Souza (Minutes)

APOLOGIES

Winthrop Professor Jeff Hamdorf, Dr Liam O’Connor, Professor Patricia Price, Professor Don Robertson.

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 April were confirmed after the following amendments:

Item 2.5 Proposed Changes to the MLM Degree – dot point two was amended to:

Dr Mamotte noted that accredited courses are popular with overseas students and that Curtin University’s undergraduate course is AIMS accredited (AIMS only accredits undergraduate courses).

Item 3.1 Anatomical Pathology was amended to:

Clinical Professor Sterrett reported that the case-based modules developed for Fourth Year by Professor Harvey and Dr Bastiaan de Boer are working successfully.

He asked whether additional time could be allocated to enable students to track cases through the laboratory process.

In addition, the following amendment was made to the minutes of the Teaching Committee held on 12 March:

Item 2.5 Proposed Changes to the MLM Degree – the first sentence in paragraph 2 was amended to:

Associate Professor Herrmann noted that as membership of the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists is the more prestigious award, the MLM is not likely to be attractive to chemical scientists at this time.

2 BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Professor Harvey reported that Dr Liam O’Connor had commenced his appointment with the School in April and was currently on three weeks’ leave. He had started discussions with those involved in pathology teaching and with discipline groups. Initially, Dr O’Connor plans to develop one case-based presentation and has asked lecturers to identify suitable cases.
During discussion, the Chair and Professor Waring emphasised the need for disciplines to be engaged in this early stage of developing discipline based templates. The Chair undertook to discuss this with Dr O’Connor.

**Action** Clinical Professor French

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

The Chair recalled the proposal to introduce students to laboratory practice during the clinical methods course presented to Fourth Year and to provide opportunities in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Years for students to receive exposure to the laboratory diagnostic process. He advised that the Co-ordinator of the clinical methods course is Associate Professor Sandra Carr and that she had been invited to meet discipline representatives at the conclusion of the Teaching Committee meeting.

Although details concerning the time available for this initiative are not known, the Chair emphasised the need to prepare a discussion paper as the first stage in moving the proposal further.

**Action** Clinical Professor French  
Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran

### 2.3 Proposed Changes to the Third Year of the BSc Degree

Professor van Bockxmeer advised that discussions had been held with Professors French, Waring and Dr Allcock with regard to changes to the Third Year of the BSc degree and that a further meeting was being held later that day to consolidate the way forward in the process.

Professor Waring noted the need for the School to obtain clarity on future student numbers in the BSc course. According to the new course structure being introduced at UWA, a large proportion of students entering the medical course would have undertaken the BSc degree. This would result in increased student numbers in the science units for which the School would need to be well prepared. The School would also need to cater for medical students who had not completed a science degree, e.g. those with an arts background. It was suggested that the new course structure could potentially result in the School having to accommodate approximately 300 students in wet laboratories.

Professor Waring noted that the School does not aim to train undergraduate medical laboratory scientists and that those students interested in this prospect should be directed to Curtin University. He suggested that the School could engineer its pathology units to enable students to proceed to a Graduate Diploma at Curtin although the issue with regard to accreditation by the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists would need to be resolved.

**Action** Professor van Bockxmeer

### 2.4 Proposed Changes to the MLM Degree

- Clinical Associate Professor Herrmann advised that he was collaborating with Clinical Professor Sterrett on the production of a model for restructuring the Master of Laboratory Medicine. Forensic Pathology did not wish to be included in the course; their preference was for a certificate/diploma course presented in-house, as is currently undertaken, rather than a high level qualification. After discussion, it was agreed that Professors Herrmann and Sterrett would discuss the issue further with Clinical Associate Professor Clive Cooke upon his return from long service leave.

**Action** Clinical Associate Professor Herrmann  
Clinical Professor Sterrett
In response to the enquiry made by Professor Herrmann concerning the allocation of point values to units, the School Manager, Mr Brett Tizard, would be requested to provide this information.

**Action** Clinical Associate Professor Herrmann  
Mr Tizard

Professor Waring advised that the Director General of Health, Dr Peter Flett, would be holding discussions with Mr Marshall Warner, Director, Health Industrial Relations Service, concerning the recognition of the MLM by the relevant industrial award.

Professor Waring advised that the MLM course addressed an area of unmet need. As a result, it is likely that Commonwealth supported places could be obtained for the degree. Although students would still be required to pay HECS, the School and PathWest would jointly fund scholarships for up to ten PathWest employees per year.

Professor Waring advised that it was the expectation of the Director General of Health that teaching in the MLM course would primarily be executed by PathWest scientists with accorded adjunct/clinical status within the School.

Professor Herrmann departed the meeting at this point.

### 3 UPDATE FROM DISCIPLINE GROUPS

#### 3.1 Update on Formation of Discipline Teaching Groups and their Activities (including MBBS, BSc and MLM)

- **Genetics**
  Professor Ravine advised that Professor Waring had briefed the Genetics Discipline Advisory Committee with regard to its future input into the teaching of Genetics.

- **Clinical Biochemistry**
  Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran advised that the Clinical Biochemistry Discipline Teaching Group had not yet met. He looked forward to meeting Dr O’Connor and working towards the conversion of teaching material into case-based presentations.

- **Anatomical Pathology**
  Clinical Professor Sterrett reported that he would be meeting with discipline members next week.

- **Clinical Immunology**
  Dr Martinez reported the success of the half-day session presented by Clinical Immunology as part of the recently held Campus week. The session had been well attended by students. Planning for the next session to be held in August will soon be underway.

  **Action** Dr Martinez

- **Haematology**
  Dr Finlayson reported that the Haematology Teaching Group had met and had identified a framework of core topics to be presented in the medical course in the future. In addition to core material, students would be provided with a list of topics for self-directed learning. Currently, Haematology is presented in four lectures and one case-based tutorial in the Second Semester of Third Year.

  Professor Harvey advised that core topics are included in teaching outcomes in unit guidebooks provided to students. Any change to outcomes need to be submitted to the Faculty for approval to ensure that it adhered with the
Faculty's medical curriculum map. Ms D'Souza undertook to email the guidebooks to Committee members.

**Action** Ms D’Souza

- **Clinical Microbiology**
  There was no report for Clinical Microbiology as Dr O'Connor was on leave.

## 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 4.1 Refurbishment of M Block

Professor Waring reported that due to a decision taken by the Health Department, the School would not be moving into the PathWest building to be constructed at the QEIIIMC site. As it is now expected that the School will remain in M Block for the next twenty years, the $1.35m provided to him as a start-up professorial grant would be utilised to undertake a major refurbishment of M Block.

Mr Michael Jenkin had taken on the role of Project Officer. Professor Waring advised that two proposals were being formulated. The first would involve the refurbishment of the Basement as a teaching precinct housing wet laboratories and computer facilities. The second included the conversion of the kitchen on the ground floor into a reception office for the School.

### 4.2 Discussion regarding Existing MSc Degree and Possible Master of Molecular Medicine Degree (in conjunction with FLAPS)

There was no update on this proposal.

### 4.3 Availability of Existing MLM Programme in 2010

Professor Waring reported that the Co-ordinator of the existing MLM programme, Professor Patricia Price, had received a number of applications to undertake the course in 2010. A decision needed to be made as to whether the course should be offered next year. He noted that Clinical Professor John Masarei would be retiring from his involvement in the Clinical Biochemistry component and that Mr Paul Sheehan of Clinical Biochemistry, Royal Perth Hospital, would be assuming this responsibility. As the currently underway restructuring of the MLM would take some time to finalise, it was agreed that the existing course be offered for next year.

### 4.4 BMedSc Scholarship

Professor Waring advised that the Faculty had received a donation from Professor Roger Dawkins of $120,000 for the purpose of funding a BMedSc scholarship.

### 4.5 Meeting with Associate Professor Sandra Carr, Interim Director, Faculty Education Centre

As foreshadowed at the last meeting, Associate Professor Sandra Carr had been invited to meet discipline representatives. She advised that the focus of the Faculty Education Centre was in the area of medical curriculum development. This included the support of members of the Faculty working in the area.

In response to a question raised by the Chair, Professor Carr confirmed that she co-ordinated the two week course on clinical skills at the start of Fourth Year and that there would be time available for an introduction to laboratory practice.

## 5 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 11 June 2009 at 8.00am in the ten Seldam Seminar Room 1.6, First Floor, M Block, QEIIIMC.

The meeting closed at 9.40 am.