



**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES  
26 SEPTEMBER 2018**

*Minutes* of meeting 03/18 of the University Research Committee held on 26 September 2018 in the Council Room, Building 36.

**Present:**

Prof T Marchant (*Acting Chair*)

Prof D Adams  
A/Prof M Batterham  
Prof J Beck  
Ms E Bellino  
Prof K Clapham  
Dr R Cook  
Prof C Gibson

Prof P Innis  
A/Prof L Kervin  
Mr O Khalifa  
Ms S Martin  
Prof P McGuirk  
A/Prof D Mercer  
A/Prof L Moerman

Prof T Okely  
Dr W Pang  
Prof P Perez  
Prof W Price  
Ms E Smith  
Prof S Ville  
Prof M Zhang

**Minute Secretary:**

Ms J Evans

**PART 1 OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**1.1 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Prof J Raper, A/Prof H Chen, Prof W Vialle, A/Prof M Randle, Prof D Hutto, Prof R Lewis, Prof D Steel, Prof A van Oijen, Prof R Roberts, Prof S Carter, Prof N Dixon, Prof Z Guo, Ms S Flint, Dr M Voyer and Mr K Krauter.

Prof S Ville representing Prof D Hutto, Prof M Zhang representing Prof R Lewis, A/Prof M Batterham representing Prof D Steel, Dr W Pang representing Prof Z Guo, A/Prof L Moerman representing Prof W Vialle and Ms E Smith representing Ms S Flint

Dr R Cook attended for discussion of Agenda Item 3.6.

**1.2 Arrangement of the Agenda**

**1.2.1 Conflicts of Interest**

The Chair asked the Committee to declare if they had any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**1.2.1 Starring of Items**

Agenda items 1.2, 1.5, 3.1, 3.3 and 3.6 were starred for the meeting.

***Resolved (22/18)***

*That the University Research Committee adopt the draft resolutions for the un-starred items.*

### **1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

#### ***Resolved (23/18)***

*That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 June 2018, as attached to the agenda paper, be confirmed and signed as a true record.*

### **1.4 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **1.5 Chair's Business**

#### **New Appointments**

The Chair updated the committee on recent new appointments as follows:

- A/Professor Honglin Chen from the Faculty of Social Sciences has been appointed as Associate Dean Graduate Research beginning November 2018,
- Professor Dan Hutto has been appointed the new Associate Dean Research in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts.

#### **Highly Cited Researchers**

Clarivate have recently released their annual list of highly cited researchers and UOW has ten researchers on the list, up from four researchers last year. Results are provisional and researchers have until 31 October to correct their affiliations before the final lists are published.

#### **Nature Publication**

Congratulations to S/Professor Sharon Robinson for her paper published in Nature Climate Change. S/Professor Robinson is the lead researcher on a landmark thirteen year study which has provided the first evidence that climate change is affecting East Antarctic vegetation.

#### **NUW Alliance**

The NUW Alliance has put out a call for expressions of interest to researchers at NUW Alliance Universities to submit project proposals. Proposals must demonstrate collaboration across all NUW Alliance Universities and will be assessed by the NUW Alliance Management Committee. Expressions of interest from UOW researchers will be reviewed by a URC Review Group consisting of the Dean of Research and Associate Deans Research. The Chair agreed to the possible inclusion of additional members to be part of the URC Review Group and noted that there are still a number of details about this process that are unclear and more information would be provided soon.

#### **Rankings Update**

Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings will be released tonight. Last year UOW was ranked at 275 and it is expected that UOW will climb by at least 40 places this year. This jump can be attributed to a large increase in citations as a result of a citation recovery process instigated by the Dean of Research.

The QS Rankings released recently showed a better performance relating to UOW's reputational survey score. This is as a result of making contact with academic peers in a more effective way. Going forward the Dean of Research will be working with the Research Services Office to make contact with all academics at UOW asking them to nominate their peers who will then be encouraged to take part in the survey.

#### **Global Challenges Update**

The Global Challenges Director provided an update noting that the Program has just commenced its next five year term. A recent external review indicated that the Program does well building up small and medium projects, however turning these into bigger funding opportunities has been a problem. As a result the program has introduced a new 'Keystone Project' initiative which

aims to bring together researchers from all over the university to collaborate on larger projects that may lead to major external funding. The first round of EOIs has recently closed and the results should be announced at a launch event in early December. As a result of the external review process, the 'Transforming Lives and Regions' challenge has been renamed 'Building Resilient Communities.'

## **PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

### **2.1 No confidential business.**

## **PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **3.1 University Research Committee Terms of Reference**

Members noted the new University Research Committee Terms of Reference that were approved by Academic Senate at its meeting on 11 July 2018 (resolution 2018/45). The Committee further noted:

- That the membership has increased to encompass a broader representation of the university community;
- Members may wish to nominate a representative to attend a URC Meeting if they are unable to, however there is no need for a standing alternate/representative.

#### ***Resolved (24/18)***

*That the University Research Committee note the new Terms of Reference and Membership of the Committee, as provided in the agenda paper.*

### **3.2 Research and Innovation Report**

The Research and Innovation Division Report was noted.

#### ***Resolved (25/18)***

*That the University Research Committee note the Research and Innovation Report, as provided in the agenda paper.*

### **3.3 Higher Degree Research (HDR) Student Update**

The Acting Chair provided the committee with an HDR Student Update.

The 2019 Scholarship Round is open with applications closing 17 October 2018. The new HDR Scholarship Policy applies to this scholarship round with the major changes being:

- domestic and international applications will be ranked separately;
- the convening of an additional scholarship meeting to review applications from students with non-traditional backgrounds; and
- domestic first class students not guaranteed an RTP Award.

The Acting Chair advised that there have been a number of instances this year where Thesis Examiners have been found to have a conflict of interest and asked that Heads of Postgraduate Studies and Supervisors be reminded of the importance of carefully selecting examiners. If unsure about whether a conflict exists, the Graduate Research School should be consulted for clarification before the process begins to avoid any distress to students.

HDR commencements are quite steady for the year and over the last 5 years. An increase in Masters of Research completions is expected going forward.

Australian Postgraduate Research Internships are constantly advertised and HDR Students in all disciplines should be encouraged to apply for these internships as part of their PhD.

A course review of all research degrees is currently underway. The review is a year-long review and the panel have indicated the possible introduction of oral exams. It was noted that a number of Australian Universities have already introduced a compulsory oral exam as part of the examination process. The introduction of oral exams at UOW will be investigated for all research degrees and if implemented would apply to new students only. The Masters of Research already includes an oral exam component.

Other HDR matters discussed by the Committee are as follows:

- the WAM calculation and how it impacts the scholarship round;
- the Masters of Research expansion and the implications this will have on workloads, in particular the increased workload for the Thesis Examination Committee;
- the new scholarship process where each faculty/AIIM shall receive up to two early offers, every year, in between candidate application and the RAP Meeting in order to attract/retain high quality HDR's at UOW.

***Resolved (26/18)***

*That the University Research Committee note the Higher Degree Research Student Update, as presented by the Acting DVCR&I, at the URC Meeting.*

### **3.4 University Research Institutes Update**

The Director, Research Services Office (RSO) advised that the University Research Institute Stage 2 application process is currently underway. Five EOI's were received and four applicants were invited to submit a Stage 2 full proposal by 10 October 2018. An assessment panel, chaired by the DVC(R&I), will be held on 5 November 2018 with outcomes announced in December 2018.

Faculties are also required to provide Faculty Research Centre Guidelines to the URC for review every two years from the next URC Meeting in November 2018. It was discussed that this could be a staggered process, with only the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health in a position to provide this information for the next URC Meeting. The Research Services Office will follow up with Associate Deans Research to ascertain their readiness to provide guidelines from the first meeting in 2019.

The Committee discussed the Research and Innovation Division Website and how to maintain visibility of University Research Institutes on the site. It was suggested that each faculty could nominate up to three key centres to be featured on the website. Those featured would need to be a University Research Institute with other research centres linked via the faculty pages. The Committee agreed that this should be discussed further at the next URC Meeting.

***Resolved (27/18)***

*That the University Research Committee note the University Research Institutes Update as presented by the Director, Research Services Office, at the URC Meeting.*

### **3.5 Revised HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy**

***Resolved (28/18)***

*That the University Research Committee endorse the Revised HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy, as provided in the agenda paper, and forward to Academic Senate for endorsement and Council for approval.*

### **3.6 Research Impact Strategy Update**

The Research Impact Manager advised that a new URC Working Group, chaired by Professor Will Price, has been created to assist in the development of a UOW Impact and Engagement Strategy to identify best practice in facilitating research impact and make recommendations to inform the University's future strategic plans. The working group will meet over the coming

months and report back to the URC. The consultation paper will be drafted in early 2019, following the release of the REI results by the ARC.

**Resolved (29/18)**

*That the University Research Committee note the Research Impact Strategy Update, as presented by the Research Impact Manager, at the URC Meeting.*

**3.7 Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research**

**Resolved (30/18)**

*That the University Research Committee note the Authorship Guide and Management of Data and Information in Research Guide, as provided in the agenda papers, and provide feedback as required.*

## **PART 4 BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES**

**4.1 Research Integrity Committee**

**Resolved (31/18)**

*That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 23 May 2018 Meeting of the Research Integrity Committee.*

**4.2 Research IT and Systems Committee**

**Resolved (32/18)**

*That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 16 May 2018 and 22 August 2018 Meetings of the Research IT and Systems Committee.*

**4.3 Thesis Examination Committee**

**Resolved (33/18)**

*That the University Research Committee note the meeting summaries of the 2 May 2018, 6 June 2018, 6 July 2018 and 1 August 2018 Meetings of the Thesis Examination Committee.*

## **PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS**

**5.1 Other Business**

**5.1.1 Moodle Site**

The Acting Chair advised the committee that from the next URC Meeting in November 2018, all agenda papers will be provided via a URC Moodle Site. The site will also be used to provide apologies, representative attending etc.

**5.1.2 Voice Survey**

The Acting Chair advised the committee that the Voice Survey is closing soon and encouraged members to remind staff to complete the survey.

**5.1.3 Research Income**

The Director, Research Services Office made a presentation to the Committee about competitive research income trends. The Committee noted that government funding is flat and there is a need to diversify income to support research in an increasingly competitive environment. Alternative sources of income include industry, local and state governments and Cooperative Research Centres (CRC's). International research funding across the sector over the last 16 years also shows significant growth highlighting the importance of international collaborations.

#### 5.1.4 Research Active

The Committee held a short discussion about the current research active definition and whether or not this would be revised anytime soon. The Acting Chair and Director Research Services Office advised that it may be revised next year however it would be more suitable to wait until after the ARC release the REI results in early 2019.

#### 5.1.5 iAccelerate Update

The CEO iAccelerate provided an update on recent iAccelerate activities:

- iAccelerate has been named by Berkeley as the Australian representative for a Global Social Venture Competition, a competition aimed at PhD Students and those within four years of graduation who would like to take a Social Venture to the next level;
- iAccelerate have nominated Prof Pia Winberg to take part in a more advanced program at Berkeley that would result in \$US100k and 6 months of support and guidance in Silicon Valley;
- iAccelerate has established a relationship with Duke University regarding a social entrepreneurship aimed at those taking entrepreneurship into the research stream;
- JobsNSW have selected UOW as the regional hub; and
- Local disability groups have expressed interest in working with iAccelerate, including IRT, Flagstaff and the Disability Trust.

#### 5.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 3.00pm on Thursday 22 November 2018.

The meeting closed at 11.10am

### ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3 J Evans – file URC Minutes 6 June 2018
- 3.5 T Marchant – forward to Academic Senate for endorsement
- 3.7 All Committee Members – provide feedback
- 4.1 M Weatherall – file RIC Minutes for 23 May 2018
- 4.2 B Cornwell – file RITAS Minutes for 16 May and 22 August 2018
- 4.3 S Flint – file Thesis Summaries for 2 May, 6 June, 6 July and 1 August 2018f

Signed as a true record



Chairperson 3.11.18