



**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
21 NOVEMBER 2018**

Minutes of meeting 04/18 of the University Research Committee held on 21 November 2018 in the Council Room, Building 36.

Present:

Prof J Raper (*Chair*)

Prof D Adams
A/Prof M Batterham
Prof J Beck
Ms E Bellino
Ms C Burns
Prof S Carter
A/Prof H Chen
D/Prof N Dixon

S/Prof C Gibson
A/Prof J Herbert
A/Prof L Kervin
Mr O Khalifa
Mr K Krauter
Prof R Lewis
Prof T Marchant
Ms S Martin

A/Prof D Mercer
Prof W Price
A/Prof M Randle
Ms S Flint
D/Prof A Van Oijen
D/Prof R Roberts
Dr M Voyer
Prof S Ville

Minute Secretary:

Ms J Evans

PART 1 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Prof W Vialle, Prof P Innis, S/Prof D Hutto, S/Prof T Okely, Prof P Perez, S/Prof D Steel, S/Prof P McGuirk and Prof K Clapham.

Prof S Ville representing Prof D Hutto, A/Prof J Herbert representing S/Prof T Okely, A/Prof M Batterham representing S/Prof D Steel.

Ms C Burns attended for discussion of Agenda Item 3.5.

1.2 Arrangement of the Agenda

1.2.1 Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

1.2.1 Starring of Items

Agenda items 1.2, 1.5, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 were starred for the meeting.

Resolved (34/18)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved (35/18)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 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 advised that an announcement about the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) will be made soon. The Dean of Research will act in the role until the new DVC(R&I) commences, likely to be in March 2019.

ARC College of Experts

UOW members of the ARC College of Experts for 2019 are as follows:

- Prof Aidan Sims, Faculty of Engineering and Information Services;
- A/Prof Helen McGregor, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health;
- Prof Elena Pereloma, Australian Institute for Innovative Materials;
- Prof Madeleine du Toit, Faculty of Engineering and Information Services;
- A/Prof Kate Senior, Faculty of Social Sciences.

ARC National Interest Test

The ARC grant application processes will be strengthened to include a National Interest Test. The Minister, Dan Tehan, has asked the ARC to:

- Review the 2015 Science and Research Priorities and provide advice on updating these priorities in relation to ARC grants;
- Examine whether the financial structure of ARC grants fit the national priorities; and
- Add an additional category to grant outcomes so applicants are notified of instances where a project is 'recommended to but not funded by the Minister'.

This has resulted in delays in the announcement of 2019 ARC funding results and the opening of the 2020 Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous funding rounds. The DECRA funding round has already opened and is not affected (closing date 13 March 2019).

Review of Free Speech

Former High Court Chief Justice Robert French has been asked by the Minister to review rules and regulations protecting free speech at universities, including codes of conduct, enterprise agreements, policy statements and strategic plans. The review is expected to take 4 months and may result in an Australian version of the Chicago Statement, a voluntary framework that clearly sets out a university's commitment to promoting freedom of speech.

Australian Research Council Executive Director Visit

Prof Therese Jefferson, ARC Executive Director for Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences will be visiting UOW on Monday 26 November. Hosted by LHA, she will present on the Discovery and Linkage Projects schemes. All are welcome to attend, contact LHA for more details.

SAGE Athena Swan Symposium and Award Dinner

The SAGE Symposium is being held on Wednesday 5 December 2018, followed by the SAGE Inaugural Athena SWAN Institutional Bronze Award Gala Dinner. The Awards will be conferred by the Prime Minister, in attendance with Government Ministers, Presidents of academies and peak bodies in STEM, ATSE and AAS Fellows, and Chief Scientists (Federal

and State), as well as other dignitaries including the CEO of Advance HE (UK), Ms Alison Johns. A small number of UOW representatives will be in attendance.

Global Challenges Update

The Director, Global Challenges, provided a Global Challenges update. The Keystone initiative is well underway. Four applications were received with three invited to full proposal and interview stage. The Director thanked all those involved, in particular the Associate Deans Research for their involvement. The Committee discussed the application and assessment process, noting that some Associate Deans Research were yet to receive notification of the Faculty contribution to these proposals. The GC Director agreed to strengthen the process to ensure sign off and approval from both Executive Deans and Associate Deans Research.

As a result of the recent external review, a new Global Challenge, 'Building Resilient Communities', will begin in 2019. Consultation and engagement has begun and a two day Global Challenges Research Retreat will be held later this month. The retreat will be a networking opportunity and include a mapping exercise to identify what research is happening across the university that could contribute to 'Building Resilient Communities'.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

2.1 No confidential business.

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

The Research and Innovation Division Report was noted.

3.2 Higher Degree Research (HDR) Student Update

The Dean of Research noted that he had recently attended a VCAG Meeting where the proposal to increase the number of University Post-Graduate Awards (UPA) for international students from 50 to 65 awards was discussed. The number of UPA's has been at 50 since 2011 and there has been increasing strategic demand on the pool over this time. The Dean of Research agreed with a suggestion that a fraction of the pool should be pre-allocated to faculties based on a formula. Whilst VCAG was supportive of an increase, the Vice-Chancellor advised that the decision would be tasked to the new DVC(R&I), along with a number of other strategic initiatives. The Dean of Research further noted:

- There will be 25 UPA's and 67 RTP's available for the current scholarship round and ranking lists have recently been provided to faculties;
- The amount of Research Block Grant funding is unclear at the moment due to the government allocating extra funding to country universities.

The Committee discussed whether 25 UPA's allocated centrally for strategic purposes from a pool of 50 was too high, and if this number should be reduced and allocated by the RAP. The Chair noted that the recent HDR Student Review resulted in updates to the HDR Scholarships Policy, including each faculty being given the opportunity to award up to two early offers annually in the period between candidate application and the RAP Meeting. The Chair noted that while continuous policy improvement is a good idea, it is not feasible to revise the policy again, given the recent review. The Chair confirmed that an increase to the scholarships pool is an ongoing priority.

The HDR Course Review is currently underway. The Review Committee is currently discussing the introduction of oral exams as part of the HDR examination process at UOW, which has already been introduced by a number of Australian Universities. Consultations with the University community will begin next year. What role the Thesis Examination Committee plays

in the implementation and introduction of oral exams at UOW will form part of the consultation and benchmarking process being conducted in 2019.

The Dean of Research recently attended the Australian Council of Graduate Research Meeting in Melbourne and advised that UOW will host the November 2019 meeting. The meeting will likely be held in the Ocean Room, Innovation Campus on 14 and 15 November 2019.

The Masters of Research Degree offered by UOW, Macquarie and Western Sydney University, will now also be offered by Curtin and La Trobe, from 2019. The Degree is also being considered by a number of other Australian Universities.

Resolved (36/18)

That the University Research Committee note the Higher Degree Research Student Update, as presented by the Dean of Research, at the URC Meeting.

3.3 Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Policies and Guideline Updates

The Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercialisation tabled a paper and provided an update about the revised suite of IP and commercialisation policies and guidelines. A Consultation Paper and revised policies will be circulated to the campus community for feedback in early 2019, before being submitted to the Research Integrity Committee and University Research Committee for consideration in April 2019.

Resolved (37/18)

That the University Research Committee note the update to the Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Policies and Guidelines, as presented by the Senior Manager Innovation and Commercialisation.

3.4 University Research Institutes Update

The Chair advised that an Assessment Panel met recently to review the new University Research Institute full proposals. Four applications were submitted, with two of these being approved to proceed as University Research Institutes: Molecular Horizons (hosted by SMAH) and the Australian National Centre for Oceans Research (ANCORS hosted by LHA).

Of the remaining applications not approved to proceed as University Research Institutes at this time, the Panel considered that one is already performing exceptionally well and should continue as a Faculty Research Institute. The second was considered to have great potential to be a new Institute, however, the Panel recommended that a workshop be held in early 2019 to facilitate further discussions at a strategic level between the relevant Executive Deans to ensure alignment with UOW priorities and plans. All applicants have received written advice of the outcomes and an update on the process will be provided to VCAG on 10 December 2018.

Resolved (38/18)

That the University Research Committee note the University Research Institute Update, as presented at the URC Meeting.

3.5 Faculty Research Centres

The Committee noted the Faculty Research Institute Guidelines provided by the Faculty of Business. The Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health will provide their Guidelines at the next URC meeting, with the remaining faculties to provide over the following meetings in 2019.

The Research Promotions Officer spoke about the new RAID website and how University Research Institutes and Faculty Research Centres will be profiled. It is proposed that each Faculty will be able to nominate up to four centres to be profiled on the central RAID website. Eligibility for inclusion as a Faculty Research Centre on the RAID website will be based on the following principles:

- the Centre must be nominated to be profiled by the host Faculty;
- the Centre must have been reviewed by the host Faculty in accordance with the Faculty Research Centre Guidelines; and
- the Centre must have a UOW brand-aligned website.

Resolved (39/18)

That the University Research Committee note:

- (i) *the Faculty Research Centre Guidelines for the Faculty of Business, as provided in the agenda papers;*
- (ii) *that each Faculty will be able to profile up to four Faculty Research Centres on the central RAID website, based on the following principles:*
 - a. *the Centre must be nominated to be profiled by the host Faculty;*
 - b. *the Centre must have been reviewed by the host Faculty in accordance with the Faculty Research Centre Guidelines; and*
 - c. *the Centre must have a UOW brand-aligned web page.*

3.6 Revised Research Integrity Committee Terms of Reference

Resolved (40/18)

That the University Research Committee approve the revised Research Integrity Committee Terms of Reference, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.7 Revised Institutional Biosafety Committee Terms of Reference

Resolved (41/18)

That the University Research Committee approve the revised Institutional Biosafety Committee Terms of Reference, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.8 Revised Code of Practice – Responsible Conduct of Research

Resolved (42/18)

That the University Research Committee endorse the proposed amendments to the Code of Practice – Responsible Conduct of Research, as provided in the agenda papers, and forward to Academic Senate for endorsement and the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

3.9 Revised Research Integrity Breaches, Concerns and Complaints Policy

Resolved (43/18)

That the University Research Committee endorse the revised Research Integrity Breaches, Concerns and Complaints Policy, as provided in the agenda papers, and forward to Academic Senate for endorsement and the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

3.10 Revised Research Integrity Breaches, Concerns and Complaints Management Procedure

Resolved (44/18)

That the University Research Committee endorse the revised Research Integrity Breaches, Concerns and Complaints Management Procedure, as provided in the agenda papers, and forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for approval.

3.11 Revised Higher Degree Research (HDR) Study by Distance Learning Guidelines

Resolved (45/18)

That the University Research Committee endorse the revised Higher Degree Research (HDR) Study by Distance Learning Guidelines, as provided in the agenda papers, and forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for approval.

PART 4 BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES

4.1 Research Integrity Committee

Resolved (46/18)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 1 August 2018 Meeting of the Research Integrity Committee.

4.2 Thesis Examination Committee

Resolved (47/18)

That the University Research Committee note the meeting summaries of the 5 September 2018 and 3 October 2018 Meetings of the Thesis Examination Committee.

PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS

5.1 Other Business

5.1.1 Thanks to Chair

A vote of thanks was made to Prof Judy Raper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), attending her last URC meeting, for her contributions as Chair of the Committee over the last 10 years.

5.1.2 iAccelerate Update

The CEO iAccelerate provided an update:

- Twenty-one EIS students in the latest iAccelerate cohort, an increase of 50% from 2018;
- Eight new businesses, with 75% led by women;
- Faculty of Social Sciences will be funding a social entrepreneur to look at how to integrate entrepreneurship into the Social Sciences stream;
- iAccelerate has been approached by increasing numbers of local schools to visit with students interested in entrepreneurship;
- iAccelerate will be opening a UOW sponsored hub in Bega in March 2019;
- Discussions held with IHMRI about how researchers can be integrated into iAccelerate.

5.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 February 2019 from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in the Council Room, Building 36.

5.3 2019 Draft Meeting Dates

The 2019 URC Meeting Dates have been confirmed as follows:

Wednesday 20 February 2019, 3.00pm to 4.30pm, Council Room Building 36
Wednesday 17 April 2019, 3.00pm to 4.30pm, Council Room Building 36
Wednesday 12 June 2019, 3.00pm to 4.30pm, Council Room Building 36
Wednesday 7 August 2019, 3.00pm to 4.30pm, Council Room Building 36
Monday 4 November 2019, 3.00pm to 4.30pm, Council Room Building 36

The meeting closed at 10.45am

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3 J Evans – file URC Minutes 26 September 2018
- 3.8 S Martin - forward to Academic Senate for endorsement
- 3.9 S Martin - forward to Academic Senate for endorsement
- 3.10 S Martin - forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for approval
- 3.11 T Marchant - forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for approval
- 4.1 M Weatherall – file RIC Minutes for 1 August 2018
- 4.2 S Flint – file TEC Summaries for 5 September 2018 and 3 October 2018

Signed as a true record



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Chairperson .../.../18

