



**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
20 FEBRUARY 2019**

Minutes of meeting 01/2019 of the University Research Committee held on 20 February 2019 in the Council Room, Building 36.

Present:

Prof T Marchant (*Acting Chair*)

D/Prof D Adams
Prof J Beck
Ms E Bellino
Prof S Carter
A/Prof H Chen
Prof K Clapham
A/Prof C Cortese
D/Prof N Dixon

Mr K Krauter
Prof R Lewis
Ms S Martin
S/Prof P McGuirk
A/Prof D Mercer
A/Prof G Peleckis
S/Prof P Perez
Prof W Price

D/Prof R Roberts
Dr M Rodrigo
Dr T Stutchbury
Prof W Vialle
Prof S Ville
Dr M Voyer

Minute Secretary:

Ms J Evans / Ms K House

PART 1 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Prof M Randle, Prof L Kervin, S/Prof T Okely, S/Prof C Gibson, D/Prof A van Oijen, S/Prof D Steel, Mr O Khalifa and Dr A Nidhal.

A/Prof C Cortese representing Prof M Randle, Prof P McGuirk representing Prof L Kervin, Dr T Stutchbury representing S/Prof C Gibson and Dr M Rodrigo representing S/Prof D Steel.

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, 1.4, 1.5, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 5.2 were starred for the meeting.

Resolved (01/19)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved (02/19)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2018, as attached to the agenda paper, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

1.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair noted that the following items from the last meeting were endorsed by Academic Senate at its meeting on 5 December 2018, and will be sent to the Vice-Chancellor for approval:

Code of Practice Research – Responsible Conduct of Research

RESOLVED 2018/94

that Academic Senate endorse the proposed amendments to the Code of Practice – Responsible Conduct of Research, as provided in the agenda paper, with amendments as discussed and assurances given to the points raised in this forum, and forward to the Vice-Chancellor for approval, effective immediately.

Research Integrity Breaches, Concerns & Complaints Policy

RESOLVED 2018/95

that Academic Senate endorse the proposed amendments to the Research Integrity Breaches, Concerns and Complaints Policy, as provided in the agenda paper, and forward to the Vice-Chancellor for approval, effective immediately.

HDR Thesis Preparation Submission and Examination Policy

RESOLVED 2018/96

that Academic Senate endorse the minor revisions and updates to the HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy, as provided in the agenda paper, and forward to the Vice-Chancellor for approval, effective from Autumn Session 2019.

1.5 Chair's Business

New Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

The new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Jennifer Martin AC, will commence at UOW on 28 March 2019.

New Appointments

- Professor Guang Shi, new Head of School for Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences (SEALS), Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health, will commence in March;
- An offer has been made for the Professor of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences;
- Recruitment is underway to appoint a new Head of School for Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health;
- Recruitment is underway to appoint a new Dean of Medicine.

UOW Strategic Plan

Following feedback from the Senior Staff Planning Day, Advisory Panels held in 2018 and the University Council, the 'Education, Skills and the Future Workplace and Research and Knowledge Exchange: UOW 2030 and Beyond Green Paper' is now available for feedback from the campus community. Following feedback, a White Paper will be developed to inform the new UOW Strategic Plan which should be approved by Council in late 2019.

ERA and Engagement and Impact

The Australian Research Council (ARC) have advised that outcomes from the 2018 ERA and Engagement and Impact submissions should be available before the end of March 2019.

NUW Alliance

Expressions of interest for collaborative research grants between partners of the NUW Alliance were recently called. Nine applications, three from each university, will be assessed by the NUW Advisory Committee in the next few weeks.

QS Rankings

The QS Subject Rankings will be released next week. UOW expects very positive results including:

- Three subjects in the top 100;
- Seven subjects to have moved up a band;
- One subject in the top 20;
- A general rise across a number of other disciplines.

The QS Academic Employer Reputation Consultation is now open for voting. UOW has nominated a large number of key academic and employer contacts, who must agree to be nominated.

2019 UGPN Conference

The UOW delegation travelling to North Carolina State University (NCSU) in early April 2019 will include 11 UOW researchers, Prof Jennifer Martin, Prof Tim Marchant and Sally McNeill. The annual Conference consists of four themed workshops as follows:

- 1) Innovation & Entrepreneurship;
- 2) Data Science / Big Data;
- 3) One Health / Global Health; and
- 4) Sustainable Cities.

Three panel sessions will be held: UGPN Research Strategy; University-Industry Partnerships; Women in Science/Gender Equality.

Environmental Transitions Workshop

On 31 January, a workshop was held to discuss the establishment of a possible University Environmental Transitions Research Institute, attended by key researchers from across the university. Further consultation with stakeholders is to take place, with a revised proposal to be presented to VCAG in June this year.

Global Challenges Update

The Program Director provided an update on the Global Challenges Program. Two keystone projects have been selected for funding as follows:

- Dr Lyn Phillipson-led team awarded funding for the 'PIECES' Project about the community aspects around living with Dementia;
- Professor Geoff Spinks-led team awarded funding for the 'Future Makers' Project.

The 'Building Resilient Communities' Challenge was launched in late 2018 with 20 researchers attending a planning workshop. As a result, three project start-up grants have been funded.

Seed funding opens on 4 March, closing on 16 May 2019, with drop-in sessions planned to assist researchers and an online submission and approval process.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

2.1 No confidential business.

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

Resolved (03/19)

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

3.2 Higher Degree Research (HDR) Student Update

The Dean of Research advised that the Course Review Panel process is complete with the final report expected in April 2019. Part of this process included discussion regarding the potential introduction of an oral examination process for HDR students, with a working party to be established to begin university-wide discussions. It was noted that administrative load and international time differences are potential issues that will need to be addressed by the working party.

A joint PhD scholarship scheme has been entered into with Surrey University, UK. A call for applications will be made in April-May offering one to two joint scholarships to commence in Spring session.

The HDR scholarship round is now complete. Historically, offers to domestic students have a 30% decline rate, however, this year only 3 to 4 offers have been declined. The reason for this change is uncertain, but may be due in part to the lower number of RTP offers Australia-wide. Fifteen matching scholarship have recently been awarded by the Dean of Research and Associate Dean Graduate Research.

Student numbers for Autumn session have decreased, however the session commenced a week later than previous years. As a result year to date figures will be inaccurate compared to previous years. A more accurate comparison will be available following weeks 2 and 3 of session.

The Associate Dean Graduate Research provided an update on HDR Training:

- The HDR Seminar Program for 2019 has been finalised and aims to expand and develop the range of skills of HDR students. The program will include a mix of thesis development, professional development, communications, leadership and career opportunity skills.
- A sponsorship from Unibank has been secured to support the 3 Minute Thesis Competition with funds going towards the prize money.
- HDR Orientation will be held on Wednesday 27 February.
- UOW is preparing a submission regarding 'Improving Australian Post Graduate Research Training to meet the needs of the Blue Economy.' The submission is due on 15 March and engagement from faculties will be sought.
- A new HDR Research Training Advisory Committee is being established to develop strategies promoting excellence in research training and provide advice on supervisory development.

Resolved (04/19)

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

3.3 Draft Research Impact Strategy Green Paper

The Executive Director, Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM) spoke to the Research Impact Strategy Green Paper. The Paper was developed by a URC Working Group comprising researchers across UOW with experience in research engagement, knowledge exchange and impact assessment. The need to establish a working group and a university-wide approach to research impact was identified as a result of a number of recent changes in the external research environment such as:

- the recently launched Times Higher Education (THE) global university ranking for innovation and impact;
- the ARC's first Engagement and Impact Assessment during 2018; and
- the significant emphasis placed on research impact in the application and assessment processes for ARC and NHMRC competitive grant schemes.

The paper presents a set of recommendations for a university-wide, best practice approach to generating, supporting and overseeing research impact.

The Committee emphasised that it should not be a blanket approach, but rather a balanced approach, where all researchers are supported regardless of their type of research. Further noting that pure research and applied research will vary depending on the discipline and the researcher priorities and strengths.

The paper will be presented to VCAG on 4 March, followed by a consultation period until 31 March, feeding into mid-year university planning process in June 2019. Staff forums are planned and Committee members are invited to provide feedback. The Chair thanked Dr Richard Cook, the RSO Research Impact Manager and the Working Group members for their contributions.

Resolved (05/19)

That the University Research Committee note the Research Impact Strategy Paper, as provided in the agenda papers, and endorse the Draft Green paper for consultation.

3.4 IP Policy Review Update

The Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercial Research presented the IP Policy Review Consultation Paper, noting the proposal to consolidate 16 individual documents into two as follows:

- the Intellectual Property (IP) Policy; and
- the Consulting, Commercial Research and Commercialisation Policy.

The Paper will be presented to VCAG on 11 March, followed by a university-wide consultation period until 15 April 2019. Staff open forums will also be scheduled. The revised policies will then be considered by the Research Integrity Committee, University Research Committee, and Academic Senate.

The Chair of Academic Senate noted that as a result of recent changes following the External Review of Academic Governance, all policies relating to academic matters should go to Academic Senate for noting and then to the Vice-Chancellor for approval. It was suggested that as a result of the new approval process, the paper should be submitted to Academic Senate for endorsement and the VC for approval. While noting that Governance had previously advised that the paper go to Council, the Committee asked the Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercial Research to clarify this process with Governance.

Resolved (06/19)

That the University Research Committee:

- *note the IP Policy Review Update, as presented by the Senior Manager Innovation and Commercial Research; and*
- *obtain clarification as to the correct approval process for the IP Policy suite.*

3.5 Enhancing Research Links between UOW's Australian and International Campuses

The Chair noted that following the recent acquisition of KDU University College in Malaysia, UOW now operates three international campuses and this has created a great opportunity to expand UOW's research links internationally. Proposed initiatives include:

- appointment of internationally based staff to UOW Honorary positions;
- jointly supervised HDR students; and
- funding of joint research activities.

It was noted that Global Challenges had administered seed funding for joint UOW and UOWD projects and would be able to provide feedback about associated outputs/findings.

The Committee suggested a number of points will need to be addressed going forward:

- how would similar schemes transition to general funding schemes;
- how to promote communication between international campuses; and
- the legalities associated with funding from international funding bodies.

The Committee also noted that the three international campuses are all at different stages of developing their research activities and that the staffing profiles of each campus are quite different.

Resolved (07/19)

That the University Research Committee note the Enhancing Research Links between UOW's Australian and International Campuses Paper, as provided in the agenda paper.

PART 4 BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES

4.1 Research Integrity Committee

Resolved (08/19)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 24 October 2018 Meeting of the Research Integrity Committee.

4.2 Thesis Examination Committee

Resolved (09/19)

That the University Research Committee note the meeting summaries of the 5 November 2018 and 5 December 2018 Meetings of the Thesis Examination Committee.

4.3 Research IT and Systems Committee

Resolved (10/19)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 21 November 2018 Meeting of the Research IT and Systems Committee.

PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS

5.1 Other Business

No other Business

5.2 Next Meeting and 2019 Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 April at 9.30am in the Council Room, Building 36.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3** J Evans – file URC Minutes 21 November 2018
- 3.4** K Krauter – clarify with Governance the correct process for the IP Policy approval
- 3.5** T Marchant - forward to VCAG for discussion
- 4.1** M Weatherall – file RIC Minutes for 24 October 2018
- 4.2** S Flint – file TEC Summaries for 5 November 2018 and 5 December 2018
- 4.3** B Cornwell – file RITAS Minutes for 21 November 2018

Signed as a true record

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Chairperson 17.4.19

