



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
17 APRIL 2019

Minutes of meeting 02/2019 of the University Research Committee held on 14 April 2019 in the Council Room, Building 36.

Present:

Prof J Martin (*Chair*)

Prof T Marchant
A/Prof G Peleckis
Prof M Randle
S/Prof S Ville
S/Prof T Okely
S/Prof D Steel
S/Prof P McGuirk

Prof S Carter
D/Prof N Dixon
A/Prof D Mercer
Ms S Martin
Mr K Krauter
Mr O Khalifa
Ms S Flint

S/Prof R Lewis
Dr T Stutchbury
Dr R Cook
Ms C Carter
Ms B Ivansson

Minute Secretary:

Ms K House

PART 1 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from A/Prof H Chen, Prof W Vialle, Prof J Beck, Prof L Kervin, Prof W Price, D/Prof D Adams, S/Prof P Perez, S/Prof C Gibson, D/Prof A van Oijen, D/Prof R Roberts, D/Prof Z Guo, Prof K Clapham, Dr M Voyer, Ms E Bellino and Dr N Abdulaziz

Dr T Stutchbury representing S/Prof C Gibson, Ms B Ivansson Professional Staff Member: Centre for Research on Child and Adolescent Mental Health at Karlstad University in Sweden attended as an Observer.

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, 3.5, 3.6 and 5.1 were starred for the meeting.

Resolved (11/19)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved (12/19)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 February 2019, 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

Introductory Remarks

The DVC(R&I) and Chair, Professor Jennifer Martin, introduced herself to the Committee and provided an overview of her background, noting that she has more than 23 years of research experience.

Priorities going forward include building on the strong foundations left by previous DVC(R&I)'s and ensuring that UOW is a destination university known for its key values of excellence in research, equity and diversity, respect, integrity, collegiality and authenticity.

The Chair outlined initial activities planned for the immediate future including:

- Pulse Surveys every 3-6 months with the first to target academic staff, with possible questions including – what's great about research at UOW and what UOW could be doing better;
- Meeting researchers from across the university, from early career researchers through to distinguished professors;
- Increased social media presence using Twitter and YouTube to deliver key messages;
- The establishment of EMCR networks and committees within faculties to provide ways for early and mid-career researchers to have input into faculty and central decision-making processes, and assist with the development of their leadership skills and career pathways.

Recent Ranking Outcomes

The Chair noted the recent *THE University Impact Ranking* results released on 4 April 2019, with UOW ranked equal 13th in the world and 2nd in Australia and congratulated everyone involved.

Over 500 institutions from 75 countries took part in the Impact Rankings, which measure universities' social and economic impact based on their success in delivering outcomes addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each university's overall ranking is based on how they performed on one mandatory SDG – partnership for the goals (SDG 17) – plus their top three other SDG's. UOW highlights include:

- 13th in the world in the mandatory partnership for the goals;
- 6th in the world for reduced inequalities;
- 13th for sustainable cities and communities;
- 18th for quality education;
- 11th in the world for peace, justice and strong institutions;
- 24th in the world for gender equality
- 65th in the world for decent work and economic growth;
- equal 78th in the world for good health and wellbeing, and
- in the 101-200 band for industry, innovation and infrastructure.

The Chair noted that the 2018 ARC ERA and Engagement and Impact assessment outcomes would be discussed under Item 3.4.

2019 UGPN Conference

The Chair reported on the University Global Partnership Network (UGPN) annual conference, held at North Carolina State University from 1-3 April. The conference was attended by over 80 researchers from the University of Surrey, University of Sao Paulo, North Carolina State University and UOW.

Professors Jennifer Martin and Tim Marchant led the UOW delegation, which included 10 researchers and a representative from the Research Services Office. Professor Martin was a member of the panel discussing collaboration in higher education: global challenges and opportunities with Provosts and Vice Presidents from UGPN institutions. Prof Marchant, Dean of Research, provided an overview of UOW Research in a forum on Strategic Research Collaboration.

The program included a forum on Women in STEM and the launch of the UGPN Annual Research Collaboration Fund, which opened on 15 April and closes 31 May 2019. This Fund supports collaborations across the four UGPN universities to provide seed funding for larger collaboration.

The 2020 UGPN Conference will be hosted by UOW and is scheduled to be held from Monday, 30 March to Wednesday, 1 April at the Innovation Campus.

Annual Faculty Research Performance Planning

The Chair noted that the annual Faculty Research Performance Planning meetings will take place over the coming months. The RSO Director advised that these annual meetings are held between RAID and Executive Deans, ADRs and support staff to discuss Faculty research performance and strategic plans, as well as research support expenditure report.

Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards

The Chair noted that the 2019 VC's Research Excellence Awards close on 24 May 2019, and encouraged nominations.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

2.1 No confidential business.

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

Resolved (13/19)

That the University Research Committee note the Research and Innovation Report for the 17 April 2019 URC Meeting, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.2 Higher Degree Research (HDR) Student Update

The Dean of Research expressed concern that the Autumn HDR enrolments are down 15% this session. He noted that international HDR numbers are down slightly but still strong with the biggest markets being China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Domestic commencements are down about 20%.

The Dean of Research further advised that UGPN are offering two joint PhD Scholarships with the University of Surrey which have been circulated to faculties to encourage applicants.

Resolved (14/19)

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

3.3 Global Challenges Program Update

The Global Challenges Program Director reported on the following:

- Seed and Project funding rounds close on 16 May. The GCP team are holding weekly drop in sessions for any interested applicants. Faculties and Schools interested should contact the Global Challenges office.

- The next round of Keystone projects opens on 2 June with EOIs due 1 August. Blue Economy is one of the projects looking towards Keystones, with a retreat scheduled for 9-10 May.
- McKinnon Walker Fellows have been shortlisted.
- New Global Challenges website has been launched
- An exhibition by Challenge Leader Professor Sharon Robinson on Antarctic Footprints was launched on 11 April at the Science Space and iAccelerate.
- An exhibition on 'Caring for the Incarcerated Project' was held at the UOW Library and a conference will be held at Parramatta Jail.

Resolved (15/19)

That the University Research Committee note the Global Challenges Program Update, as presented by the Program Director, Global Challenges.

3.4 2018 ARC ERA Outcomes

The Reporting & Analytics Manager provided a presentation on the ERA 2018 outcomes announced on 27 March 2019, noting that UOW submitted 19 broad discipline (two-digit) FOR codes and 62 sub-discipline (four-digit) codes for assessment in ERA 2018.

Key highlights in UOW's results include:

- 90% of UOW's disciplines that were assessed in era 2018 were rated as "at", "above", or "well above world standard" (at the 4 digit level).
- 73% of UOW's assessed disciplines were rated as "above", or "well above world standard" (at the 4 digit level).
- The number of UOW disciplines rated as "well above world standard" has more than tripled since 2012 (at the 4 digit level).

Resolved (16/19)

That the University Research Committee note the 2018 ARC ERA Assessment Outcomes, as provided in the agenda papers and presented by the Research Reporting and Analytics Manager.

3.5 2018 ARC EI Outcomes & Research Impact Strategy Green Paper Update

The Research Impact Manager provided a detailed presentation on the results of the inaugural ARC Engagement and Impact (EI) assessment announced on 29 March 2019. The assessment is one of a number of measures introduced as part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) to encourage universities to prioritise impact beyond academia and engagement with end-users of research.

Key Highlights in UOW's EI assessment outcomes include:

- 95% of UOW's disciplines were rated as "High" or "Medium" for research impact.
- 77% of UOW's disciplines were rated as "High" or "Medium" for their approach to impact.
- 70% of UOW's disciplines were rated as "High" or "Medium" for engagement.

In mid-2018, the URC established the Research Engagement and Impact Strategy Working Group. The work of the group culminated in the creation of a Research Impact Strategy Green Paper. A consultation period for the Strategy Green Paper ran from 8 March to 7 April 2019. Submissions on the proposed Impact Strategy were provided using a template or via email or in-person interactions.

The Research Impact Manager presented an overview and preliminary analysis of the EI outcomes.

Resolved (17/19)

That the University Research Committee note the 2018 ARC EI Assessment Outcomes and the Research Impact Strategy Green Paper Update, as provided in the agenda papers and presented by the Research Impact Manager, at the URC Meeting.

3.6 IP Policy Review Update

The Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercial Research presented an update on the IP Policy Review. A consultation paper and the draft policies were released with feedback invited from 15 March to 15 April 2019. Feedback was disappointing despite extensive efforts to consult with staff. It was noted that the review timeline would need to be amended to allow sufficient time for the revised policies to be considered by the URC and Senate.

Resolved (18/19)

That the University Research Committee note the IP Policy Review Update, as presented by the Senior Manager Innovation and Commercial Research, at the URC Meeting.

3.7 Current Government Reviews

Resolved (19/19)

That the University Research Committee note the following current Government Reviews, as provided in the agenda papers and provide feedback as required:

- (i) ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) Scheme Consultation Paper;*
- (ii) Implementation of the National Science and Research Priorities under the ARC National Competitive Grants Program; and*
- (iii) Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) Review.*

PART 4 BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES

4.1 Thesis Examination Committee

Resolved (20/19)

That the University Research Committee note the meeting summary of the 6 February 2019 Meeting of the Thesis Examination Committee.

4.2 Research IT and Systems Committee

Resolved (21/19)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 26 February 2019 Meeting of the Research IT and Systems Committee.

PART 5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Research Performance Data

The Director of the National Institute for Applied Statistical Research Australia (NIASRA) noted that the annual research strength performance metrics previously provided by the RSO were of great value to identify trends and benchmark performance with other groups.

The question was asked as to whether this data would continue to be provided for these groups.

The Director RSO advised that following the decommissioning of the research strengths system and the introduction of University Level Research Institutes in 2018, the RSO had planned to provide data on UOW Institutes as part of the annual faculty performance meeting, and can look into the workload involved with providing additional data to identified Faculty Research Centres.

5.2 Next Meeting and 2019 Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12 June at 3.00pm in the Council Room, Building 36.

The meeting closed at 11.10am

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3 K House – file URC Minutes 20 February 2019
- 4.1 S Flint – file TEC Summary for 6 February 2019
- 4.2 B Cornwell – file RITAS minutes for 26 February 2019

Signed as a true record



Chairperson .../.../19

23/7/19