



**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES
MEETING 03/2019 12 JUNE 2019**

Minutes of meeting 03/2019 of the University Research Committee held on 12 June 2019 in the Council Room, Building 36.

Present:

Prof J Martin (*Chair*)

D/Prof D Adams
Prof J Beck
Ms E Bellino
Prof S Carter
A/Prof H Chen
Prof K Clapham
Dr R Cook

D/Prof N Dixon
Ms S Flint
D/Prof Z Guo
Prof L Kervin
Mr K Krauter
S/Prof R Lewis
Prof T Marchant

Ms S Martin
S/Prof P McGuirk
Ms E McMahon
A/Prof D Mercer
Prof W Price
S/Prof D Steel

Minute Secretary:

Ms K House
Ms J Evans

PART 1: OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from A/Prof G Peleckis, Prof M Randle, S/Prof S Ville, S/Prof T Okely, Mr O Khalifa, S/Prof P Perez, D/Prof A van Oijen, Prof W Vialle, S/Prof C Gibson, Dr N Abdulaziz, D/Prof R Roberts and Dr M Voyer.

Ms L Clement representing S/Prof S Ville and Dr L Sheridan representing Prof M Randle.

Dr R Cook attending for discussion of agenda item 3.3 and Ms E McMahon attending 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, 3.5 and 3.6 were starred for the meeting.

Resolved (22/19)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved (23/19)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 April 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

New Appointments

The DVC(R&I) advised of the following new appointments:

- Prof Guang Shi, Head, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences (SEALS), Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health, commenced 18 March 2019;
- Prof Paul De Souza, Dean of Medicine, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health, commenced 13 May 2019.

Australian Space Agency Visit

The DVC(R&I) updated the Committee on a visit by three representatives from the Australian Space Agency on 3 June 2019 to discuss UOW space research capabilities. Researchers from different faculties presented, with the ASA providing advice and recommendations for follow up. UOW will look to host another visit later in the year and looks forward to increased interaction with the ASA with a more in-depth and hands-on visit to UOW research laboratories.

The ASA has released the *International Space Investment Initiative: Consultation Paper*. The ASA will have \$15M over 3 years to establish the ISI initiative, which will support strategic international space projects that generate employment and business opportunities for Australians. The ASA are proposing 2 streams of funding:

- Open Doors stream, targeting International space agency projects, and
- Expand Capability stream - building capacity and capability of the Australian space sector, supporting jobs creation and delivering space-related products and services.

Feedback is sought on the design of the ISI initiative, in particular against three key areas;

- Design and accessibility of the ISI grant program;
- Current international collaborators and existing projects that could be supported;
- Other ways ISI could support access to international space agencies or projects.

The Research Services Office is coordinating a UOW response and the closing date for consultation is 1 July 2019. ISI applications open in September 2019, with funding commencing from October 2019 to January 2020.

2019 UGPN Research Collaboration Fund

Applications have now closed and UOW researchers are involved in 21 of the 36 applications received, with 7 of these 21 applications led by UOW. A Committee chaired by the Dean of Research with relevant ADRs will review and rank applications involving UOW, with recommendations to be considered by the UGPN Executive Committee in early July.

2020 ARC College of Experts

The ARC is seeking nominations for the College of Experts from all disciplines, in particular senior research academics with extensive peer review experience, multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary expertise. The RSO will be coordinating nominations, which are due to the ARC by Friday, 5 July. The ARC is encouraging women, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, and end-users across the private, public and not-for-profit sectors to nominate.

National Environmental Science Program (NESP)

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is scheduled for completion in 2021. The current program delivers applied environmental science, particularly focussed on biodiversity and climate systems research. The Department of the Environment and Energy has developed a public survey to seek feedback on key aspects of the current Program, to help inform the design and administration of a future program. The survey is now open and closes on 30 June 2019. Researchers in relevant disciplines are encouraged to respond.

UOW Reconciliation Action Plan

The PVC (Inclusion and Outreach) and the Reconciliation Action Steering Committee have finalised the draft UOW Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP proposes a whole of institution approach at UOW to grow the critical mass of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers at UOW.

A working party will be established to design a UOW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy comprising.

- Chaired by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation);
- Deputy Chair, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Inclusion & Outreach);
- Senior Indigenous Research Representatives;
- RAID representatives; and
- Faculty representatives.

The working party will oversee implementation of the ATSI Research Strategy, with proposed initiatives including:

- Building networks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander UOW employees and HDR students engaged in research and researchers focused on Indigenous topics and to encourage peer support and mentoring;
- Developing Faculty based plans that will grow Indigenous research and researchers within the UOW community;
- Ensuring early identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students showing potential as HDR students by each Faculty;
- Developing grant-writing skills for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers;
- Developing and delivering a communications strategy to increase visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers;
- Establishing a postdoctoral Aboriginal Research Fellowship annually.

The UOW Reconciliation Action Plan will be included as an agenda item for discussion at the August URC Meeting.

PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

2.1 No confidential business.

PART 3: GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

Resolved (24/19)

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 provided a HDR Student update to the Committee.

The UOW Final of the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) will be held on Thursday 25 July 2019. This year UniBank will sponsor the event.

A paper will be submitted to VCAG proposing that the number of UPA Scholarships be increased from 50 to 65. Benchmarking has revealed that most comparable universities have 2 to 3 times more stipend awards available than UOW.

The HDR Course Review is nearly complete. The report will provide benchmarking data relating to the outcomes of Domestic and International Students. A comparison of domestic and international students starting in Autumn Session 2015 revealed that 83% of international students have completed, compared to only 30% of domestic students. This may be due in part to the fact that 25% of domestic students have discontinued compared to just 7% of international students and that domestic students are able to study part time. However, this difference is still significant and requires further analysis.

Resolved (25 /19)

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

3.3 Research Impact Strategy White Paper

The Executive Director AIIM updated the Committee on the Research Impact Strategy White Paper, produced by the Research Engagement and Impact Working Party.

The White Paper highlights three key themes: generating impact, supporting impact and overseeing impact and recommending a University-wide approach to research impact. The Report makes 19 recommendations that aim to strengthen and grow our institutional support for research impact.

The Executive Director AIIM thanked the Working Party for all of their efforts, particularly Rich Cook, Research Impact Manager and Sophie Whittaker, Project Officer, Research Services Office.

The White Paper will now be discussed at VCAG, with a view to incorporating key recommendations as part of the UOW strategic planning process.

Resolved (26 /19)

That the University Research Committee endorse the University Research Impact Strategy White Paper, as provided in the agenda papers and presented by the Executive Director AIIM.

3.4 Research Performance Funding Procedures

Resolved (27 /19)

That the proposed revisions to the Allocation of Research Performance Based Funds Procedure be endorsed by the University Research Committee and submitted to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), for approval.

3.5 Revised Major Equipment Grant (MEG) Guidelines 2019

The RSO Grants Manager discussed the proposed revisions to the Major Equipment Grants Guidelines for 2019. The MEG Scheme aims to support high quality research via the provision of funding for essential equipment and infrastructure needs not readily funded via external sources. The proposed changes are designed to improve the application process and relate to:

- The process for collecting information used by FMD to assess installation and maintenance requirements for MEG grant applications;
- Suggested inclusion of starter kits for consumables for high-end equipment;

- Revision to selection criteria to ensuring applications include mechanisms for access to equipment by non-primary users, particularly EMCRs.

The Committee suggested further changes to the guidelines as follows:

- Selection criteria to include ECRs;
- Definition of an ECR should be clarified as 7 years PhD;
- Inclusion of a diversity statement (similar to that used by the ARC and NHMRC);
- Inclusion of a clearer definition of 'fellowship';
- Change the 0.5FTE requirement for primary users to 0.4FTE to align with ERA criteria;
- Allow honorary appointments provided they do not have a paid position elsewhere;
- Reduce the number of applications a researcher can be named on, from two to one application.

The Committee also discussed whether or not there should be a requirement to apply for an ARC LIEF grant for applications over \$150,000 before applying for a UOW MEG. It was agreed that the application form should include a question as to whether a LIEF application had been submitted, noting further that LIEF applications require multiple partners and matching funding.

Resolved (28 /19)

That the University Research Committee:

- (i) *Endorse the proposed revisions to the Major Equipment Grant Guidelines 2019 as noted in the agenda papers and further revisions as agreed at the URC Meeting; and*
- (ii) *Note that the updated guidelines will be circulated to the DVC(R&I) and Associate Deans (Research) for final endorsement.*

3.6 Research Pulse Survey 2019

The DVC(R&I) presented the results of the recent Research Pulse Survey. The survey was sent to all academic staff with 182 responses received. The plan is to run a number of these Pulse Surveys each year, with the next survey targeted to HDR students.

Resolved (29 /19)

That the University Research Committee note the UOW Research Pulse Survey Results, as presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), at the URC Meeting.

PART 4: BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES

4.1 Thesis Examination Committee

Resolved (30 /19)

That the University Research Committee note the meeting summaries of the 6 March 2019 and 3 April 2019 Meetings of the Thesis Examination Committee.

4.2 Research Integrity Committee

4.2.1 HDR Study by Distance Learning Guideline

Resolved (31 /19)

That the University Research Committee endorse the minor revisions to the HDR Study by Distance Learning Guideline, as attached to the agenda papers, and forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), for approval.

4.2.2 Human Research Ethics Committee Standard Operating Procedures

Resolved (32 /19)

That the University Research Committee endorse the minor revisions to the HREC Standard Operating Procedures, as attached to the agenda papers, and forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), for approval.

4.2.3 Human Research Ethics Committee Terms of Reference

Resolved (33 /19)

That the University Research Committee endorse the minor revisions to the HREC Terms of Reference, as attached to the agenda papers, and forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), for approval.

PART 5: OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Other Business

5.1.1 IP Policy Review Update

The Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercial Research updated the Committee on the progress of the IP Policy Review Update. The process is nearly complete, following a few recent issues regarding teaching materials. The revised IP Policies will be submitted to the URC in November, followed by Academic Senate and final approval by the Vice-Chancellor by December.

5.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 August 2019 in the Council Room, Building 36.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3 K House – file URC Minutes 17 April 2019
- 3.3 R Cook – table paper at VCAG
- 3.4 S Martin – send paper to the DVCR&I for approval
- 3.5 E McMahon – make revisions and forward to DVC(R&I) and ADR's for review
- 4.1 S Flint – file TEC Summary for 6 March and 3 April 2019
- 4.2 S Martin - send papers to the DVCR&I for approval

Signed as a true record



Chairperson 7.8/19