



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES 18 FEBRUARY 2021

Minutes of Meeting 01/2021 of the University Research Committee held on 18 February 2021 via Zoom.

Present:

Prof J Martin (*Chair*)

Prof D Adams
Prof C Baldock
Prof M Batterham
Prof J Beck
Ms A Boyle
Prof K Clapham
D/Prof S Kaye
Prof L Kervin
Mr O Khalifa

Prof R Lewis
Ms S Martin
S/Prof P McGuirk
S/Prof A Okely
A/Prof G Peleckis
S/Prof P Perez
Prof W Price
S/Prof Sharon Robinson
Prof G Rose

S/Prof A Sims
Ms E Steinke
Dr M Thompson
Mr G Tomka
Dr E Twyford
D/Prof A van Oijen
Prof S Ville

Minute Secretary:

Ms J Evans

PART 1 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1.1 1.1.1 Welcome to Country

The Chair delivered a Welcome to Country.

1.1.2 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from D/Prof R Roberts and Prof W Vialle.

Ms E Steinke attended for discussion of agenda item 3.6.

The Chair welcomed new members of the Committee to their first meeting as follows:

- Dr Erin Twyford as the Early Career Researcher Representative;
- Ms Amy Boyle as the HDR Student Representative; and
- Dr Melissa Thompson as the new Director, Graduate Research School.

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 (01 /2021)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved (02/2021)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 October 2020, 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

University Global Partnership Network (UGPN) Conference 2021

The Chair provided a brief background of UGPN and an update on the conference, to be held as a virtual event from 23 to 26 March 2021, as follows:

- the University of São Paulo, North Carolina State University and the University of Surrey were the founding members of the UGPN with UOW joining in November 2015;
- the UGPN was initiated in 2011 with an aim to create a foundation for international collaboration enabling academics and students from some of the world's top universities to work together on issues of global importance;
- the UGPN Conference, originally to be hosted by UOW in 2020, has moved online for a virtual conference in 2021

The Conference will be chaired by the UOW DVC(R&I), and involving presenters from all four Universities. The program will include:

- Plenaries from UOW researchers and professional staff on tackling global issues;
- Themed workshops targeting key UN SDGs:
 - o Health and wellbeing;
 - o Industries for the future; and
 - o Sustainable planet
- Resiliency workshops to share information on innovations in remote learning and hybrid education, student and staff mobility and operating remotely in a pandemic; and
- Day 4 of the Conference will include a combined Plenary and Research Collaboration Fund Panel session and handover to the incoming Chair.

On the last day of the Conference, there will be a call for funding for the UGPN Collaboration Fund, with themes still to be decided. The last day will also showcase previous grant winners.

One-UOW Tranche 2 Research Support

The Chair advised that the consultation process for Tranche 2 of the One-UOW pooled services operating model commenced. Tranche 2 continues the alignment of functions across the University, reducing duplicated activities and processes in the following areas:

- DVC (Education) portfolio – Technology-enhanced learning;
- DVC (Research and Innovation) portfolio – Research support;
- Information Management and Technology Services – IT services; and
- Faculties: Research support, IT services, Technology-enhanced learning.

The Chair further advised that the primary motivation for the One-UOW Model is to reduce costs. All information regarding the process, including proposed changes, new structures timetables and consultation sessions is available on the staff intranet. All staff are encouraged to take the time to attend consultation sessions, review information and provide feedback using the portal on the staff intranet. The Chair further encouraged staff to look out for one another and be particularly patient and supportive of directly impacted colleagues who are likely to be feeling overwhelmed and distressed during this time of change.

As part of the Tranche 2 process, the following reports have also been made available:

- RSO/ICR Review Report and Management Response; and
- GRS Review Report and management Response.

Following questions from the Committee, the Chair:

- confirmed that proposals may be modified following the feedback received and that all information and timelines are available on the [UOW Intranet](#);
- was unable to provide what the actual cost savings are as a result of Tranche 2 however emphasised that the whole process is motivated by cost cutting and that Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 is expected to achieve recurrent cost savings of up to \$10 million per year.

Young Tall Poppy Science Awards

The Chair advised that nominations for the Young Tall Poppy Science Awards are now open and encouraged Committee members to nominate suitable colleagues.

ERA/EI Processes

Processes for ERA and EI 2023/2024 will begin this year due to the FOR Code changes and significant changes at UOW. Communication about the processes and timelines will be communicated soon.

RaID Reviews

The Chair advised that during 2021 a Research Stocktake is planned for quarter 3, followed by a review of Centres and Institutes in quarter 4. Following questions from the Committee, the Chair confirmed:

- that the intention is for the outcomes of both reviews to be released at the end of 2021 to ensure they are factored into budgets for 2022, however this is the intention only and there are various factors that may slow down the review processes;
- work on the Terms of Reference for the Centres and Institutes Review is planned for quarter 2 and feedback is welcomed from Committee Members, noting that the incoming Vice-Chancellor would also likely provide input; and
- that the Centres and Institute Review would also look to establish where the research priorities are during an environment of limited available resources.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

2.1 No confidential business.

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

Resolved (03/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Research and Innovation Report for the February 2021 URC Meeting, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.2 Graduate Research Update

The Dean of Graduate Research provided an update on Graduate Research.

Graduate Research Committee

As recommended in the 2019 Graduate Research School Review and Recommendation Report, a new subcommittee, the Graduate Research Committee (GRC) is being established. This will be a sub-committee of the URC and result in changes to the URC Terms of Reference and Membership. Representation of the Thesis Examination Committee (TEC) on the URC will now cease as the Chair TEC will now report through the new GRC. Further details are provided in Agenda Item 3.3. The Dean of Graduate Research clarified a number of questions relating to the

membership of the new Committee, noting that the whilst the membership included all the Associate Deans Research (ADR) and just one Head of Postgraduate Studies (HPS), the ADR is able to nominate a representative on the Committee on their behalf, which may be a HPS (or someone else from within their faculty).

Scholarships

The Graduate Research Report included in the agenda papers summarizes the latest HDR Scholarship Allocation based on the new model that was introduced in 2020. A further round of HDR Scholarship allocations will be held soon and details of the timing of this next round will be advised in the coming weeks. The overall number of HDR Scholarships through this process has increased. The new formula and process will provide a more transparent process, giving faculties more control and ensuring they can make more strategic decisions at faculty level. The Committee briefly discussed:

- what will be the effect of not including PhD Scholarships in Fellowship applications to the ARC going forward;
- what the Graduate Research Environment will look like in the future considering the reduction in international students and challenges and uncertainty around Chinese students;
- what the process will be around deferrals, overseas enrolments and travel exemptions; and
- what will be the KPI's and marketing strategies for the Graduate Research Environment in the future?

Graduate Certificate in Research

The development of the Graduate Certificate in Research is progressing. A Working Party has been established with the group running various surveys, focus groups and interviews. This consultation process is ongoing with a university-wide consultation to be held soon, followed by the proposal going through the GRC, the URC and UEC, and finally Academic Senate for approval with a current planned commencement in 2022.

The Committee discussed the Masters of Research (MRES) and Masters of Philosophy (MPHIL) and whether they would, in light of the introduction of the Graduate Certificate in Research, be restructured/reviewed. The Dean of Graduate Research noted an institutional wide conversation is required and underway to ensure UOW are providing important research pathways going forward. Preliminary discussion have already been held with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education).

The Committee expressed concerns about the time commitment required by students to complete the Graduate Certificate in Research and how this would all fit in with existing commitments. It was noted that the governance process put in place would address these issues, with a Working Party with representation from across the university having already been formed. The process going forward will not be a directive, but a consultative process.

The Committee further discussed the Graduate Certificate in Research and its alignment with the Bologna Model of Higher Education. Whilst there are a number of issues still to be worked through, and the MRES currently aligns towards the Bologna Model, the Graduate Certificate in Research is focussed on credentialing and formalising the research training that is completed during a PhD. There may be opportunities for the Certificate to be offered as a stand-alone program in the future. A full proposal will be provided in due course.

Graduate Research School Performance Report

The Dean of Graduate Research noted that the Graduate Research School Performance Report 2020 (attachment III), will be provided annually to the URC, with a shorter report provided quarterly to faculties. Due to time constraints, any questions related to the report can be discussed outside this meeting.

Resolved (04/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Graduate Research Update, including the

- *Graduate Research Committee Draft Terms of Reference (attachment I);*
- *Graduate Certificate Development Plan (attachment II); and*
- *Graduate Research School Performance Report 2020 (attachment III);*

as provided in the agenda papers and as presented by the Dean of Graduate Research, at the URC Meeting.

3.3 University Research Committee Revised Terms of Reference

The Director, Research Services Office, summarised the Terms of Reference changes as advised in the agenda papers. It was further noted that following these changes, membership of the URC will have 50/50 gender equity.

The Committee questioned the removal of the UOW Dubai Representative from the membership, concerned that this will make it harder to build research networks between UOW and UOW Dubai. It was noted that there are already links between the two, via the UOW Dubai Representative on the Graduate Research Committee, and via the UOW Global Enterprises Representative on the URC.

Resolved (05/2021)

That the University Research Committee endorse the Revised University Research Committee Terms of Reference, as provided in the agenda papers and forward to Academic Senate for approval.

3.4 Revised IP Commercialisation Revenue Policy & Commercial Research Policy

Resolved (06/2021)

that the University Research Committee endorse the Revised Intellectual Property Commercialisation Revenue Policy and the Revised Commercial Research Policy, as provided in the agenda papers, and forward to Academic Senate for approval.

3.5 Research Services Office/Innovation & Commercial Research Review Update

The DVCR&I advised that the Review Final Report and Management Response are now available on the intranet and included in the agenda papers. Although the review was commissioned prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and is separate from and independent of the One-UOW strategy, some recommendations align with One-UOW's pooled service model, and the need to reduce duplication and aggregate resources for greater impact. It was noted that a number of the recommendations will require a broader review of the RaID Portfolio to accommodate those recommendations.

The Committee noted that they were happy to see the importance placed on the Research Services Office and also welcomed Recommendation 1, that the Research Block Grants would be centralised with the DVCR&I and allocated strategically. There were however some concerns about the timing of this implementation at the same time as the planned Research Stocktake and Review of Research Institutes and Centres. The DVCR&I advised that 2021 would be a transitional year with implementation of Recommendation 1 to occur in 2022. The Committee also expressed concerns about research capability going forward, given that a lot of research has been affected by the ongoing One-UOW process, urging the process to be completed as soon as possible. Feedback from Committee Members about all processes is welcome.

Resolved (07/2021)

that the University Research Committee note the Review of RSO and ICR Final Report and Management Response, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.6 Foreign Relations Update

The Research Ethics and Integrity Manager provided an update to the Committee on the new Foreign Relations Legislation that came into effect in December 2020. This legislation sits alongside the Foreign Interference Legislation 2018 and both govern the regulation of international research to protect the national interest.

From March 2021 there will be notification requirements under the Foreign Relations Bill for international collaborations that may have the potential to be influenced by the interest of a foreign government. To accommodate this, a new governance structure has been implemented at UOW to carry out assessments and provide notifications. Details on this new structure will be tabled at VCAG on 1 March, with notifications to government for prospective research collaborations to begin from 10 March. Existing research collaborations must be notified by 10 June. Responsibility for management of the new structure, training and processes will sit with the Global Strategy Division. The RSO has implemented an interim process via the Grants & Development Unit, while the Commercial Research Unit has a similar process for Commercial Contracts. The UOW Conflict of Interest Policy is also being amended to address foreign responsibilities. Further training and information across UOW will be provided in due course.

The Committee asked about a recent report published, where UOW was reported as having UOW Scholars as part of the 1000 Talent Program, and what (if any) action is being taken to avoid potential embarrassment to UOW. The DVCR&I advised that the VC has made contact with the publisher asking for details of those 12 identified, with the publisher advising that the author of the report has since left the organisation and that they would not be responding to any questions due to legal reasons.

Resolved (08/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Foreign Relations Update, as provided by the Research Integrity and Ethics Manager, at the URC Meeting.

PART 4 BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES

4.1 Thesis Examination Committee

Resolved (09 /2021)

That the University Research Committee note the meeting summaries of the September 2020, October 2020 and November 2020 Thesis Examination Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.2 SAGE Athena Swan Implementation Committee

Resolved (10 /2021)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 22 October 2020 Meeting of the SAGE Athena Swan Implementation (SASI) Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.3 Research Integrity Committee

Resolved (11/2021)

That the University Research Committee:

- *note the minutes of the 15 October 2020 and 3 December 2020 Meetings of the Research Integrity Committee; and*
 - *approve the minor amendment to the RIC Membership;*
- as provided in the agenda papers.*

PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS

5.1 Other Business iAccelerate

- The CEO, iAccelerate shared the Economic Indicator Report with the Committee which is also available [here](#).
- iAccelerate has 35 companies currently in-house and a further 18 wanting to join;
- iAccelerate has created more jobs in 2020 and female participation is at around 50%;
- iAccelerate will shortly issue the first Sustainable Development Report Card by an accelerator or incubator in the world. Information about the report is available [here](#)
- The upcoming launch of Bega 2, along with ANSTO and the Taronga Foundation, will assist businesses within the Bega Conservation area with access to the Acceleration Program; and
- iAccelerate and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council's Indigenous Business and Employment Hub (Yarpa), continue to work together to strengthen and grow the Indigenous business start-up sector, also being co-applicants in the Regional Bushfire Recovery Program.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3** J Evans – file URC Minutes 21 October 2020
- 1.5** All Members - provide feedback about the Centres and Institutes Review planed for Q2 2022
- 3.2** All Members – direct further questions re: Graduate Research School Performance Report to the DGR
- 3.3** S Martin – forward Revised Terms of Reference to Academic Senate for approval
- 3.4** S Martin – forward Revised Policies to Academic Senate for approval
- 3.5** All Members - provide feedback about RSO/ICR Review processes to DVCR&I
- 4.1** E Smith - file TEC Summaries
- 4.2** K Lindenau – file SAGE Minutes
- 4.3** R Perkiss – file RIC Minutes and Update RIC Membership

Signed as a true record



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Chairperson 20/07/2021