



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING - 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the University Research Committee held at 11.30am on 6 September 2021 via Zoom.

Present:

Prof J Martin (*Chair*)

D/Prof D Adams
Prof C Baldock
Prof M Batterham
Prof J Beck
Ms A Boyle
Prof K Clapham
Dr P Di Pietro
Prof P Innis
D/Prof S Kaye
Prof L Kervin

Prof R Lewis
Ms K Lovasz
Ms S Martin
S/Prof P McGuirk
S/Prof A Okely
A/Prof G Peleckis
S/Prof P Perez
Prof M Randle
D/Prof R Roberts
Prof S Robinson

Prof G Rose
Prof A Sims
Dr T Stutchbury
Dr M Thompson
Mr G Tomka
D/Prof A van Oijen
Prof S Ville
Prof J Wang

PART 1 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1.1 1.1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Prof W Vialle. Ms Karen Lovasz attended the meeting for discussion of this agenda item.

1.2 Arrangement of the Agenda

1.2.1 Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

1.2.1 Purpose of Special Meeting

This Special URC Meeting is for discussion of Agenda Item 3.8 Review of UOW Research Institute and Centre Framework from the URC Meeting 03/2021 held on Wednesday, 1 September. Due to time constraints this item was not discussed and an additional meeting was required.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

There was no Confidential Business

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.8 Review of UOW Research Institutes and Centre

The Director Research Services Office (DRSO) made a presentation to the Committee providing an overview of the objectives, scope, timeline and approach of the review. The primary objective of the review is to develop a new framework for UOW Research Centres that supports

international research excellence, a positive research culture, and growth in high impact (including translational) research.

The DVCR(R&I) reminded the Committee that the documents have already been provided to Executive Deans, the Vice-Chancellor and key researchers for feedback, and also confirmed that external representatives will be included in the review. Executive Deans have been asked to make recommendations about external review panel members, these will be chosen based on availability and discipline diversity.

A committee member questioned whether the draft Terms of Reference for the review should be more specific when describing the make-up of the working group and panels. The DVC(R&I) advised the internal make-up of the panels would likely be Executive Deans, Associate Deans Research and Associate Deans Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, however this will be looked at as part of this feedback process. Committee members suggested that it would be appropriate to also include those that have experience in leading large centres, entities, facilities and institutes. The DVC(R&I) noted a further suggestion that the review also include looking at the terminology around research institutes, and how these are defined at different levels in other universities.

The DVC(R&I) confirmed that members of the panel would be required to put in significant time towards the review. While unable to provide an exact time commitment, there will be at least 2 working group meetings, significant reading and lots of information gathering between now and the end of Phase 1.

The DRSO advised that the information gathering process will include a Qualtrics Survey for internal UOW stakeholders and a workshop with current Institute and Centre Directors. The Survey will include all UOW staff and can be made available to HDR Students.

A committee member noted that, from the spreadsheet included in the agenda papers, most of the current institutes and centres are in STEM disciplines, however, HASS disciplines are fundamentally different to STEM. It may be useful in this review to treat HASS differently to STEM, given they have different expectations, require different levels of funding and have different outputs. The DVC(R&I) confirmed that this has been taken onto account and that the panels will certainly comprise those with research expertise in HASS. This will also be taken into account in the benchmarking process.

A committee member acknowledged that while the review will look at the current situation, a question was also raised about the potential in the future and how that will be handled in the review. The DVC(R&I) reiterated that nothing will change in 2022, but the review will be, through the consultation process, looking to discipline leaders to highlight areas of future emerging opportunities – national, international and regional opportunities.

The committee discussed the future of small groups of researchers, who may not align with large research centres, and how they will be supported. The DVC(R&I) advised that these are the sort of points that should be raised as part of the submission process, and encouraged committee members to provide submissions and include any ideas they may have. It was further noted that this review is about central support and the faculties will also still be able to provide support if they wish. The committee did suggest however, that faculties will be unable to provide research support funds if the Research Block Grant funding is held centrally.

The committee discussed how to leverage research and teaching, and whether this should be included as part of the Terms of Reference. The DVC(R&I) advised that this should be included as part of the consultation process.

The DRSO asked committee members to advise if any information is missing on the Current Research Institutes and Centre Spreadsheet.

Resolved (38/2021)

that the University Research Committee note the update on the Review of UOW Research Centres and Institutes Framework, as provided in the agenda papers, and as presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Innovation, at the URC Meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

ACTION ITEMS

3.8 For noting – no further action

Signed as a true record



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Chairperson 4 /11/2021