



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES 2 NOVEMBER 2021

Minutes of Meeting 04/2021 of the University Research Committee held on 2 November 2021 via Zoom.

Present:

Prof J Martin (*Chair*)

D/Prof D Adams
Prof M Batterham
Ms A Boyle
Prof K Clapham
A/Prof C Cortese
Dr P Di Pietro
Prof F Hai
Prof P Innis
S/Prof D Johnstone
D/Prof S Kaye

Prof L Kervin
Ms S Martin
S/Prof P McGuirk
S/Prof A Okely
A/Prof G Peleckis
S/Prof P Perez
D/Prof R Roberts
S/Prof S Robinson
Prof G Rose
S/Prof A Sims

Dr T Stutchbury
Dr M Thompson
Mr G Tomka
Dr E Twyford
D/Prof A van Oijen
Prof W Vialle
Prof J Wang

Minute Secretary:

Ms J Evans

PART 1 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1.1 1.1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair delivered an Acknowledgment of Country.

1.1.2 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Prof Simon Ville, Prof Roger Lewis, Prof Melanie Randle and Prof Heath Ecroyd. Prof Faisal Hai attended for Prof Roger Lewis and S/Prof David Johnstone attended for Prof Simon Ville.

The Chair welcomed A/Prof Corinne Cortese in her role as the Interim Dean of Graduate Research. Dr Willo Boniface attended for discussion of agenda item 3.5 and Stefanie Memmott attended for discussion of agenda item 3.9.

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 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9 were starred for the meeting.

Resolved (39/2021)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A Committee Member asked for clarification from the minutes of the 1 September 2021 Meeting, and if it was advised during that meeting that the Special Studies Program Policy was going direct to Council and not via Academic Senate. Directly following this meeting, the recording was reviewed and it was confirmed that the Committee was advised that the Policy would be submitted to the People and Culture, Finance and Infrastructure Committee (PaCFIC) on 8 September 2021, with no mention about the approval process through Academic Senate and/or Council. There were no changes to the minutes.

Resolved (40/2021)

That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 1 September 2021, and the Special URC Meeting held on 6 September 2021, 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 Chair advised the following new appointments:

- A/Prof Caleb Ferguson, School of Nursing, SMAH, commenced 1 November. Caleb joins UOW after relocating from WSU, he holds an NHMRC Investigator Fellowship;
- Prof John Daly, Co-Interim Head of School, Nursing, SMAH, commenced 25 October;
- Prof Debra Thoms, Co-Interim Head of School, Nursing, SMAH, commenced 25 October;
- Dr Jeri Childers, Director, iAccelerate Education, commenced 1 November. Jeri brings extensive experience in entrepreneurship curriculum development, engagement and program implementation. Working with the iAccelerate Research Director, this role reports to D-RKET and works closely with DVC Education; and
- Dean, Graduate Research recruitment underway, 22 applications received, shortlisting will commence soon with interviews planned for later this month.

ARC Revised Grant Deadlines

Many ARC Schemes have been delayed as a result of the pre-print issue. The ARC held a Webinar on 1 November to advise revised dates as follows:

	Future Fellowship	Laureates	DECRA's
Scheme Opens	2 November 2021	3 November 2021	4 November 2021
Scheme Closes	15 December 2021	19 January 2022	2 February 2022

- Check the ARC Grant Calendar for additional dates (RNTS and Rejoinder periods);
- Discovery Projects dates TBA (originally to open: 10 Nov 2021, close 23 Feb 2022);
- PhD award dates for DECRA's and FTs have not been impacted by delays;
- No longer 1 month minimum for career interruptions and 2 new career interruption types added: Disaster Management and Limited Access to Facilities; and
- Automatic 1 year extension due to COVID can only be accessed once and is not available for those who applied last year/have already claimed this extension.

Recent Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to the UOW awardees of the 2021 **Australian Museum Eureka Prizes** held on 7 October:

- NSW Bushfire Hub team, led by Associate Prof Own Price and including UOW's Dr Hamish Clarke and Dr Katharine Haynes alongside colleagues from UNSW, Tasmania and WSU, won the NSW Environment, Energy and Science (DPIE) Eureka Prize for Applied

- Environmental Research for their extensive research into the devastating Black Summer bushfires;
- Dr Dana Bergstrom from UOW and the Australian Antarctic Division, who for decades has championed evidence-based science in biodiversity, biosecurity and the impacts of climate change, won the Eureka Prize for Leadership in Innovation and Science; and
 - Prof Justin Yerbury AM, from Molecular Horizons, was a finalist in the UNSW Eureka Prize for Scientific Research; and Prof Sharon Robinson, was a finalist in the Eureka Prize for Leadership in Innovation and Science.

On 27 October 2021, the ARC announced 9 new **Discovery Indigenous Scheme** projects with one successful UOW-led application, led by Dr Marlene Longbottom. Titled '*Navigating the Carceral Interface*', the project acknowledges the overrepresentation of young Indigenous people in child protection and incarceration rates, aiming to address the gap in knowledge of how young Indigenous people experience the carceral system. Dr Longbottom and collaborators, including Prof Kathleen Clapham and researchers from UQ, Melbourne, (USyd), CQU and UNSW will receive \$1,287,000 from the ARC over 5 years. This includes a "Discovery Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award" (DAATSIA) awarded to Dr Longbottom, the first ever DAATSIA awarded to a UOW researcher.

ARC and NHMRC Academy

An ARC and NHMRC Academy will be established in 2022 as part of our strategy to grow UOW's market share of competitive grant income. They will be established to work with RAID and Faculties to (i) identify potential researchers who may be suitable for submitting ARC and NHMRC grant and fellowship applications, and (ii) assist these candidates throughout the application process. Further information will follow next year.

Indigenous Research Strategy Workshop

On 21 October, the Indigenous Research Strategy Workshop was held with members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy Committee and invited participants. The workshop is the start of a conversation about how we can develop UOW as the premier destination for Indigenous HDR students and researchers. The core feature of the workshop was the Camp Fire session where participants discussed and presented ideas on three topics:

- Indigenous Research Excellence at UOW;
- Building the Pipeline: Indigenous Research Careers; and
- Researching with Respect.

Development of our Indigenous Research Strategy will be an outcome of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Strategy achievements will be reported under the new RAP 2022-2024. Workshop outcomes will be summarised, and a face-to-face meeting scheduled with the group in the new year to refine ideas for the Strategy.

In response to a question from a committee member, the DVCR&I confirmed that this initial Workshop was open to Indigenous Research Committee members and invited representatives only. The Strategy is in very early stages of development and there will be opportunity for broader consultation later in 2022.

Centralisation of Research Block Grant (RBG) Funding in 2022

2022 is proposed to be a second transition year for RBG funding, with a view to maintaining the same level of research support within Faculties in 2022 as was provided in 2021, harmonising these as much as possible, and implementing new internal research funding schemes and frameworks going forward. More information will follow.

PURE Futures Committee/ Return to Campus

The PURE Futures Committee was established in 2020 to support the University's 2025 Research Strategy objectives during the COVID19 disruption, by providing advice directly to

the DVC-RI. As a result of the ongoing COVID19 situation in NSW and the need to work on plans for the transition of research back to campus, the Committee reconvened on 15 October, with regular meetings proposed for the rest of 2021. Membership has also been reduced due to competing time commitments of the larger committee.

The RAID team, together with Faculties/AIIM and WHS, have prepared a COVID Safe Transition Plan for Research. The Plan has been updated in line with recent NSW Public Health Orders and the UOW COVID Safe Transition Plan. If staff or students are uncertain about their situation, they should discuss with their supervisor, Head of School/Unit, Associate Dean (Research) or Executive Dean as appropriate.

Research Performance Policy Review

The consultation period for the draft research performance policy has been extended to 11 February 2022, following feedback from the campus community about the need for additional time to properly consider the significant changes proposed. Consultations will include meetings with FRCs (Nov/Dec), Heads of School (Dec), and STEM and SHAPE all staff drop-in sessions (Dec).

University Global Partnership Network (UGPN)

Planning is underway for the Virtual UGPN Conference. The conference will be held in March 2022, for 8 days over 2 weeks for 1 hour per day. More details will follow. A Committee Member suggested that the UGPN Website could be improved as it is very hard to navigate.

A committee member explained the position of a UGPN funded international PhD student currently located in Surrey, who has been unable to travel to UOW due to COVID travel restrictions, asking if there was opportunity for UOW to request a travel exemption. The DVCR&I noted there is an opportunity to apply for one, however there have been very few travel exemptions approved, so it is unlikely they would receive an exemption.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

There was no Confidential Business

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

Resolved (41/2021)

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

3.2 Graduate Research Update

The Interim Dean of Graduate Research (DGR) noted:

- the Graduate Research Committee (GRC) continues to meet monthly to address urgent issues and representation on the GRC has increased to include a HPS from each Faculty plus two HDR representatives;
- as a result of the HDR Indigenous Working Group, top up scholarships will be awarded to all Indigenous HDR candidates up to the maximum rate;
- GRS policies and procedures are being updated;
- the iGrad Program is currently paused to work through several issues however, will proceed from Spring Session 2022 as a voluntary Pilot Program; and
- COVID related extensions to PhD students in their final year are currently being assessed, with 33 awarded to date.

Resolved (42/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Graduate Research Update, as provided in the agenda papers and as presented by the Interim Dean of Graduate Research, at the URC Meeting.

3.3 One-UOW Implementation Update

The Director RSO advised:

- All roles as a result of One-UOW have been filled and Research Operations staff assigned to faculties;
- There remain a number of vacant positions, however these are an outcome of the RSO/ICR Review and not the One UOW process;
- Several deep dive workshops have been held with ADR's, RSO, BIAD, Finance, Legal and Faculties;
- Shared services model transitions are still ongoing with good progress being made;
- Training and development opportunities for new staff are ongoing; and
- The Research Portfolio Governance Group meets every 6 weeks and BIAD has commenced a One-UOW Post Implementation Review.

The Interim Dean of Graduate Research advised:

- All roles as a result of One-UOW have been filled, with one vacant following a resignation;
- The focus is on improving services including responsiveness to enquiries, providing quality processes that support excellence in graduate research and incorporating the services previously managed within faculties;
- CRM training is ongoing; and
- Ongoing assessment of the GRS Structure is required to ensure it is fit for purpose.

The Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercial Research advised:

- Recruitment for the Industry Community Partnership Coordinator is complete, but just one person for work that was previously done across all faculties; and
- Management of HDR Student Intellectual Property has moved from GRS to ICR, however resourcing is of concern in this area.

Resolved (43/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the RSO/GRS/ICR One-UOW Implementation Update, as presented by the Director, Research Services Office, the Interim Dean of Graduate Research and the Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercial Research, at the URC Meeting.

3.4 Associate Deans (Research) Update

The ADR ASSH advised:

- the current task of ranking and awarding scholarships within the faculty is enormous and acknowledged the great work of the HPS's to review 35 domestic and 30 international applications for just 40 scholarships;
- the great work of Heads of Research and Research Leaders to support research activity across 7 schools within the faculty;
- in addition to pending Cat 1 grants reported at last URC, ASSH has submitted 9 grants since 1 August; and
- 29 domestic HDR completions so far in 2021, and 9 international HDR completions.

The ADR ASSH highlighted a number of other research activities within the faculty including new research fellows joining the Australian Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child; Early Start Research and their report to the Research and Advocacy Committee; an invitation to UOW to apply for a WHO Collaborating Centre; successful online events hosted by ACHEEV; ACCESS members involved in the Blue Futures Spring seminar series; a researcher taking a role as Editor of Progress in Human Geography (a top 5 international Human Geography journal globally); involvement with an international team to develop an edited book on AI Urbanism

(Routledge); and great work done by CHPPR focussed on mental health and substance dependence treatment with a particular highlight of the 'Ahead of the Game' Program and its amazing international impact.

The ADR AIIM advised:

- allocation of performance funding to researchers is underway;
- HDR ranking is also in progress, noting reduced international students, and a split round process that will include a mid-year intake to hopefully attract more students once international borders reopen;
- AIIM will be providing successful DECRA and Future Fellow candidates with a domestic RTP to encourage and increase the cohort of domestic HDR students, although suggested there should be a broader and strategic university wide approach to attract domestic students and support their translation to a PhD;
- as a result of reduced funding via the RBG process, AIIM will be ceasing or substantially reducing its internal grants processes, dependant on clarity about their upcoming budget, and an expectation of centrally funded schemes run by the RSO; and
- AIIM is currently working with partners on a LIEF application for approximately \$1.8 million to replace a major piece of equipment that is more than 15 years old.

The ADR AIIM further updated the committee on progress with commercialisation translation and facility access agreements and thanked the ICR team for their work to finalise these.

The representative for the ADR EIS advised:

- that the Faculty Research Committee membership has been revised;
- the scholarship ranking process is underway with over 200 applications to be ranked; and
- thanked the GRS, noting that recent responses from the GRS have improved significantly.

Resolved (44/2021)

That that the University Research Committee note the Associate Deans (Research) Update, as presented by the Associate Deans (Research), at the URC Meeting.

3.5 Research Stocktake Update

The Research Reporting & Analytics Manager provided a presentation to the Committee, advising the priorities going forward and the current progress of the Stocktake. The presentation is attached to these minutes, however major points are as follows:

- the scope has been reduced and will now not include 'Identifying strategic priorities for research, research areas, and collaborations for future major funding opportunities';
- from feedback received so far, nearly 40 major priorities have been identified and these have now been categorised into immediate, short term or long term priorities; and
- a revised timeline, with 'Final dataset produced, analysis and benchmarking completed' now not available in November 2021 to allow more time to finalise and verify data.

Due to time constraints, the DVCR&I asked committee members with questions about the Research Stocktake to reach out to the Research Reporting & Analytics Manager directly.

Resolved (45/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Research Stocktake Update, as presented by the Research Reporting & Analytics Manager, at the URC Meeting.

3.6 Revised Research Performance Policy

Resolved (46/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Revised Draft Research Performance Policy, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.7 **Review of UOW Research Centre & Institute Framework**

The Director Research Services Office provided an update and presentation to the committee as follows:

- timeline has changed with Phase 1 of the Review extended to April 2022, and Phase 2 now running from April 2022 to September 2022;
- inclusion of the Facility for Intelligent Fabrication in the scope of the review; and
- consultation process provides opportunity for feedback via a staff survey, written submissions and a range of meetings and focus groups.

A committee member asked about the timing and connectivity between the three current reviews of the Special Studies Program Policy, Research Centre & Institute Framework, and the Research Performance Policy, particularly as the latter two contain specific language around staff management and research performance assessment by Heads of School and the RCI review might give us feedback that Centre and Institute Directors should play a stronger role in staff management. The DVCR&I confirmed that the Special Studies Program Policy consultation has been completed and the new policy is already in place. The DVCR&I agreed that for the other two reviews currently underway, there could be better alignment of oversight of research performance for those staff who are members of a Research Centre or Institute, noting that what constitutes a Centre or Institute may change over the coming year as a result of the RCI review.

The presentation from the Director Research Services Office is attached to these minutes and committee members with any questions should reach out to the Manager Strategic Projects, Research Services Office for more information.

Resolved (47/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Review of Research Centre and Institute Framework Update, as provided in the agenda papers, and presented by the Director Research Services Office, at the URC Meeting.

3.8 **UOW Data and Decision Science Initiative**

The Director, NIASRA, provided an update and presentation on a report released by the Australian Academy of Sciences ‘Advancing data-intensive research in Australia.’ The key recommendations that are relevant to Universities are:

- Data science should be recognised as a discipline and a field of research in its own right;
- Data science skills and data literacy should be addressed for all researchers and including PhD students; and
- Research data management policies should recognise that data should be made available and ensure implementation of the FAIR Principles.

The presentation from the Director NIASRA is attached to these minutes which includes a link to the report.

Resolved (48/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the update on the UOW Data and Decision Science Initiative, as presented by the Co-Director NIASRA, at the URC Meeting.

3.9 **Foreign Engagements Policy Review**

A committee member questioned the timelines and consultation period for these policies. It was noted that the agenda paper advised that the policies are open for consultation, as does the policy directory intranet site, however consultation is currently closed. The Lawyer, Governance and Legal Unit advised that the timelines were condensed and were open concurrently to ensure the required approvals by the end of the year, further confirming that the updates are clarifying existing legislative obligations and do not change the existing intent of the policy documents, although there may need to be a rethink of this approach going forward.

Resolved (49/2021)

That the University Research Committee:

- (i) *note the update on the foreign engagement policy review;*
- (ii) *endorse the proposed foreign engagement amendments to the Autonomous Sanctions Procedure, Joint Doctor of Philosophy Agreement Policy, Code of Practice – Responsible Conduct of Research, Research Sponsorship and Collaboration Policy, Defence Trade Controls Guideline, and Commercial Research Policy; and*
- (iii) *forward to Academic Senate for endorsement, and the delegated authority for approval.*

3.10 Research Infrastructure Advisory Group Draft Terms of Reference

Resolved (50/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the Draft Terms of Reference for the Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (RIAG), as provided in the agenda papers.

3.11 CAUL Read and Publish (Transformative) Agreements

Resolved (51/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the CAUL Read and Publish (Transformative) Agreements Briefing Note, as provided in the agenda papers.

PART 4 BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES

4.1 SAGE Athena Swan Implementation Committee

Resolved (52/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 24 August 2021 Meeting of the SAGE Athena Swan Implementation (SASI) Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.2 Research Integrity Committee

4.2.1 Revised Research Integrity Committee Terms of Reference

Resolved (53/2021)

That the University Research Committee approve the Revised Research Integrity Committee Terms of Reference, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.2.2 Research Integrity Committee Meeting Minutes

Resolved (54/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 6 August 2021 Meeting of the Research Integrity Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.3 Graduate Research Committee

Resolved (55/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 26 July 2021, 8 September 2021 and 5 October 2021 Meetings of the Graduate Research Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.4 Research IT and Systems Committee

Resolved (56/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 3 August 2021 Meeting of the Research IT and Systems Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.5 Early Career Disruption Committee

Resolved (57/2021)

That the University Research Committee note the summary for the September to October 2021 Meetings of the Early Career Disruption Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS

5.1 Other Business

5.1.1 Draft Meeting Dates for 2022

The committee noted the URC Meeting Dates for 2022.

5.1.2 Delays to Project Funded Positions

A committee member highlighted the current problems associated with Human Resources and delays in recruitment processes for externally funded positions. The DVCR&I noted these issues.

5.2 Next Meeting

The next University Research Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 February 2022, 10.30am to 12.00pm.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3 J Evans – file URC Minutes 1 September and 6 September 2021
- 3.9 J Evans - forward revised policies to Governance for Academic Senate agenda
- 4.1 N Asquith – file SASI Minutes
- 4.2.1 J Evans – forward approved RIC TOR to Research Integrity Officer
- 4.2.2 R Perkiss – file RIC Minutes
- 4.3 J Greenway – file GRC Minutes
- 4.4 M Oakman – file RITAS Minutes
- 4.5 L Sherwood – file EC-DC Summaries

Signed as a true record



.....
Chairperson 09/02/2022