



## UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES 9 FEBRUARY 2022

*Minutes* of Meeting 01/2022 of the University Research Committee held on 9 February 2022 via Zoom.

### **Present:**

Prof J Martin (*Chair*)

D/Prof D Adams  
Prof M Batterham  
Ms A Boyle  
Prof J Chen  
Prof K Clapham  
Dr P Di Pietro  
Prof H Ecroyd  
Prof P Innis  
Prof P Kelly

Ms S Martin  
S/Prof P McGuirk  
Prof L Moxham  
S/Prof A Okely  
A/Prof G Peleckis  
Prof M Randle  
Prof C Ritz  
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  
S/Prof S Ville  
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 S/Prof Sharon Robinson, D/Prof Richard Roberts, S/Prof Pascal Perez, D/Prof Stuart Kaye and Prof Lisa Kervin. S/Prof Tony Okely attending for Prof Lisa Kervin.

The Chair welcomed:

- Prof Lorna Moxham as the Interim Dean of Graduate Research;
- Prof Peter Kelly as the new Associate Dean Research for the Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities;
- Prof Christian Ritz as the Acting Associate Dean Research for the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences; and
- Prof Jun Chen as the new Associate Dean, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Representative (as noted in agenda item 3.2).

Karen Lovasz attended for discussion on agenda item 3.5. Stefan Delfgou and Lucas Hughes attended for discussion of agenda item 3.6. Dr Willo Boniface and Claire Carter attended for discussion of agenda items 3.7 and 3.8.

### **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, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 were starred for the meeting.

#### ***Resolved (01/2022)***

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

### **1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

#### ***Resolved (02/2022)***

*That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 November 2022, 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**

Professor Sean Brawley, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Planning) reporting directly to the Vice-Chancellor. This role will assist the University Executive in achieving of UOW's academic objectives through the provision of strategic planning and vision setting across the academic functions of the University. Prof Brawley commenced on 31 January.

Professor Louise Hickman, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health - Sydney campuses), reporting to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Senior Vice-President (Innovation, Enterprise & External Relations). This role will develop strategies for expanding UOW's Health focused Sydney Metropolitan Campuses at Liverpool and Loftus. Prof Hickman commences in March.

#### **University Research Commercialisation Action Plan**

The Government released the University Research Commercialisation (URC) Action Plan on 2 February 2022, tied to \$2.2 billion of funding over 11 years. The ARC has also today announced the introduction of three new Industry Fellowship Schemes as part of the URC Plan: an Early Career Researcher Industry Fellowship, a Mid-career Researcher Industry Fellowship and an Industry Laureate Fellowship. The DVCR&I and D-RKET will be co-hosting an online information session on 24 February to discuss the Action Plan and what is being done at UOW.

#### **Research Infrastructure Advisory Group**

The Dean Research Knowledge Exchange and Translation provided a short update, advising the first meeting of this group will be held on 16 February. The group has a wide representation across the university and will report to the URC and the People & Culture Committee. The Committee will conduct a UOW research infrastructure audit and develop a management plan outlining infrastructure priorities over the next 5 years, with the intention to inform annual funding requests for research infrastructure.

#### **University Global Partnership Network Conference (UGPN)**

The University Global Partnership Network (UGPN) virtual conference will be held from 15-25 March 2022. The conference brings together delegates from UGPN member institutions to promote and facilitate innovative collaborations in research and education. Live content is scheduled between 8am and 9am each day. The first three days will showcase cutting-edge research and sector innovation across our Research Themes. Attendees will then be invited to select from concurrent workshops and panel sessions on a range of topics.

#### **Indigenous Research Strategy Update**

Following last October's successful Indigenous Research Strategy Workshop, a draft Strategy is being developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy Committee,

based on workshop outcomes where participants discussed and presented ideas on three topics: Indigenous Research Excellence at UOW; Building the Pipeline: Indigenous Research Careers; and Researching with Respect. A follow-up workshop to refine the draft strategy and set priorities is scheduled for 5 April, with Faculty-based consultations during February. It is anticipated that a Draft Strategy will be available for consultation in July, with the Strategy to be finalised by the end of 2022.

### **Research Centre and Institute Framework Review Update**

Based on feedback provided by the Review Working Group, the timeline for the Review was extended:

- Phase 1 (Current Framework Review): October 2021 – April 2022; and
- Phase 2 (New Framework Design & Implementation): April – September 2022

Phase 1 of the Review involves information gathering, benchmarking and University-wide consultations. Consultations close on 18 February, with activities so far completed:

- Focus Groups and Institute/Centre Directors meetings, with 130 staff participating including EMCRs, HDR Students and Institute/Centre leaders; and
- Staff surveys which received 145 responses.

The next Working Group meeting will be held in March 2022.

### **Research Performance Policy Review Update**

Consultation sessions were held during November and December with Faculty Research Committees and Heads of School. Two all-staff information sessions have also been held. In response to preliminary feedback, research benchmarking dashboards have been developed for each faculty, school and academic level to visualise individual performance and review against proposed targets. The consultation period closes on 11 February and as of 1 February there have been 67 responses received. A number of policy changes and key issues have been identified and these will be presented to the Working Group on 22 February for consideration.

### **CERL Fellowships**

The COVID-impacted Emerging Research Leaders Scheme (CERLS) Executive Committee met on 24 January to consider 21 nominations received, awarding 12 fellowships (although one was not taken up after receiving a lectureship at Curtin University). The success rate for the scheme was 57%, with total funding awarded of \$1.04 million.

### **Research Block Grant Funding**

Discussions are continuing regarding the centralisation of RBG funding. 2022 is a second transition year, 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 RAID internal research funding schemes (to be discussed at item 3.6) and frameworks going forward. Further details and updates will be provided as they take shape.

## **PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

There was no Confidential Business

## **PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **3.1 Research and Innovation Report**

#### ***Resolved (03/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee note the Research and Innovation Report for the February 2022 URC Meeting, as provided in the agenda papers.*

### **3.2 Revised University Research Committee Terms of Reference**

#### ***Resolved (04/2022)***

*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.*

### **3.3 Graduate Research Update**

The Interim Dean of Graduate Research (DGR) thanked everyone involved in supporting the One-UOW Transition and acknowledged A/Prof Corinne Cortese for her past and ongoing support. There are still challenges going forward: two positions vacant within the Graduate Research Team; a lot of staff have never met face to face due to COVID; and a number of the new staff have limited experience in graduate research support. Committee Members noted the following concern/suggestions:

- the link between the GRS and Future Students Team needs work; and
- HDR Training and its overlap between the GRS and Faculties should be assessed.

The I/DGR noted both of these items, further noting that Deputy Dean of Graduate Research would be best placed for discussions about HDR Training.

#### ***Resolved (05/2022)***

*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.*

### **3.4 Associate Deans (Research) Update**

The ADR AIIM congratulated recent successful ARC grantees from AIIM who have been awarded over \$1 million and advised that his role as interim ADR AIIM has been extended until December 2022.

The new ADR ASSH advised that he only started this role today and acknowledged the great work by the previous ADR, Prof Lisa Kervin, over a number of years.

The ADR BAL congratulated successful ARC grantees, specifically noting the ARC Indigenous Discovery Awarded to Dr Marlene Longbottom and Prof Kathleen Clapham of \$1.287 million. Congratulations also to A/Prof Shahriar Akter who was recently announced as a Highly Cited Researcher. The ADR BAL also provided a summary of the Early Career Academic Mentoring Program recently implemented within BAL.

The Acting ADR EIS advised that he commenced in the role on 1 February. Current priorities include working with the new AD-HDR of EIS regarding the division of responsibilities and reviewing the Visiting Researcher Program.

The ADR SMAH congratulated D/Prof Antoine van Oijen and his team for the recently awarded \$3.5 million contract over 2 years with a company based in the US. Thanks also to the Commercial Contracts team for all their work on getting this over the line. SMAH are also currently reviewing the division of responsibilities following the appointment of an AD-HDR. The DVCR&I further congratulated the SMAH ADR on recent entrepreneurial initiatives and scholarships for researchers to engage with iAccelerate.

#### ***Resolved (06/2022)***

*That that the University Research Committee note the Associate Deans (Research) Update, as provided in the agenda papers, and as presented by the Associate Deans (Research), at the URC Meeting.*

### 3.5 UOW Internal Grant Schemes 2022

The Manager Strategic Projects RSO shared a presentation (attached) with the Committee detailing the new UOW wide internal grant schemes to support research excellence and researcher career development, and the UOW Research Partnership Grant Guidelines. The Committee made suggestions/comments as follows:

- Open Access Scheme: could this be a rolling application scheme, rather than fixed dates? Could applications also be available to those that currently have a paper under consideration rather than only those approved for publication? Would it be possible to establish a list of high-impact journals that would "automatically qualify" reducing decision-making to "unusual" high-impact journals?
- Research Partnership Grants: is it possible to provide a link to the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme?;
- In earlier discussions there was a HDR Travel scheme (run by the GRS) put forward as a possibility. The DVCR&I advised that this may still hopefully go ahead.

The RSO Manager Strategic Projects also asked the Committee about the EMCR Enabling Grant Scheme, and whether, based on feedback from the EC-DC Committee, the eligibility criteria should be extended to include casual employees. Given funding constraints, the DVCR&I noted that she would not be supportive of this, however asked the Committee to provide any feedback directly to the RSO following this meeting.

The Senior Manager, Innovation and Commercial Research gave a brief update on the UOW Pathfinder Program, noting that this scheme aligns with the Government's recently announced University Research Commercialisation Action Plan. UOW will providing a briefing of the Plan on 24 February.

The Director Research Services Office asked the Committee to provide any further feedback directly to the RSO following this meeting.

#### ***Resolved (07/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee:*

- (i) note the suite of new centralised internal grant schemes; and*
  - (ii) endorse the UOW Research Partnership Grant Guidelines 2022, including any agreed changes as discussed,*
- as provided in the agenda papers.*

### 3.6 2022 ARC Discovery Project Outcomes for UOW

The Associate Director, Research Grants & Development shared a presentation outlining UOW's recent ARC results for Discovery Projects (DP), Discovery Early Career Research Awards (DECRA), Discovery Indigenous and Linkage Project programs, and proposed strategies to improve DP results in the 2023 Funding Round. The Committee noted:

- We may need to rethink the decision to not provide cash support as researchers may be tempted to submit an application through another university that is providing a cash contribution, thus reducing UOW's share of funding;
- Item 3.2 (p. 58 - limited use of central peer review), only 32 of 65 applicants accepted the offer of central peer review, how many of these were successful with their application? The RSO undertook to respond to this question directly following the meeting;
- The UOW ARC Academy is a great idea, however could UOW also think about spending money on hiring external peer reviewers? There is a limit to the expertise here at UOW and reviewers from other universities would be welcomed.

#### ***Resolved (08/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee note the UOW ARC Discovery Projects Outcomes for UOW Report, as provided in the agenda papers.*

### **3.7 Research Stocktake Update**

The Research Reporting and Analytics Manager shared a presentation updating the Committee on the UOW Research Stocktake. The new look dashboards were provided to the ERA & EI Committee in December and demonstrated to the Vice-Chancellor in January 2022.

#### ***Resolved (09/2022)***

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

### **3.8 Excellence in Research Australia 2023 Update**

The Associate Director Research Analytics & Systems and the Research Reporting & Analytics Manager shared a presentation (attached) updating the Committee on ERA 2023 and noted:

- ARC ERA Submission Guidelines Consultation is open and UOW will be coordinating an institutional response – details will be communicated soon and please provide feedback;
- the ERA Management System is due for completion in Q2 2022;
- ERA progress will be communicated via the RaID Newsletter; and
- An ERA & EI Moodle Site will be available soon.

Any further questions and feedback can be directed to the Research Services Office.

#### ***Resolved (10/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee note the ERA2023 Update, as presented by the Associate Director Research Analytics & Systems and the Research Reporting & Analytics Manager, at the URC Meeting.*

### **3.9 UOW Data and Decision Science Initiative**

#### ***Resolved (11/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee note the UOW Data and Decision Science Initiative Update, as provided in the agenda papers.*

## **PART 4 BUSINESS FROM UOW COMMITTEES**

### **4.1 SAGE Athena Swan Implementation Committee**

#### ***Resolved (12/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 27 October 2021 Meeting of the SAGE Athena Swan Implementation (SASI) Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.*

### **4.2 Research Integrity Committee**

#### ***Resolved (13/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 20 October 2022 Meeting of the Research Integrity Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.*

### **4.3 Graduate Research Committee**

#### ***Resolved (14/2022)***

*That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 3 November 2022 Meeting of the Graduate Research Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.*

#### 4.4 Research IT and Systems Committee

**Resolved (15/2022)**

*That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 19 October 2022 Meeting of the Research IT and Systems Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.*

#### 4.5 Early Career Disruption Committee

**Resolved (16/2022)**

*That the University Research Committee note the summary for the November 2021 to January 2022 Meetings of the Early Career Disruption Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.*

### **PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS**

#### 5.1 Other Business

There was no other business.

#### 5.2 Next Meeting

The next University Research Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 June 2022, 10.30am to 12.00pm.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1.3 J Evans – file URC Minutes 2 November 2021
- 3.2 J Evans - forward revised UOW TOR to Governance for Academic Senate agenda
- 3.5 All Committee Members – provide feedback  
K Lovasz – make changes as discussed
- 3.6 S Delfgou – provide response to questions from Prof Okely and Prof Ecroyd
- 3.8 All Committee Members – provide feedback
- 4.1 N Asquith – file SASI Minutes
- 4.2 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

*Jennifer L. Martin*  
[Jennifer L. Martin \(Jun 8, 2022 10:07 GMT+10\)](#)

Chairperson .../.../2022






# 1.3.1 Final URC Minutes 9 February 2022

Final Audit Report

2022-06-08

Created:	2022-06-07
By:	Jo O'Brien (jobrien@uow.edu.au)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAPeC6qu5ZnVwQil8XyRlcVYwp7MBpJ9E

## "1.3.1 Final URC Minutes 9 February 2022" History

-  Document created by Jo O'Brien (jobrien@uow.edu.au)  
2022-06-07 - 11:54:53 PM GMT- IP address: 203.206.65.81
-  Document emailed to Jennifer L. Martin (jlm@uow.edu.au) for signature  
2022-06-07 - 11:55:30 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Jennifer L. Martin (jlm@uow.edu.au)  
2022-06-07 - 11:55:51 PM GMT- IP address: 172.225.156.161
-  Document e-signed by Jennifer L. Martin (jlm@uow.edu.au)  
Signature Date: 2022-06-08 - 0:07:43 AM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 49.180.239.233
-  Agreement completed.  
2022-06-08 - 0:07:43 AM GMT