



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2022

Minutes of Meeting 05/2022 of the University Research Committee held on 26 October 2022 via Zoom.

Present:

Prof D Currow (*Chair*)

A/Prof S Akter
Prof M Batterham
Prof J Chen
Dr P Di Pietro
Prof H Ecroyd
Prof P Innis
D/Prof S Kaye
Prof P Kelly

Prof L Kervin
Ms K Lovasz
Ms S Martin
Prof L Moxham
A/Prof G Peleckis
S/Prof M Randle
Prof N Reynolds
D/Prof R Roberts

D/Prof S Robinson
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 D/Prof D Adams, Ms A Boyle, Prof K Clapham, Prof C Gibson, S/Prof R Lewis, S/Prof P McGuirk, Prof C Ritz and S/Prof A Sims. Ms Karen Lovasz, Manager Strategic Projects attended for discussion on agenda item 3.5.

The Chair advised that a UOW Dubai Representative will soon join the URC and as a result, meetings will move to the afternoon to accommodate the time difference.

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 and 3.6 were starred for the meeting.

Resolved (53/2022)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved (54/2022)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 August 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/Recruitment

Prof Zsuzsoka Kecskes joins UOW as Dean, Graduate School of Medicine, having previously been the Director, Neonatology at Canberra Hospital and most recently Dean of the ANU Medical School.

Recruitment for the Dean of Graduate Research is currently underway. The Chair thanked Prof Lorna Moxham for filling the role in the interim.

Research Planning Day

The Chair advised that a DVC(R&I) Planning Day will be held on 7 February 2023. Attendees will include Committee members, AD-HDRs, senior research leaders, early and mid-career researchers, and HDR representatives. The purpose of the day is to discuss where we need to be in 10 years, identifying strategic enablers and priorities and how we can be well positioned to achieving our research goals. For example: how do we enhance research culture; how to engage doctoral candidates as junior research colleagues; how to build stronger university industry collaborations; how to generate impact from research and how to ensure the RAID structure best meets the needs of researchers.

Rankings

UOW has moved up substantially in the Best Global Universities rankings released today, ranked 186th (previously 203rd) in the world and 12th in Australia.

University Budget

The University Council approved the 2023 high-level budget at its October meeting. Finance is now working on the 2023 RBG allocation to Faculties. As noted previously, it is likely that the UOW RBG allocation will decrease compared to 2022, however the proportion allocated to Faculties will remain unchanged. The majority of external commitments will still be covered centrally. The DVC(R&I) will be meeting with Executive Deans soon to discuss the research funding model and 2023 RBG Faculty Funding allocations, internal grant schemes and HDR scholarships.

Federal Budget

The Federal Budget was released overnight with several higher education initiatives, including more Commonwealth supported university places in areas of specific need, specifically nursing, teaching and engineering. Also included was commitment towards the Australian Universities Accord with the Terms of Reference to be released soon, the Trailblazer Program to boost research and development in regional universities, the Australian Critical Minerals Research and Development Hub, support for Women in STEM and a Start Up Year Program supporting student participation in accelerator programs at Australian higher education providers. Information about the Startup Year Program is provided at agenda item 3.9. The Dean RKET and Director iAccelerate are coordinating a UOW submission in response to the consultation paper.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

There was no Confidential Business

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

Resolved (55/2022)

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

3.2 Graduate Research Update

The Interim Dean of Graduate Research advised that the GRS are currently working on Annual Progress Reports and trying to get these completed as soon as possible, noting that HDR students are unable to be enrolled in the next year until the APR is complete. The Research Proposal Review process is also ongoing.

Prof Stephen Ralph has stepped down as the Chair of the Thesis Examination Committee (TEC). The current Deputy Chair, A/Professor Wendy Nielson has been appointed as the new TEC Chair. Faculties will soon be asked for nominations for the other vacant positions on the Committee. The I/DGR and the Director GRS both thanked Prof Ralph for his tremendous service as the TEC Chair.

The GRS Warts and All Workshop is approaching. The event is an opportunity to connect, reflect and learn from research that does not quite go to plan.

Resolved (56/2022)

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

3.3 Associate Deans (Research) Update

The ADR AIIM congratulated:

- Prof Gordon Wallace, Prof Gerhard Swiegers and Dr Paul Barrett on their recent Linkage Grant funding success;
- Prof Gordon Wallace, A/Prof Stephen Beirne, Dr Sanjeev Gambhir and Dr Johnson Chung on their recent MRFF funding success; and
- Prof Jung Ho Kim on his recent funding from the Ministry of Science and ICT, Korea.

The AIIM VC's HDR Scholars program has been circulated aiming to attract quality domestic students to carry out their honours project with AIIM researchers with a co-supervisor from EIS or SMAH. The Executive Director AIIM advised that Emeritus Prof Hua Kun Liu has been named in the top 6 female scientists in Australia for 2022. More information [here](#).

The ADR SMAH provided an IHMRI update, noting that SMAH research continues and there are no major changes to arrangements for researchers or HDR students. The DVCR&I echoed this statement.

The ADR ASSH congratulated:

- Prof Thomas Astell-Burt on being awarded an ARC Future Fellowship;
- Dr Elyse Stanes awarded an ARC DECRA, one of three awarded to UOW applicants;
- A/Prof Brian Yecies, Dr Jo Law, Dr Agnieszka Golda and Dr Grant Ellmers on their successful Linkage grant; and
- S/Prof Brin Grenyer on his recent commercial partnership with Queensland Health.

The ADR BAL congratulated:

- Dr Anna Farmery from ANCORS on being awarded an ARC DECRA; and
- Dr Ivy Zhou a Co-Investigator on an ARC Linkage grant.

BAL will also be running research events in the coming weeks, as detailed in the agenda papers.

Resolved (57/2022)

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.

3.4 Health and Medical Research Academy Update

The DVCR&I advised that D/Prof Antoine van Oijen will Chair the new Health and Medical Research Academy. Prof van Oijen advised that a streamlined pilot will be rolled out for the upcoming NHMRC Ideas and Investigator Grant Schemes, with a more extensive process planned for next year. Committee members should also encourage their colleagues to serve on the academy, especially early and mid-career researchers.

The Committee questioned whether this, and the ARC Academy, would be recognised as part of the promotions process. The Chair agreed that contributions made to both academies should be recognised, and this information should be relayed to the PVC (Strategy & Planning).

The Committee questioned whether the academy would accommodate funding schemes with a tight turnaround that may not fit into the specified timelines. It was advised that researchers should be prepared and be forward planning as part of their career development meetings.

Resolved (58/2022)

That the University Research Council endorse the Terms of Reference for UOW Health and Medical Research Academy, as provided in the agenda papers, at the URC Meeting.

3.5 UOW Co-Investment Guidelines Update

The Director Research Services Office (DRSO) noted that principles for the Co-Investment Guidelines were tabled at the June URC Meeting, with the Guidelines now provided for endorsement. The Guidelines aim to provide a consistent, equitable, transparent and efficient process to ensure the best use of limited RBG funding. It was noted that following consultation with ED's and ADR's, amendments have been made to the draft guidelines, most significantly to fellowship shortfalls, UOW Boost Fellowship eligibility and co-investment for ARC LIEF applications that are not UOW-led.

The Manager RSO Strategic Projects further explained the changes as detailed in the presentation (attached), confirming that following endorsement the Guidelines will be applied immediately and will include the current DECRA, Future & Industry Fellowship and Investigator Grant Schemes. The Guidelines will be reviewed annually.

Following a question from the Committee regarding continued RBG Funding to Faculties post 2023, the DVCR&I advised that these Guidelines would form the basis of further discussions and consultation in 2023 about future funding arrangements. It was noted by the Committee that if faculties were not to receive any further RBG Funding post 2023, the faculty contributions would need to come from operating funds, and this would require more detailed consultation.

The Committee made the following suggestions and noted:

- given the ever-changing environment within the sector, the percentages relating to Co-Investment of LIEF's particularly, should be reassessed annually;
- the opportunity to create internal reporting mechanism for LIEF's, requiring a report with details of how the equipment is operationalised to ensure it is maximized for optimal use.
- the Dean Research Knowledge Exchange and Translation (D-RKET) should have input into industry-led schemes such as CRC's;
- faculties that have substantial capital expenditure requirements as part of a grant application should not be disadvantaged compared to faculties that do not have this requirement; and
- concerns raised about 'diluting' an ARC funding request i.e., not increasing the internal funding to make the application more attractive but just asking for what is required.

The D-RKET advised that the Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (RIAG) has discussed creating an internal reporting mechanism for LIEF's and would welcome further discussion.

Resolved (59/2022)

That the University Research Committee endorse the draft UOW Research Co-Investment Guidelines, pending updating of details in Appendix 5 following this meeting, as provided in the agenda papers, at the URC Meeting.

3.6 Review of Research Entities Framework - Phase 2

The DRSO explained the amended objectives of Phase 2, as detailed in the presentation (attached). Following discussions with ED's, 10 entities were identified as in scope for Phase 2 across a range of disciplines. It was emphasised that information gathered as part of the review would not be used to make decisions about future support for in-scope entities. Institutes and Centres not in-scope will still be recognised in the new Framework. The DRSO explained the timeline for Phase 2, beginning with the establishment of a Framework Development Working Group chaired by the DVCR&I.

The Committee made the following suggestions:

- the review should be tabled at Academic Senate before it is finalised to ensure feedback that is not just from a research perspective;
- the review should focus on how the Framework will integrate with existing UOW structures;
- staff are being asked to take leave so the provision of dashboards and data metrics quite soon is essential; and
- externally funded institutes should also be built into the Framework.

The Chair asked the Committee to provide any feedback to the RSO by Friday 28 October 2022.

Resolved (60/2022)

That the University Research Council endorse the Terms of Reference for Phase 2 of the Review of Research Entities Framework, as provided in the agenda papers, at the URC Meeting.

3.7 Research Data Management Policy Update

Resolved (61/2022)

That the University Research Committee:

- (i) *Endorse the Research Data Management Policy major amendments as provided in the agenda papers; and*
- (ii) *Forward to Academic Senate for noting and feedback before forwarding to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee for approval.*

3.8 Defence Export Controls Guideline

Resolved (62/2022)

That the University Research Committee:

- (i) *endorse the minor amendments to the Defence Export Controls Guideline as provided in the agenda papers; and*
- (ii) *forward to Academic Senate for noting and feedback before forwarding to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for approval.*

3.9 Government Reviews Update

Resolved (63/2022)

That the University Research Committee note the Government Reviews Update, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.10 UOW Data and Decision Science Initiative

Resolved (64/2022)

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 Research Integrity Committee (RIC)

Resolved (65/2022)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 10 August Meeting of the Research Integrity Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.2 Graduate Research Committee (GRC)

Resolved (66/2022)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 2 August and 13 September Meetings of the Graduate Research Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.3 Research IT and Systems Committee (RITAS)

Resolved (67/2022)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 28 June and 31 August Meetings of the Research IT and Systems Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.4 Early Career Disruption Committee (EC-DC)

Resolved (68/2022)

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

PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS

5.1 Other Business

5.2 Next Meeting

The next University Research Committee Meeting will be advised.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3 J Evans – file URC Minutes 24 August 2022
- 3.7 R Perkiss/J Evans - forward revised Policy to Academic Senate for noting & feedback
- 3.8 C Carter/J Evans - forward revised Guideline to Academic Senate for noting & feedback
- 4.1 R Perkiss – file RIC Minutes
- 4.2 J Barrie – file GRC Minutes
- 4.3 M Oakman – file RITAS Minutes
- 4.4 L Sherwood – file EC-DC Summaries

Signed as a true record

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Chairperson .../.../2023