



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES 9 MARCH 2023

Minutes of Meeting 01/2023 of the University Research Committee held on 9 March 2023 via Zoom.

Present:

Prof D Currow (*Chair*)

A/Prof S Akter
Prof M Batterham
Ms O Belhaffef
Prof J Chen
Prof H Ecroyd
Prof P Innis
Prof P Kelly
Prof K Clapham

Ms S Martin
S/Prof P McGuirk
Prof S Moss
A/Prof G Peleckis
Prof N Reynolds
D/Prof R Roberts
D/Prof S Robinson
D/Prof A Sims

Dr T Stutchbury
Mr G Tomka
Dr E Twyford
D/Prof A van Oijen
Prof W Vialle
Prof J Wang
A/Prof S Wilkinson
Ms B Zheng

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 Dr P Di Pietro, D/Prof S Kaye, Prof L Kervin, S/Prof R Lewis, S/Prof M Randle and Prof C Ritz.

The Chair welcomed new URC Members to their first meeting:

- Ms Ouraida Belhaffef, HDR Representative;
- A/Professor Stephen Wilkinson, UOW Dubai Representative; and
- Professor Simon Moss, Dean of Graduate Research.

Ms C Carter, Associate Director - Research Analytics, Systems & Support attended for discussion on agenda item 5.1.

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, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 5.1 were starred for the meeting.

Resolved (01/2023)

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

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved (02/2023)

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 October 2022 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

1.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

The Chair noted Business Arising from **Meeting 05/2022** as follows:

Item 3.7 Research Data Management Policy Update

Resolution 61/2022 The major amendments to the policy were not sent to Academic Senate as minuted, as the consultation period was still in progress. The final policy will be tabled at a future URC Meeting for endorsement.

Item 3.8 Defence Export Control Guideline

Resolution 62/2022 The minor amendments to the guideline were not sent to Academic Senate as minuted, as minor amendments to guidelines are approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Sustainable Futures).

1.5 Chair's Business

New Appointments/Recruitment

The Chair noted the following:

- Professor Marc in het Panhuis, appointed as inaugural Dean of Sport; and
- A/Professor Michelle Voyer appointed as the inaugural Keira Endowed Chair in Energy Futures.

Universities Australia (UA) Conference

The Chair attended the recent UA Conference and provided the following update.

Australia's Chief Defence Scientist, Prof Tanya Munro AC, confirmed the importance of the Australian Defence Forces collaborating with Australian Universities. UOW is currently well placed in this space, and thanks to Dr Paul Di Pietro for his work in this area.

Other highlights included Professor Mary O'Kane's presentation about the Australian Universities Accord, and the National Science Foundation Director's talk on 'The Power of Research Collaboration'. All presentations are available on the [Universities Australia Website](#).

Following a question from the Committee, the Chair advised that there was no discussion at the Conference about visa issues currently being experienced by international students. However, this was discussed at the NSW DVCR's meeting, where it was noted that UA has been working extensively with DFAT and that visa waiting times have recently been reduced.

Prime Minister's Visit to UOW

On 24 February, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese toured SMART to discuss the Federal Government's commitment to establishing a new \$10M Energy Futures Skills Centre at UOW. The Centre will train the clean energy and clean manufacturing workforce of the future.

Luminaries Series

[Luminaries](#) brings together leading UOW researchers, industry experts and thought leaders for a one-hour conversation every fortnight. The next event scheduled from 4-5pm today: 'The future of data and AI in Australian Healthcare', will discuss how the datafication of our health, and AI systems, could change health services in Australia. Presenters include Professor Stacy Carter, Dr Yves Saint James Aquino, Professor Lisa Smithers and Professor Alberto Nettel-Aguirre.

Research Planning Day

The Chair thanked those that participated in the Research Planning Day held in February. The event was full of wonderful, constructive discussion and the team are planning for a follow-up workshop to be held on 8 May. The May Workshop will discuss key research themes that build reputation, grow capability and the direction of resourcing to where it will have the most impact.

Universities Global Partnership Network (UGPN)

The Chair advised that, after careful consideration, UOW has decided to exit the UGPN. The current agreement will be in place until 2024, but will not be renewed. This funding will be re-directed to support Global Challenges 2.0.

UOW Research Entities Framework Review

Phase 2 of the Review is progressing well. Submissions have been provided by 10 of UOW's major Research Entities, and productive follow-up meetings have been held between Entity Leaders and the Review Working Group.

The Working Group will meet on 20 March to begin formulating the Framework, which will be provided to the URC at its meeting on 11 May for consideration.

Revisions to current UOW Research Institute Guidelines

The Chair advised that while the UOW Research Entity Framework Review is underway, it is important that the current Guidelines governing oversight of Institutes remain up-to-date. Executive Deans, Entity Directors and ADRs have been asked for feedback on a small number of revisions to bring the Guideline up to date and to broaden its scope to cover both University Research Institutes and Major Research Facilities. Comments are due by 10 March.

In response to a question from the Committee, the Chair confirmed that the Research Entities Guidelines provided to Centre Directors for review, are an interim measure until the transition to the new Policy document. It is anticipated that the Policy will be finalised by the end of 2023, providing greater consistency and clarity to all.

Research Block Grant Distribution Model

Final 2023 RBG allocations were distributed to Faculties in February. Total UOW RBG funds were slightly down, due to a decrease in RSP compared to 2022, offset by an increase in 2023 RTP. This resulted in a net increase in overall Faculty allocations for 2023. The 2023 RBG Faculty funding allocation model principles remain the same as 2021 and 2022 and a review of the distribution model will begin soon with a draft model and policy to be circulated for consultation.

Following a question from the Committee about funding arrangements for 2024, the Chair noted that plans to direct investment into key thematic areas would be explored at the May Research Planning Workshop.

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

There was no Confidential Business

PART 3 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Research and Innovation Report

A Committee Member noted Table 1 in the RaID Report and asked about the variation in the number of applications between faculties, and if this was due to lack of opportunity for some faculties. The Director Research Services Office noted that this table includes new industry fellowship schemes and that faculties that more typically engage with industry partners, may be reflected in their higher number of applications. The initial question was clarified to ask if there

would be analysis of 'relative to opportunity' across faculties (for applications and funding success) to provide an opportunity for growth and development in lower performing areas.

The Chair, ARC Academy advised that this type of analysis would fall under the newly formed Academy, which would be looking to identify individual researchers in all faculties that should be encouraged to apply for funding and be supported by Academy Members. URC Committee Members further noted:

- tableau reporting can provide clarity on performance/metrics/opportunities; and
- a link should be established between ARC and HMR Academy strategies and Career Development Interviews, including forward planning and consultation with Heads of School.

Resolved (03/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the Research and Innovation Report for the March 2023 URC Meeting, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.2 Graduate Research Update

The Dean of Graduate Research (DGR) advised that the first Graduate Research Committee (GRC) meeting for 2023 was held last week, with the Committee agreeing that an update of HDR policies, procedures and guidelines to align with best practice will be completed. Endorsed changes include the recording of formal review and milestones in the APR for HDR candidates, clarification of the process for becoming a principal supervisor and changes to the requirements for a supervision panel. The inclusion of a First Nations representative on the GRC was also discussed. The GRC will seek further advice on this.

Other ongoing projects include:

- a supervisor survey;
- mandatory training for supervisors;
- HDR recruitment strategy;
- a handbook to support best practice HPS;
- HDR candidate survey on research culture;
- update to Scholarship and Fee Waiver Policies; and
- recruitment of the Director Graduate Research School position.

Following a question from the Committee, the DGR advised that one of the principles being working towards is ensuring a UOW scholarship is comparable to other universities, which could include an increase in stipends. The DVC-RSF noted that an increase in stipends would decrease the number of HDR scholarships available.

Following a further question about the inequity between those HDR's that are 3 years and those that are 3.5 years, the DGR confirmed that the plan is to offer all current HDR's 3.5 years regardless of when they began their candidature. The DVC-RSF further confirmed that it would need to be made clear that there will not be any extension past 3.5 years.

The ADR AIIM questioned the process for those offshore enrolled students that are still without a visa. The DGR explained that those affected will be advised that they need to be back at UOW by a specific date, possibly by 31 August census date. If not able to return, they will be asked to discontinue and will be able to re-apply once a visa is received. They may request an extension if they can make a case to continue their research unimpeded.

The ADR AIIM further asked:

- if there is a plan for AIIM students that continue to be affected by Covid disruptions and are no longer eligible for Covid extensions that were previously offered:
- if ARC and NHMRC funded scholarships typically funded for 3 years, will also be offered at 3.5 years; and how would the additional 6 months be funded?

The DGR advised that discussion and resolution of these issues is ongoing.

The Committee further discussed and highlighted:

- an upcoming Research Culture Survey to be undertaken in Schools;
- a Clinical Psychology PhD is 4 years and for those with a scholarship, the final 6 months is unfunded; and
- stipends, fee waivers and other HDR support.

The DGR welcomed any further feedback from the Committee.

Resolved (04/2023)

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

3.3 Associate Deans (Research) Update

The ADR AIIM:

- thanked the Grants Team in the Research Services Office for their outstanding service in the recent ARC Grant Round, going above and beyond to support and provide feedback to AIIM Researchers; and
- noted that AIIM submitted 7 UOW led ARC Grants, 1 joint ARC Grant with SMAH, 2 externally- led ARC Grants, 2 Innovation Research Acceleration applications, 2 Industry Fellowship applications and 2 ARC Laureate applications.

The ADR ASSH thanked and congratulated the RSO team for their incredible work, noting that the team are easy to work with and have a great reputation across UOW. The ADR ASSH also noted the following ASSH achievements:

- S/Prof Dan Hutto recently invited to join the ARC College of Experts, joining existing ASSH Member Annette Braunack-Mayer;
- Prof Stacy Carter recently invited to join the prestigious NHMRC Research Quality Steering Committee;
- representation from ASSH on the ARC Academy and HMR Academy has increased;
- ECR Stephanie Beaupark awarded the 2023 Australian Academy of Science Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist Award, which honours outstanding research from emerging Indigenous scientists who are PhD candidates and early or mid-career researchers; and
- ECR Eda Gunaydin awarded the Victorian Premiers Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

The ADR SMAH advised that following consultation last year, a Faculty Research Strategy Document has been created. One outcome of this is the revitalisation of Research Centres and a consultation process is currently underway. A second outcome is discussion around research infrastructure and how it is managed within the faculty, with draft guidelines available soon.

The ADR BAL advised that a consultation process has begun to formulate a BAL Research Strategy, noting that the recent DVCRSF Planning Day was useful in guiding this process. The faculty has also submitted 4 ARC Discovery applications, 1 ARC Training Centre application with ANU, UNSW and UTS, and introduced 3 new internal faculty grant schemes. A revised BAL HDR Handbook is also now available.

Resolved (05/2023)

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

3.4 Global Challenges Program 2.0

The Dean, Researcher Development and Integrity provided an update to the Committee on the re-establishment of the Global Challenges Program. The program has been on hold for the last two years and has now received funding to support a small number of projects in 2023.

The new program has been modelled on the previous program, although the projects will be co-designed with non-academics (community partners, industry, governments and non-government organisations). A seed funding round will be run, with each proposal addressing one of the three challenges: Adapting to Future Environments; Reimagining the Future of Work; and Enhancing Lives and Communities. It is anticipated that these Challenges will change following further discussion of UOW's key research themes. Feedback from the Committee regarding research themes is welcome.

An important aspect of the program going forward is that projects will not be funded and forgotten with the Global Challenges Team working with the project team post award to support the success of the project and encourage the next generation of research leaders. The timeline and budget for 2024 is still being established.

The Dean RDI clarified a question from the Committee about the benefit and cross over between the Global Challenges Program and the AEGIS Grant Funding currently open, advising that the schemes will be open at different times and that the AEGIS Scheme may assist in identifying and working with research/project teams that may be eligible for Global Challenges Funding.

Feedback from the committee is welcome via email to global-challenges@uow.edu.au.

Resolved (06/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the Report on the Global Challenges Program 2.0, as provided in the agenda papers and presented by the Dean of Researcher Development and Integrity, and provide feedback by 23 March 2023.

3.5 UOW Translation and Impact Academy

The Director iAccelerate advised that feedback from the initial consultation of the Terms of Reference have now been incorporated, however any further feedback is welcome. The first meeting was held last week and noted that:

- this Academy would play an active role in assessing Global Challenges Grants in 2023;
- this Academy would assist with Cooperative Research Centres;
- external timelines in this space are unpredictable so the establishment of 'sprint teams' is currently underway to identify members and possible funding prospects.

Resolved (07/2023)

That the University Research Council endorse the Terms of Reference of the UOW Translation and Impact Academy, as provided in the agenda papers and presented by the Director iAccelerate, at the URC Meeting.

3.6 Internal Research Grants Program Update

Resolved (08/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the Internal Research Grants Program Update, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.7 Integrity and Ethics Annual Report to URC

Resolved (09/2023)

That the University Research Council note the Ethics & Integrity Annual Report, as provided in the agenda papers.

3.8 Predatory Publishing and Conferences Guideline

Resolved (10/2023)

That the University Research Committee endorse the minor amendments to the Predatory Publishing and Conferences Guideline, as provided in the agenda papers, and forward to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Sustainable Futures) for approval.

3.9 Research Integrity Policy and Procedure – Potential Breaches of the Code

Resolved (11/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the major revisions to the Research Integrity and Conduct Policy: Breaches, Concerns and Complaints and the Research Misconduct and Complaints Management Procedure, as provided in the agenda papers, to be tabled at a future meeting of the University Research Committee for endorsement.

3.10 UOW Data and Decision Science Initiative

Resolved (12/2023)

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 (13/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 14 October and 8 December 2022 Meetings of the Research Integrity Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.2 Graduate Research Committee (GRC)

Resolved (14/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 11 October 2022 Meeting of the Graduate Research Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.3 Research IT and Systems Committee (RITAS)

Resolved (15/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 13 December 2022 Meeting of the Research IT and Systems Committee, as provided in the agenda papers.

4.4 Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (RIAG)

Resolved (16/2023)

That the University Research Committee note the minutes of the 11 August 2022 Meeting of the Research Infrastructure Advisory Group, as provided in the agenda papers.

PART 5 FINAL BUSINESS

5.1 Other Business

5.1.1 Cloudstor Update

The Associate Director, Research Analytics and Systems joined the meeting for this discussion. The ADR SMAH raised concerns about the replacement of Cloudstor which will be decommissioned from the end of 2023. The Committee was advised that:

- from 28 July 2023 new projects are unable to be created in Cloudstor;
- IMTS are currently reviewing alternate solutions and working with other universities to develop a common solution to ensure that research data will continue to be stored and transferred securely;
- at this stage there is no action required for UOW researchers to transfer their data. They should continue to archive or manage the disposal of any project data in accordance with the Research Data Management Policy; and
- the Storage Grid contract has been extended for another 12 months to 30 April 2024.

5.1.2 Research Fellowships

A Committee Member raised concerns about the provision of cash support for Fellowships, noting that although there is an agreement sector-wide across NSW that there will be no cash support provided, in practice other universities are offering candidates this. The major concern is that UOW is not as competitive as other universities. It was suggested that UOW should be looking at some alternatives to help retain researchers, for example using the salary savings received as a result of a fellowship to provide an internal candidate with other support to stay at UOW. The DVCRSF advised that while this idea has merit, it would need to be looked at more thoroughly.

5.2 Next Meeting

The next University Research Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 May 2023.

The meeting closed at 3.24pm.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.3 J Evans – file URC Minutes 26 October 2022
- 3.2 All Committee Members - provide feedback to the DGR as detailed
- 3.4 All Committee Members - provide feedback to the DRDI as detailed
- 3.5 All Committee Members - provide feedback to the DRKET as detailed
- 3.8 R Perkiss/J Evans - forward to Governance for DVCRSF approval
- 4.1 R Perkiss – file RIC Minutes
- 4.2 J Barrie – file GRC Minutes
- 4.3 M Oakman – file RITAS Minutes
- 4.4 M Glancy – file RIAG Minutes

Signed as a true record



.....
Chairperson 05./07/2023