

FACULTY OF COMMERCE STRATEGIC RESEARCH DIRECTIONS GUIDELINES

October 2007 – October 2010

(Based on the University's Faculty Research Strengths guidelines)

The following are proposed as *guiding principles* for determination of Faculty Strategic Research Directions.

1. Faculty Strategic Research Directions will be underpinned by sustained and excellent performance that has achieved external recognition. Consideration will be given to discipline-specific measures of research quality and excellence in addition to the more global ones of research income, publications and student completions.
2. Without being too prescriptive about the size of a Faculty Strategic Research Direction, a minimum of 4 academic staff in continuing positions or funded via senior external fellowships (ARC or NHMRC) will generally be members.
3. Faculty Strategic Research Directions will demonstrate that they can remain viable in the event that any one member leaves the University.
4. Faculty Strategic Research Directions will involve collaborations between researchers that have resulted in quality outcomes over an extended period. Rigorous, performance-based criteria for membership that take into account the potential of early career researchers will be set out for each Direction. Aggregations of researchers simply to achieve critical mass rather than real collaborations will be actively discouraged.
5. Faculty Strategic Research Directions will be on an upward trajectory with collaborations and ongoing research initiatives, underpinned by sustained research planning by the Director/Coordinator and other senior staff involved.
6. Faculty Strategic Research Directions will have explicit plans for the provision and/or maintenance of a high quality environment for higher degree research students. Further, a good record of completions and other measures of research student success (awards, positions upon graduation etc.) is required. As a guide, a minimum of 5 full-time equivalent HDR students will be expected to be associated with the FSDR.

FACULTY STRATEGIC RESEARCH DIRECTION FUNDING TRIENNIUM

October 2007 – October 2010

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Introduction

The assessment of Faculty Strategic Research Directions for 2007–2010 will occur in September 2007.

Application for Faculty Strategic Research Direction

A complete application comprises Part A–*Application Form*; Part B–*Research Plan* and Part C–*Quality & Impact Indicators*. Assessment of applications will be based on both past performance and proposed research plans for the 2007–2010 triennium. Applications should address the assessment criteria for Faculty Strategic Research Directions outlined in these Guidelines.

2. Timetable

1 August, 2007	Call for Applications
31 August	Submission deadline
24 September 2007	Faculty Strategic Research Direction Review Committee assessment meeting
1 October 2007	Notification of Faculty Strategic Research Direction application outcomes

3. General Considerations for Assessment and Recognition of Faculty Strategic Research Directions for 2007–2010

The aim of the current assessment of Faculty Strategic Research Directions by the Faculty Research Committee is to:

Identify current Research Centres/Groups that have been functioning effectively with a corresponding high level of achievement and provide them with continued FRC support for the next three years.

4. Assessment Criteria

Applications for Faculty Strategic Research Directions will be assessed against the following criteria. These are designed to balance the need for decisions to be based partly on past performance and partly on the potential of the Faculty Strategic Research Directions for growth.

Alignment of Faculty Strategic Research Direction with Guiding Principles

- Faculty Strategic Research Directions will be underpinned by sustained and excellent performance that has achieved external recognition. Consideration will be given to discipline-specific measures of research quality and excellence in addition to the more global ones of research income, publications and student completions.
- Without being too prescriptive about the size of a Faculty Strategic Research Direction, a minimum of 4 academic staff in continuing positions or funded via senior external fellowships (ARC or NHMRC) will generally be members.
- Faculty Strategic Research Directions will demonstrate that they can remain viable in the event that any one member leaves the University.
- Faculty Strategic Research Directions will involve collaborations between researchers that have resulted in quality outcomes over an extended period. Rigorous, performance-based criteria for membership that take into account the potential of early career researchers will be set out for each Direction. Aggregations of researchers simply to achieve critical mass rather than real collaborations will be actively discouraged.
- Faculty Strategic Research Directions will be on an upward trajectory with collaborations and ongoing research initiatives, underpinned by sustained research planning by the Director/Coordinator and other senior staff involved.
- Faculty Strategic Research Directions will have explicit plans for the provision and/or maintenance of a high quality environment for higher degree research students. Further, a good record of completions and other measures of research student success (awards, positions upon graduation etc.) is required. As a guide, a minimum of 5 full-time equivalent HDR students will be expected to be associated with the FSDR.
- Defined, performance-based criteria for membership that simultaneously takes into account the potential of early career researchers.

Research Quality & Impact of the Centre/Groups

Quality and impact will be assessed against the quality and impact indicators agreed by the Dean with the Centre/Group, taking into account national and international impact of the research and the norms for research performance within a given discipline.

Synergy of the Centre/Group

Synergy will be assessed on the coherence of research plans and strategies proposed by the Centre/Group to promote collaboration between members, which can include collaboration on publications and grants, as well as through co-supervision of HDR students.

Extent to which the new Faculty Strategic Research Direction will enhance the Faculty's and UOW strategic research objectives

Strategic contribution will be assessed against the extent to which the Faculty Strategic Research Direction will enhance the Faculty's and University's strategic research objectives as outlined in the UOW Research Strategic Plan – see:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/stratplan/research.pdf>

Particular importance will be attached to quality and extent of:

- postgraduate training
- enhancing interdisciplinary research
- international linkages
- regional impacts
- research outcomes, including research grants, publications, reports, etc.

Potential for growth of the Faculty Strategic Research Direction

Growth potential will be assessed on the basis of strategic plans, current patterns of growth and external factors that are likely to promote growth of the area and are clearly identified in the application.

5. Assessment Process

Applications will be assessed by the Dean, the Faculty Research Committee and the PVC-R, and the complete application will be used to determine the viability of each Faculty Strategic Research Direction. The Committee will seek feedback from Heads of School where relevant and may seek additional external advice as needed.

6. Research Quality and Impact Outputs

Each Faculty Strategic Research Direction will agree with the Dean on up to 3 research quality and 3 research impact criteria for measuring research quality and impact. For example, a Faculty Strategic Research Direction might identify “Publishing in High Impact International Journals” as one criterion for research quality. Data showing the % of publications that the group has published in journals with an impact factor in the top 10–15% of those available in the discipline area would achieve this.

Other potential criteria for research quality might include: citation rates; peer reviewed grant outcomes (% vs national % in field); benchmarking against another similar research groups; research prizes, fellowships and awards for academics or students, etc.

Criteria for impact might include: interactions with industry/agencies (based on collaborative grants, publications, reports etc.); community engagement activities; demonstrable engagement with policy process at national or international levels; commercial outcomes (patents, licenses, start ups, etc.).

7. Membership

A member of a Faculty Strategic Research Direction shall:

- Be a member of the *academic staff* of the University (Level A and above) holding a continuing or limited term appointment of greater than or equal to 0.5 time.

or

- Be a Visiting or Honorary Fellow who does not hold a substantive position or paid appointment elsewhere and who has a formal appointment to the University for a period of 12 months or greater.

or

- Have the ability to contribute to the Faculty Strategic Research Direction and the capacity to complement and work with other members.

or

- Be a new member of the academic staff (less than 3 years from appointment at UoW), or a General Staff member with an independent research track record, or a newly independent researcher (less than 5 years from the award of a doctoral qualification or from a significant interruption to research career) and have the capacity to develop into a significant contributor to the effort of the Faculty Strategic Research Direction.

and

- Be actively involved in high quality research and have a good track record of research and scholarship that is appropriate to their discipline.

Performance data will not be collected for collaborators from other institutions or for support staff. However, where such collaborations are important indicators of performance or recognition of the Faculty Strategic Research Direction, these should be highlighted in the final application.

8. Postgraduate Research Students

Each Faculty Strategic Research Direction will be expected to include postgraduate research students in their activities and provide a supportive research environment for such students (e.g. effective mentoring, supervision, opportunities to present seminars).

A research student associated with a Faculty Strategic Research Direction shall:

- be enrolled in a postgraduate program at the University of Wollongong with a research project component of at least 2/3 of their degree program; and
- have a member of the Faculty Strategic Research Direction as their primary supervisor.

9. Faculty Strategic Research Direction Coordinator

The Direction Coordinator will be a senior researcher within the Faculty who has demonstrated leadership skills and who will take responsibility for the proper functioning of the Faculty Strategic Research Direction. The Director/Coordinator will be responsible to the Faculty Research Director for the management of the Faculty Strategic Research Direction and the expenditure of the annual grant from the FRC.

The Director/Coordinator is expected to work closely with the Heads of relevant academic units, in areas such as staff career development/mentoring. In addition, the Director/Coordinator should work with Heads of Unit and the Faculty Research Manager on all aspects of HDR candidature and resourcing for HDRs.