UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Minutes of meeting 01/06 of the University Research Committee held on 29 March 2006 at 9:00am in the Council Room, Building 36.

PRESENT: Professor M Sheil (Chair)
Professor H Brown
Professor J Chicharo
Professor C Cook
Dr T Coyle
Mr P Day
Professor R Dippenaar
A/Professor S Dodds
A/Professor S Dolnicar
Professor S Dou
Professor K Eagar
Ms E Ens
Professor D Griffiths
Professor B Harper
Ms S Hughes
A/Professor S Jones
Professor A Lawson
Dr M Lerch
Dr A Macris
Professor J Norrish
Mr C Peden
Dr M Rix
Ms K Roser
Professor R Safavi-Naini
A/Professor P Sharrad
Mr A Skorulis
Professor J Steele
Professor L Tapsell
Professor R Whelan
Professor M Wilson
Professor J Wright

SECRETARY: Susan McGaffin

PART A - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Professor L Astheimer, Professor P Crookes, Professor J Glynn, Professor J Patterson, A/Professor G Rose, Ms T Tindall, Professor M Tsamenyi, Professor A Wells and A/Professor C Woodroffe.

Professor S Bouzerdoum was representing Professor D Steel, Ms H Mandl was representing Ms F McGregor, A/Professor L McNamara was representing A/Professor D
Considine, Dr T Scrase was representing Dr L Lyons, Dr C Too was representing Professor G Wallace and A/Professor R West was representing A/Professor S Robinson.

The Chair welcomed Dr Mark Rix, Faculty Research Chair in the new Graduate School of Business and congratulated A/Professor Sara Dolnicar on her recent appointment as new Faculty Research Chair in Commerce.

A2 Business from the Last Meeting

A2.1 Minutes of previous meeting (7 December 2005)

RESOLVED (01/06)
That the minutes of the University Research Committee meeting held on 7 December 2005 (04/2005) be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

ACTION: Susan McGaffin

A2.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

French Cotutelle Scheme at UoW

The final Policy on Cotutelle Agreements was tabled. The Committee was advised that the Policy would be considered at the next Academic Senate meeting.

A3 Chair’s Business

A3.1 Research Quality Framework (RQF) Update

The Chair advised that the Minister had announced the establishment of an RQF Development Advisory Group to be chaired by the newly appointed Chief Scientist, Dr Jim Peacock, with other members including Emeritus Prof Chris Fell and Prof Deryck Schreuder. The implementation of the RQF is anticipated at this stage to be delayed for 6 – 12 months if it goes ahead.

Discussion was held regarding the impact the recent publicised outcomes of the RAE in the United Kingdom would have upon the RQF. The conclusion was that it may affect the timing and implementation of the RQF in Australia.

A3.2 Appointments

- Professor David Officer has accepted the position of Professor of Organic Chemistry.
- Professor Nick Dixon has accepted the position of Professor of Chemistry/Biology.
- An offer has been made for the position of Professor of English.
- Ms Sharon Clarke and Ms Elizabeth Phillips have been appointed to the Grants Officer positions.
- An offer has been made for the appointment of the new RQF Officer.
• The recruitment process for the newly created MIC position is currently underway.

A3.3 Innovation Campus
The plans for a central ISEM/IPRI facility at the Innovation Campus are progressing.

A3.4 Linkage Project Session – 29 March
Dr Ian Mackinnon, ARC Executive Director for Engineering and Environmental Science is visiting UoW today to speak about Linkage grants with researchers in Engineering, Informatics and Science Faculties.

A3.5 ARC Outstanding Reports
Members were advised that the ARC is starting to more rigorously monitor research outputs and is currently chasing up researchers with outstanding Linkage grant reports.

PART B – GENERAL BUSINESS

B1 Research and Innovation Division Report
The Research and Innovation Division Report was tabled and noted.

B2 Revised University Research Committee Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: (03/06)
That the University Research Committee endorse the revised Terms of Reference and forward them to the Academic Senate for approval.

ACTION: Sharon Hughes

B3 IP Policy Framework (Draft)

Troy Coyle gave a brief overview of the revised Intellectual Property Policy framework.

UOW’s Intellectual Property (IP) Policy was last updated in 1998. The policy has recently been reviewed and developed into an IP Policy Framework, comprising:

• an IP Policy (dealing with various forms of IP and related UOW/Creator rights);
• a Commercialisation Revenue Policy (dealing specifically with how returns from commercialisation are distributed); and
• a Student Assignment of IP Policy (dealing specifically with situations where UOW would seek to obtain rights to student IP and the process for that).

The IP policy framework has been developed with guidance from an external consultant in Innovation Law.

In summary, the major changes include:

• development of supporting policies to address different aspects of IP protection and commercialisation (i.e. development of an IP Policy Framework);
• inclusion of explanatory guidelines associated with each policy;
• specific detail on the issues surrounding student assignments of IP and a new process to provide funding to students to obtain independent legal advice;
• specific discussion regarding distribution of returns from commercialisation, including how shares in companies would be managed; and
• introduction of a new concept, administrative material, not included in the previous version of the IP Policy.

The final policy framework will be considered at a URC Extraordinary meeting on 3 May 2006.

RESOLVED (04/06)
That Committee members provide feedback on the draft IP Policy Framework directly to Troy Coyle.

ACTION: Troy Coyle

B4 AUQA Report of UOW Quality Audit

The AUQA audit report has been released with generally positive conclusions on UOW research management. The Chair thanked everyone for their involvement with the audit.

AUQA’s Affirmations and Recommendations will be addressed in the University Quality Improvement Plan. There are also a number of suggestions for improvements in the report that we may wish to take up. The PVC(A) would appreciate any feedback relating to any additional matters which should be included in the Quality Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED (05/06)
That Committee members provide feedback on any additional AUQA matters to be included in the Quality Improvement Plan to Kim Roser.

ACTION: Kim Roser

B5 2006 Research Strength Funding Allocations

Due to problems with data collection and verification, the 2006 Research Strength funding allocations will not be available for several weeks.

A more streamlined process for allocating URC funding to faculties and research strengths will be considered for the new funding triennium (2007-2009).

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

C1 Matters from URSC

C1.1 URC Research Partnership Grants Scheme Guidelines (Draft)
     Noted

C1.2 RIBG Pool 2 Funding Guidelines
     Noted

C1.3 ARC Linkage Projects, 2007 R1, Timetable
     Noted

C1.4 ARC Discovery Project Submission list (Confidential)
Noted

C2 Thesis Committee Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 2 November 2005 (10/05), 7 December 2005 (11/05) and 8 February 2006 (01/06) were noted.

RESOLVED (06/06)
That the University Research Committee receive minutes of the University Thesis Committee of 2 November 2005, 7 December 2005 and 8 February 2006.

ACTION: Julie King

PART D – NEXT MEETING AND OTHER BUSINESS

D1 Next meeting – Extraordinary Meeting 9.30 am, Wednesday, 3 May 2006, Lecture Theatre 20.5, Building 20

The meeting closed at 9.30am.

ACTION ITEMS:

Action A2 S McGaffin to file previous URC minutes.
Action B2 S Hughes to forward Terms of Reference to Academic Senate
Action B3 T Coyle to collect feedback on draft IP Policy Framework
Action B4 K Roser to collect any additional feedback on AUQA report and provide to PVC(A)
Action C2 J King to file previous Thesis Committee minutes

Signed as a true record .................................
Chairperson  .../.../ 06