UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Minutes of meeting 03/05 of the University Research Committee held on 28 September 2005 at 9:30am in Kemira Rooms 3 & 4, Building 11.

PRESENT: Professor M Sheil (Chair)
A/Professor L Astheimer
Professor H Brown
Ms S Bu
Professor J Chicharo
Professor C Cook
Mr P Day
A/Professor B Derewianka
A/Professor S Dodds
Professor S Dou
Professor B Harper
Ms S Hughes
Professor S Kaye
Dr M Lerch
A/Professor P McLennan
Professor J Norrish
Professor J Patterson
Dr S Robinson
Professor G Rose
Ms K Roser
Professor R Safavi-Naini
Professor A Schultz
A/Professor P Sharrad
Mr A Skorulis
Professor D Steel
Professor J Steele
Professor M Tsamenyi
Professor R Whelan
A/Professor C Woodroffe

MINUTE
SECRETARY: Susan McGaffin

PART A - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Dr Troy Coyle, Professor Patrick Crookes, Professor Rian Dippenaar, Professor Peter Eklund, Ms Emilie Ens, Professor David Griffiths, A/Professor Sandra Jones, A/Professor Peter McLennan, A/Professor Sharon Robinson, Professor Greg Rose, Ms Trish Tindall and Professor Andrew Wells.

Mr Neil Cairns was representing Ms Felicity McGregor, Professor Ian Ring was representing Professor Kathy Eagar, Professor Greg Schiemer was representing Dr Eric Loo, Dr Tim Scrase was representing Dr Lenore Lyons, Professor Trevor Spedding was
representing A/Professor Sara Dolnicar and Dr Chee Too was representing Professor Gordon Wallace.

The Chair welcomed Mr Peter Day, one of the new representatives of the University Internationalisation Committee, Professor Colin Woodroffe, the new Faculty Research Chair for Science, A/Professor Sharon Robinson, new Director of the Institute for Conservation Biology and Mr Craig Peden, MICD, Informatics, Commerce and Creative Arts.

The Chair was pleased to note that Dr Troy Coyle would be remaining at UOW to work on large scale strategic initiatives. Dr Troy Coyle’s new title is still to be determined. As a result of this, a third MICD will be recruited.

A2 Business from the Last Meeting

A2.1 Senate Approval of Terms of Reference

Noted.

A2.2 Minutes of previous meeting (22 June 2005)

RESOLVED (13/05)
That the minutes of the University Research Committee meeting held on 22 June 2005 (03/2005) be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

ACTION: Susan McGaffin

A2.3 Linkage Projects Performance

The Chair noted that UOW’s performance in Linkage grants has declined. Reasons for this include more competition for Linkage funds from the GO8 and a trend towards funding of larger projects with multiple industry partners. The MICDs will continue to work with the Research Services Office and individual researchers to identify potential industry partners.

The Chair thanked Dr Troy Coyle, Professor Joe Chicharo, Ms Jodie Murrell and Ms Julie Matarczyk for their input to the Linkage Projects Information Session, which was very well received with over 70 people attending.

A3 Chair’s Business

A3.1 Senior Staff Recruitment

UOW is seeking Professors of Surgery, Medicine, with strong research backgrounds. Interviews will be held for Chairs in Power Engineering and Steel Metallurgy next month.
A3.2 NSW Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award

Professor Julie Steele, was congratulated on winning the NSW Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award. This Award is a prestigious acknowledgement for her outstanding contributions to establishing, leading and developing the Biomechanics Research Laboratory while providing leadership in executive positions nationally, internationally and within UOW.

A3.3 Johnson & Johnson Research Laboratories

The Chair reported that Johnson & Johnson Research Laboratories were providing funding of $1M per year in research.

A3.4 Higher Degree Research Student Day Conference 2006

The Higher Degree Research Student Conference is to be held on 29 September 2005. All HDR students, industry partners, academic and general staff are invited. It is anticipated that approximately 240 people will be attending.

A3.5 Research Ethics - Audits

The BioSafety Audit reported that Biology and Health & Behavioural Science research areas did not meet BioSafety standards, and a plan to address these issues will need to be implemented.

The Animal Research Review Panel Auditors were very satisfied with the University’s overall management of animal ethics. A special thanks to Penny Potter and the Chair of the Animal Ethics Committee, A/Professor Brian Ferry.

A3.6 Higher Education Summit

The Chair reported the main issues coming out of the recent Higher Education Summit are:

- Voluntary Student Unionism
- Workplace Relations Reforms
- Review of protocols for what defines a University
- Research Quality Framework

PART B – GENERAL BUSINESS

B1 Research and Innovation Division Report

Linkage Projects Information Session

The Research Services Office ran a successful ARC Linkage Project information session to assist researchers and industry partners develop their proposals for upcoming funding rounds. Presentations by Margaret Sheil, Joe Chicharo and Troy Coyle are now posted on the Web at http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/grants/opportunities/external/arc/arc-linkage-presos.html

Applicants for the current round are due to the ARC on 25 November 2005.
Research Ethics

Professor Rod Nillsen has stepped down as Chair of the Health and Medical HREC. It was acknowledged that Rod has been an extremely dedicated Chair and that Dr Nadia Crittenden will be acting as Chair until a new appointment is made.

ARC/NHMRC Thinking Systems

A report was tabled on this new ARC/NHMRC Scheme:
- Applications are due to ARC on 14 December 2005
- $10M funding available in total
- Average $750K per annum over 5 years per project
- 1-5 year project duration
- Notices of Intent due to Research Services Office on 31 October 2005

Commonwealth Environmental Research Funding (CERF)

This Scheme was launched by the Department of Environment & Heritage on 14 September:
- $60M available from June 2006/07 to 2009/10 for research hubs, significant projects, fellowships.
- Expressions of Interest for research hubs are due on 28 October. UOW plans to submit one or two EOIs.
- Guidelines for significant projects and fellowships are yet to be released.

Review of UOW Research Informations Systems

Mr Bob Cole has been appointed as Project Manager working two days per week in the Research Services Office. It is imperative that an integrated system is developed with the impending commencement of the Research Quality Framework (RQF).

Young Achievement Australia

Ms Karen Walton was the entrepreneurial award winner. The launch of her book will be on 18 October 2005.

Student Innovation Network (SIN)

The next seminar will be held in mid October and the topic will be Authorship.

Higher Degree Research Bootcamp
To be held on 29 -31 March 2006
Staff Workshop 9 & 10 March 2006

B2 Amendm ents to Code of Practice - Research
The Working Party was thanked for their time and effort in revising the Code of Practice – Research.

**RESOLVED (14/05)**

*That the URC endorse the revisions to the Code of Practice – Research, to include Research Misconduct Process and forward the revisions to Academic Senate for approval, pending incorporation of minor changes.*

**ACTION:** Susan Dodds/Kim Roser

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### B3 DEST Research Quality Framework (RQF)

The Chair updated the Committee on the status of the RQF. Feedback on the DEST Preferred Model is due on 4 October. Lee Astheimer is drafting the UOW response.

**Key points:**
- Unit of assessment for RQF will be based on research groups.
- 12-15 discipline based Assessment Panels will be established for the RQF comprising academic peer reviewers, with additional research end-user reviewers
- Rating is on a five-point scale for Research Quality. Separate rating on a three-point scale for Research impact.
- RQF funding allocations will replace current research block grants (IGS, up to half of RTS).
- Research reputation is the bigger issue for the University

**RESOLVED (15/05)**

*That feedback on the DEST Preferred Model be provided to Lee Astheimer*

**ACTION:** Lee Astheimer

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### PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

**C1 Matters from URSC**

**C1.1 Revised Terms of Reference for University Ethics Policy Committee**

Noted

**C1.2 Revisions to Recommendation 2(g) in Examiner’s Report Form for Doctoral Candidates**

Noted

**C1.3 UOW Small Grant Outcomes**

Noted
C1.4 Mid-Term Review Reports

Each Research Strength has been provided with written feedback from the URSC on their mid-term review reports. The DVC(R) and Director, RSO will also be meeting with each Dean and FRC to discuss Faculty reports.

**ACTION:** Margaret Sheil/Sharon Hughes.

C2 Thesis Committee Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 18 May 2005, (4/05), 6 June 2005 (5/05), 13 July 2005 (6/05) and 17 August 2005 (7/05) were noted.

**RESOLVED (16/05)**

That the University Research Committee receive the minutes of the Thesis Committee meetings of 18 May 2005, 6 June 2005, 13 July 2005 and 17 August 2005.

**ACTION:** Julie King

PART D – NEXT MEETING AND OTHER BUSINESS

D1 Other Business

D1.1 Summer Scholarships

An issue was raised as to why UOW previously offered Summer Scholarships and does not appear to do so now.

**ACTION:** Kim Roser to investigate tax free Summer Scholarships and advise members.

D2 Next meeting – 9.30 am, Wednesday, 7 December 2005, Kemira Rooms 3 and 4, Building 11.

The meeting closed at 10.40am.

ACTION ITEMS:

Action A2  S. McGaffin to file previous URC minutes.
Action B2  Susan Dodds/Kim Roser to forward the amended Code of Practice to Academic Senate.
Action B3  Lee Astheimer to draft UOW response to DEST Preferred Model
Action C1  M Sheil & S Hughes to discuss Faculty reports with Deans and FRCs.
Action C2  J King to file Thesis Committee minutes endorsed at this meeting of the URC.
Action D1  Kim Roser to investigate Summer Scholarships and advise members.

Signed as a true record ......................................................
Chairperson            ..../..../ 05