Minutes of meeting 03/04 of the University Research Committee held on 8 December 2004 at 9:30am in Lecture Theatre 5, Building 20.

PRESENT: Professor M Sheil (Chair)
A/Professor L Astheimer
Professor J Bremner
Professor H Brown
Mr T Browne
Professor C Cook
Professor P Crookes
A/Professor S Dodds
A/Professor S Dolnicar
Professor S Dou
Dr E Dutkiewicz
Professor K Eagar
Professor B Harper
A/Professor L Head
Ms S Hughes
A/Professor S Jones
Professor S Kaye
A/Professor D Kelly
Dr M Lerch
Ms H Mandl
Ms N Peters
A/Professor W Price
Dr S Robinson
Professor A Schultz
Professor D Steel
Professor J Steele
Professor M Tsamneyi
Professor A Vickers
Professor A Wells
Professor J Wright

MINUTE
SECRETARY: Trina Reddall

PART A - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Professor C Antons, Professor J Chicharo, Professor R Dippenaar, Professor M Gaffikin, Dr E Loo, A/Professor P McLennan, A/Professor J Norrish, Professor G Wallace, and Professor M Wilson.

Dr E Dutkiewicz was representing Professor R Safavi-Naini; A/Professor D Kelly was representing Professor D Griffiths; Ms H Mandl was representing Ms F McGregor; A/Professor W Price was representing Professor R Whelan; and Dr S Robinson was representing Professor D Ayre.
A2  Business from the Last Meeting

A2.1  Minutes of previous meeting (4 August 2004)

RESOLVED (08/04)
That the minutes of the University Research Committee meeting held on 4 August 2004 (02/2004) be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

ACTION:  Trina Reddall

A3  Chair’s Business

A3.1  Agreement Signed with the Australian Bureau of Statistics

A Memorandum of Understanding formalising the establishment of a Chair in Statistical Methodology at UoW was signed in Canberra on 6 December 2004 by the Vice-Chancellor and the Australian Statistician, Dennis Trewin, from the ABS. David Steel was congratulated for his efforts on this agreement.

A3.2  Agreement Signed with Johnson & Johnson

An agreement was signed with Johnson & Johnson which will provide substantial funding for a drug discovery project involving the creation of a Phytogenesis Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry. Stephen Pyne was recognised for his efforts on this agreement.

A3.3  Agreement Signed with Motorola

TITR has signed a major agreement with Motorola in the USA to develop wireless technologies. Rei Safavi-Naini and Eryk Dutkiewicz were recognised for their efforts.

A3.4  Professorial Lecture Series

Starting in 2005, this series will be held during lunchtime and aimed at a general university audience. Speakers will primarily be newly appointed professors.

A3.5  2005 ARC Success

The recent release of ARC Results for grants commencing in 2005 saw the university ranked number nine nationally in ARC grant income relative to size. For Discovery grants the university was awarded the total highest funding outside the Group of 8. A key feature of the University’s performance was the success of grant applications from discipline areas outside traditional research strengths such as law, health sciences and commerce. ISEM and IPRI were recognised for their performance and Sara Dolnicar, Mark Dowton, Lenore Lyons, Colin Murray-Wallace, and Andrea Schaefer were recognised for receiving two Discovery grants each.
A3.6 2005 NHMRC Success

The recent release of NHMRC Results for grants commencing in 2005 indicated a significant improvement from previous years with four Project Grants being awarded to UoW. This represents a success rate of 25% compared to the national average of 22%.

A3.7 Visit to India

Margaret Sheil visited India in November and primarily focused on signing agreements with IT companies. Agreements were signed with both Whipro Technologies and Tartar Consulting.

A3.8 Health & Medical Research Strategy

Kathy Eagar is developing a joint UoW-IAHS submission to the NSW Ministry of Science and Medical Research to support the establishment of research hubs in the region and to build the research capacity in the health service.

A3.9 2005 URC Budget

We are still awaiting advice from DEST regarding final block grant allocations before we will be able to determine the 2005 URC Budget. It is not likely that the allocations will change much considering that the relative share of grant funding allocated this year has only increased by 0.02%.

A3.10 Research Quality & Accessibility Framework

DEST is currently reviewing the research quality and accessibility framework in consultation with key stakeholders. Margaret Sheil is a member of the AVCC working party. DEST plans to release its recommendations at the end of 2005.

A3.11 Public Meetings on the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy

The NCRIS is an Australian Government initiative to provide researchers with major research facilities, supporting infrastructure and networks necessary for world-class research. They will be holding a meeting in Canberra on the 14th of December and a representative from the Research Services Office will be attending.

A3.12 Library Support for Research Strengths

A targeted Library Support for Research Strengths project has been conducted which revealed some resource gaps which will be addressed in the 2005 budget.

A3.13 Agreement Signed with Uniquest

The technology transfer company of the University of Queensland, UniQuest, and UoW signed a historic commercialisation agreement on Monday, 29 November at
the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. The agreement - the first ever undertaken between two Australian universities -- will enable UniQuest and UOW to co-operate in the training, development and prosecution of commercialisation of research and development outcomes from the University of Wollongong. Meipoh Lee, Aapo Skorulis, Troy Coyle, and Damien Israel were acknowledged for their efforts in the project.

A3.14 HDR Scholarship Rankings

This year’s scholarship rankings demonstrated an improvement in the fit between students and research areas. The Master’s equivalents still seem to be a problem area and require further analysis. Concerns were also raised regarding how honours students are often pushed into Research Strength areas because they feel they have a higher chance of receiving a scholarship if they apply in a Research Strength.

**RESOLVED (09/04)**

*That an analysis of this year’s HDR scholarship applications be conducted to examine how many scholarships were awarded in both Research Strength and non-Research Strength areas.*

ACTION: Kim Roser and Tim McDonald

PART B – GENERAL BUSINESS

B1 Research and Innovation Division Report

The Research and Innovation Division Report was tabled.

- Research Services Office
  - Details of applications submitted for 2005 ARC Round 2 Linkage Projects were provided and members reminded that the information is confidential.
  - ARC Executive Director Professor Elim Papadakis visited UoW in November and provided feedback on ARC grant outcomes. He pointed out that the success rate for Discovery grants is likely to fall next year as there will not be as much funding available.
  - 2005 ARC Round 1 Linkage Projects which were awarded funding were acknowledged. It was noted that little feedback was provided for unsuccessful researchers and it was suggested that the Office contact the ARC and try to arrange for a committee member to visit the University and provide feedback on Linkage Projects.

**RESOLVED (10/04)**

*That the RSO contact the ARC and try to arrange for a committee member to visit the University and provide feedback on Linkage Projects.*

ACTION: Melissa Harvey

- The 100% success rate for 2005 LIEF grants was acknowledged.
- Round 8 2005 Linkage International Awards which were awarded were acknowledged.
• Research Student Centre
  o It was noted that students were notified directly regarding the results of 2005 Scholarship Applications.
  o It was noted that HDR Handbooks for students and supervisors were currently at the printery and would be provided by the end of the month.
  o The 2004 December graduation ceremonies included 43 HDR students and it was noted that the July graduation normally includes more HDR students.
• Managers of Innovation and Commercial Development (MICD’s)
  o It was noted that a summer scholarship from the Australian Industry Group was awarded to Ms Georgia Ivancevic and two other students to develop a model for improved interaction between local industry and the University.
  o The new Commercial Research Policy has been approved and will be available on the web shortly.
  o The recruitment of an MICD for Informatics, Creative Arts & Commerce is underway with an expected appointment date set for February.

B2 Nomination of New Representative for the ASDC Committee

RESOLVED (11/04)
That the University Research Committee put forward Professor J Steele as a nominee for the URC Representative on the ASDC Committee.

ACTION: Trina Reddall

B3 Draft Research Chapter for Quality Performance Portfolio

Margaret Sheil spoke to this item. It was noted that researchers not in a Research Strength are not acknowledged in the Research Chapter.

RESOLVED (12/04)
1. That URC members send feedback regarding the Draft Research Chapter directly to Ms K Roser, Manager, Research Student Centre.

ACTION: URC Members, Kim Roser

2. That we develop and implement guidelines for identifying “Research Clusters” which will aim to recognise areas outside of Research Strengths. Criteria may include: brand credibility, a website, faculty endorsement, and more than one researcher. Guidelines to be established in 2005.

ACTION: Lee Astheimer and Julie Matarczyk

B4 Research Action Plans for 2005

No documentation was tabled for this agenda item. Margaret Sheil indicated that the plans are primarily based on objectives and priorities identified in the Research Strategic Plan and noted the following priorities for 2005.
• Internationalisation Strategy – The URC and UIC need to work together to ensure that the internationalisation strategy links into the Research Strategic Plan.
• Quality and Assessment Framework – The URC needs to develop its own quality research performance indicators through communication with Research Strengths and Units.
• Preparation for AUQA in May 2005
• Intellectual Property Policy Review
• Implement new commercialisation framework
• Illawarra Research Strategy

PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

C1 Thesis Committee Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 16 June (05/04), 11 August (07/04), 8 September (08/04), and 6 October (09/04) were noted. It was noted that the July meeting (06/04) was cancelled due to staff illness.

RESOLVED (13/04)
That the University Research Committee receive the minutes of the University Thesis Committee of 16 June, 11 August, 8 September, and 6 October.

ACTION: Julie King

C2 Final Version of Research Strategic Plan

The Final Version of the Research Strategic Plan was noted.

C3 Faculty and Research Strength Allocations

Faculty and Research Strength Allocations for 2005 were noted.

C4 Information for the Guidance of Examiners for the Degree of Master of Creative Arts – Research

RESOLVED (14/04)
That the University Research Committee endorse the information regarding the Guidance of Examiners for the Degree of Master of Creative Arts – Research.

ACTION: Kim Roser

C5 Revised Animal Ethics Committee 2004 Operating Procedures

RESOLVED (15/04)
That the University Research Committee endorse the revisions to the Animal Ethics Committee 2004 Operating Procedures.

ACTION: Penny Potter
PART D – NEXT MEETING AND OTHER BUSINESS

D1 Meeting Dates for 2005

It was noted that the Meeting Dates for 2005 will be as follows:

Wednesday, 20 April  
Wednesday, 22 June  
Wednesday, 28 September  
Wednesday, 7 December

* Meetings are held at 9:30am in Lecture Theatre 5, Building 20

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Action A2 T Reddall to file previous URC minutes.
2. Action A3 K Roser and T McDonald to conduct an analysis of this year’s HDR scholarship applications.
3. Action B1 M Harvey to contact the ARC and try to arrange for a committee member to visit the University.
4. Action B2 T Reddall to contact S Clarke to advise her that J Steel as been put forward as a nominee for the ASDC Committee.
5. Action B3 URC members are to send feedback to K Roser regarding the Draft Research Chapter.
6. Action B3 M Sheil and L Astheimer to develop and implement guidelines for identifying “Research Clusters.”
7. Action C1 J King to file Thesis Committee minutes that were endorsed at this meeting of the URC.
8. Action C4 K Roser to note that the URC has endorsed the information regarding the Guidance of Examiners for the Degree of Master of Creative Arts – Research.
9. Action C5 P Potter to note that the URC has endorsed the revisions to the AEC 2004 Operating Procedures.

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