PART A - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Professors Joan Cooper, Stuart Kaye, Rian Dippenaar and David Griffiths. A/Professor S Dodds was representing Professor John Bern, and Professor David Steel was representing Professor Joan Cooper. The Chair welcomed the new WUPA President, Ms Donna Capararo to the meeting.

A2 Business from the Last Meeting

A2.1 Minutes of previous meeting (27 March 2003)

RESOLVED (04/03)
That the minutes of the University Research Committee meeting held on 27 March 2003 be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

A3 Chair’s Business

A3.1 ARC Centre of Excellence

Should the proposed ARC Centre for Nanostructured Electromaterials be successful, then under the ARC funding rules all grants connected to the proposed centre would be funded for five years.

A3.2 Sydney Olympic Park Authority Project (SOPA)

Gwyn Brickell, Gordon Brown, Barry Harper, Lori Lockyer had been awarded $422,490 over 1.5 years to develop a “Learning Framework, Education Program and Monitoring and Evaluation Program for the Sydney Olympic Authority Partnering Schools Project, Education Centre for the Environment, Research and Technology”, in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Catholic Education Office (CEO).

In addition the following were also to be congratulated on grant success:

Martin Tsamenyi and Ron West $399,530 over 3 years from ACIA
“Management and Policy Frameworks for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Indonesian and Philippine Waters”

Andrea Schafer, Stuart Russell, Will Price and Greg Hampton $640,000 over 3 years from DEST
“Integrated Concepts in the Reuse of Upgraded Wastewater”

A3.3 NFIS Centre of Excellence

The ARC Key Centre for Smart Foods application to become a National Food Industry Strategy Centre of Excellence was looking positive and Linda Tapsell would be presenting to a subgroup of the selection committee next week.

A3.4 ARC Linkage Success

The University had achieved a 72% success rate, which was an outstanding performance. Congratulations should be passed on to all including staff in the Office of Research.

A3.5 AVCC Review of RTS Funding

The AVCC had been modelling various funding options but the Chair indicated it was unlikely the AVCC would get full agreement on a new model across the sector.

A3.6 ARC Networking Grants

This was dealt with under item B5.

A3.7 Research and Research Training Management Report
The deadline for submitting the 2003 Research and Research Training Management Report to DEST was 18 July.

A3.8 Budget Outcomes

The new Budget proposals outlined by the Government would result in new funding for the sector. There was very little in the budget involving research.

A3.9 Research Mapping Exercise

A consultant from the Capital Technic Group had been employed to do a research mapping exercise with regard to developing research opportunities for the Innovation Campus – the interim report was due on 20 July.

A3.10 National Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee

The NIIAC would be releasing a report on a range of programs designed to develop a coherent National Program to enhance information infrastructure for research in Universities. There may be some opportunities for funding but it was not clear how this would operate at this stage.

PART B – GENERAL BUSINESS

B1 Office of Research Report

- **Research Student Centre Manager** – interviews had been held without making an appointment. An interim acting manager would be appointed pending reassessment of the situation.
- **Innovation / Spin Off** – a consultant would be employed part-time for a four month period to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a spin off company relating to the MPEG 21 technology.
- **Funding Outcomes** – Nine Rail CRC projects totalling $780,000 had been approved for 2003/04.
- **Management of CRC, CoE** - The administration of larger externally funded research activities was being reviewed with a view to streamlining processes.
- **Research Database** – It had been decided not to proceed with the Callista Research software product and other options were now being considered.
- **2003/4 Research Profile** – Belinda Henwood had started on the 2003/4 Research Profile in collaboration with UniAdvice.
- **2002 Data collection** – The Library was coordinating the publications data collection for 2002.

B2 Research Management at UoW

The Chair had prepared and circulated three Green Papers for discussion and feedback:
1) ‘Overview’;
2) Development of Collaborative Research Linkages;
3) Enhancing Internal Processes for Research Funding at UoW.
Further papers were planned to cover issues such as research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, student issues not yet dealt with etc. Discussion centred on Paper 2 which involved a restructuring of the University’s research strengths and would feed into the 2003 Research and Research Training Management Report. The University would have 10-12 research strengths with the final decision resting with the Vice Chancellor.

**RESOLVED (05/03)**

(i) That the University discontinue the practice of defining its research in four themes;
(ii) that we engage in a process whereby current research units and centres (including externally-funded Centres) are reviewed to identify a number of research strengths that fit the guiding principles listed in Attachment A;
(iii) that we consider expressions of interest from groupings of research units or centres outside those that exist already only in exceptional circumstances;
(iv) that the URC recommend that the URSC develop guidelines and a timetable for implementation based on these principles and the process outlined in Scheme 2.2 of Discussion Paper #3.
(v) that the URSC prepare a list of research strengths to be recommended to the Vice-Chancellor for approval with the URC given the opportunity to comment on the list, noting the tight time frame.

**RESOLVED (06/03)**

That the objectives of the University’s research management strategy be revised as outlined below and that this become the basis of the 2003 Research and Research Training Management Report (RRTMR).

That the overall objective is to support excellent research that has international and national recognition and that brings a sustained benefit to the community. In pursuit of this objective we specifically aim to:

(i) Direct research support towards areas of existing and emerging research strength;
(ii) Provide a quality research environment for higher degree research students who provide a central and distinguishing focus of our research effort;
(iii) Facilitate multidisciplinary research excellence;
(iv) Promote effective partnerships with international, national and regional organisations and industry;
(v) Integrate research objectives into planning processes at all levels of University operations and across all relevant functions;
(vi) Foster a “high performance culture” and implement strategies that encourage and reward both research excellence and effective collaboration.

**B3  Report on RIBG Pool 2**

A list of successful RIBG Pool 2 grants had been circulated for information.

**B4  Draft Proposal for Allocation of Scholarships to URC**
Professor Dou had circulated a paper suggesting a review of the process for the allocation of scholarships by the URC in line with DEST criteria. There was some support for the proposal and the PVCR confirmed that the discussion would feed into a proposed future discussion paper.

**B5  ARC Research Networks**

Members were provided with information on the new ARC Research Networks Program and were advised that guidelines and application forms were yet to be released by the ARC.

**PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING**

**C1  Thesis Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 19 March and 16 April were noted.

*RESOLVED (7/03)*

That the University Research Committee receive the minutes of the University Thesis Committee of 19 March and 16 April.

**C2  Ethics Committee Minutes**

The minutes of 16 April were noted.

*RESOLVED (8/03)*

That the University Research receive the minutes of the University Ethics Committee of 16 April.

**PART D – NEXT MEETING AND OTHER BUSINESS**

**D1  NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 2 October 2003.

**D2  OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

The meeting closed at 2pm.

Signed as a true record  ........................................................

Chairperson  ......../....../ 03