UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Minutes of meeting 05/06 of the University Research Committee held on 6 December 2006 at 9:30am in Kemira Rooms 3 & 4, Building 11.

PRESENT:  Professor M Sheil (Chair)
Professor L Astheimer
Professor S Bouzerdoum
Professor J Chicharo
Professor C Cook
Professor J Fulcher
Ms J Green
Professor D Griffiths
Professor B Harper
A/Professor N Hudson
Ms S Hughes
Professor D Iverson
Professor S Kaye
Dr M Lerch
Ms H Mandl
A/Professor L McNamara
A/Professor S Robinson
Ms K Roser
Dr T Scrase
Dr P Sharrad
Prof T Spedding
Professor G Spinks
Prof L Tapsell
Ms T Tindall
Dr C Too
Professor R Whelan
Professor C Woodroffe
Professor J Wright
A/Prof T Wysocki

SECRETARY:  Susan McGaffin

PART A - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1 Welcome and Apologies

A/Professor N Hudson was welcomed to her first meeting. Apologies had been received from Dr T Coyle, Professor P Crookes, Mr P Day, Professor S Dodds, Professor S Dou, Ms E Ens, Mr K Finlayson, Professor J Glynn, Prof A Lawson, Prof S Leitch, Professor R Lewis, Dr L Lockyer, Dr A Macris, Professor J Norrish, Mr C Patch, Mr C Peden, Dr M Rix, Professor J Steele, Professor M Tsamenyi, Professor A Wells and Professor M Wilson.

Professor S Bouzerdoum was representing Professor D Steel, Professor J Fulcher was representing Dr Y Mu, Ms J Green was representing Professor K Eagar, Professor D Iverson was representing A/Professor S Jones, Ms H Mandl was representing Ms F McGregor, Dr T Scrase was representing Dr L Lyons, Professor T Spedding was
representing Professor S Dolnicar, Dr C Too was representing Professor G Wallace, and A/Professor T Wysocki was representing Professor R Safavi-Nani.

A2  Business from the Last Meeting

A2.1  Minutes of previous meeting (11 October 2006)

RESOLVED (12/06)
That subject to minor amendments, the minutes of the University Research Committee meeting held on 11 October 2006 (04/06) be confirmed as a true record.

ACTION: Susan McGaffin

A2.2  Business Arising from the Minutes

A reminder that the Rhizome Magazine deadline is one week away.

A3  Chair’s Business

A3.1  Appointments

• Mr Peter Evans, has accepted the position of Research Information Systems Manager, Research Services Office.
• Mr David Lind, Manager of Innovation & Commercialisation (MIC) for Engineering, IPRI, Commerce and the Business School has left the University. Recruitment action for a replacement MIC is underway.
• A new Professor of Steel Metallurgy has been appointed, Professor Elena Pereloma.
• Congratulations were extended to Professor Nicholas Dixon, successful nominee to the ARC Physics, Chemistry and Geosciences College of Experts commencing 2007. Professor Sheil thanked all those who had submitted nominations.

A3.2  General

• Professor Sheil took the opportunity to reflect on what an incredible year 2006 has been for research at UOW and thanked members for their efforts.
• The Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Education, Science and Training announced funding awards for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). UOW will receive $1 million from NCRIS as well as additional funds from the NSW State Government. Congratulations to the research teams in ISEM, led by Professor Dou and IPRI, led by Professor Wallace. Professor Sheil also acknowledged the efforts of Professor Astheimer in securing this funding.
• The revised Research Quality Framework will be implemented in 2008. The new Research Information System and Research Online, and our continued research success, will enable UOW to respond effectively to the challenge of the new framework.
• UOW’s first spin-off company enikos has developed software technology which has enormous potential in news and entertainments sectors. enikos has recently received substantial investment from a venture capital pre-seed fund.
• UOW recently signed a licence agreement to patent new technology with US-based company Hyper Tech – one of the largest licensing deals ever entered into by the University. It involves researchers at ISEM and their development of superconducting wires.
• The DVC(R) and PVC(R) will be meeting with Deans and Faculty Research Chairs early next year to discuss 2007 Faculty Research Allocations.
• The Research Services Office has distributed performance data for verification by Research Strengths, with 2007 performance and HDR student allocations to be announced in March next year.
• The Illawarra Cancer Carers and Robert East Memorial Fund have raised almost $250,000 over the past year for cancer research. UOW hosted an official function to recognise these significant donations.
• A larger number of URC Near Miss Grants for unsuccessful ARC Discovery and NHMRC grant applicants has been awarded this year, with the Vice Chancellor providing additional funding to support the Scheme.
• Congratulations were extended to Professor Jan Wright, awarded a successful Linkage International Grant for $159K for the project ‘The impact of attitudes and policies relating to obesity and related health issues on school policy and practices’.

PART B – GENERAL BUSINESS

B1 Research and Innovation Division Report

Noted

B2 Draft URC Research Networks and Strategic Research Initiatives Guidelines

The Committee considered the draft URC Research Networks and SRI Guidelines.

The Chair advised that in addition to the formally approved URC Sonic Arts Research Network led by Prof Greg Scheimer, there are several Research Networks already under development:

• Energy Futures Network (A/Prof Paul Cooper)
• Social Innovation Network (Prof Sara Dolnicar)
• Cancer Research Network (part of the Illawarra Institute for Health and Medical Research)

RESOLVED (13/06)
That the University Research Committee approve the draft URC Research Networks and Strategic Research Initiatives Guidelines.

ACTION: Sharon Hughes

B3 RQF Update

The Committee discussed “The Recommended RQF: Key Elements” document.

DEST will be visiting UOW on 11 December as part of a number of site visits to universities to assess RQF information management requirements and to look at existing repository solutions. It is also hoped that an RQF information management symposium being held by DEST in mid February 2007 will provide details on DEST data requirements.
UOW plans to undertake centralised modelling of possible research groups for inclusion in the RQF. The PVC(R) will meet with Deans, FRCs and key researchers to start identifying these groups and to discuss associated data collection issues early next year.

**RESOLVED (14/06)**
That an electronic copy of the summary “The Recommended RQF: Key Elements” be circulated to Committee members.

**ACTION:** Sharon Hughes

**B4 Commercialisation Training Scheme (CTS) Scholarships**

The Committee discussed the Commercialisation Training Scheme Scholarships.

**RESOLVED (15/06)**
That the University Research Committee approve the Commercialisation Training Scheme (CTS) Scholarships.

**ACTION:** Kim Roser

**B5 Working Party on Authorship Policy & Practice**

The Committee considered the current UOW Authorship Policy and Authorship Consent forms. The Policy will need to be consistent with the new Joint NHMRC/AVCC *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* which is being finalised for release between April-June 2007. Lack of compliance with the new Code could affect our future eligibility to apply for ARC/NHMRC funding.

It was suggested that compliance with the UOW Policy could be improved by better combining our internal publication approval processes with the new RIS Publications module. For example:

- As part of the publications verification process, a signed Authorship Consent form must be received when publications are submitted onto the RIS.
- An automatic email could be generated from the RIS once the publication has been accepted.
- Training for HDR students on appropriate behaviours and protocols for submitting articles.

It was decided to establish a URC Working Party to review the Authorship Policy in line with the new Code. The Working Party will comprise the following members:-

- David Griffiths
- Lee Astheimer
- Sharon Hughes
- Kim Roser
- Helen Mandl
- Michael Lerch
- Jan Wright or Lori Lockyer
RESOLVED (16/06)
That the University Research Committee approve the establishment of a Working Party to review the University’s Authorship Policy.

ACTION: Sharon Hughes

PART C – MATTERS FOR NOTING

C1 Matters from URC

C1.1 HDR Scholarship outcomes for 2007

A total of 72 HDR Scholarship offers have been sent to all successful applicants and 30 letters to reserves and unsuccessful applicants will be sent out shortly.

RESOLVED (17/06)
That the HDR Scholarship outcomes for 2007 be emailed to Committee members.

ACTION: Kim Roser

C1.2 Scholarship rankings going forward

The scholarship rankings, particularly for fast tracked applications, raised some issues this year, e.g., faculties second-guessing criteria. For next year, a more refined process will be introduced which will change how scholarships are ranked with faculties, and enable Research Strengths to play a more independent role in the ranking process.

C2 Matters from Thesis Committee

C2.1 Thesis Committee Minutes

RESOLVED (18/06)
That the URC receive the minutes of the Thesis Committee meetings of 6 September 2006, and 11 October 2006.

ACTION: Julie King

PART D – MATTERS FROM UEC FOR NOTING

D1 The Referencing and Citing Resources Review being undertaken by the Academic Services Division was noted.
PART E – NEXT MEETING AND OTHER BUSINESS

E1 UOW has now purchased a site-wide licence for NVIVO Version 7 software, which will replace single-user licences on campus. Training will be available university-wide for a cost of $100 per person. Faculties will need to budget for this training.

E2 The Institute for Conservation Biology and Law have produced a photo competition calendar for 2007 which is available for purchase at a cost of $22.00.

E3 Next meeting – 9.30 am, Wednesday, 28 March, 2007, Kemira Rooms, Building 11. The meeting closed at 10.30am.

ACTION ITEMS:

Action A2 S McGaffin to file previous URC minutes.
Action B2 S Hughes to post Network and SRI Guidelines on RAID website
Action B3 S Hughes to circulate RQF summary to members
Action B4 K Roser to make amendments to CTS Scholarship document
Action B5 S Hughes to organise establishment of Working Party
Action C1.2 K Roser to email HDR Scholarship outcomes to members
Action C2.1 J King to file previous Thesis Committee minutes.

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

Chairperson  ......................................................