UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Minutes of meeting 01/03 of the University Research Committee held on 27 March 2003 at 12.30pm in the Council Room, Administration Building 36.

PRESENT:  Professor M Sheil (Chair)
           A/Professor L Astheimer (Deputy Chair Resources)
           Professor S Bell
           Professor J Bremner
           Professor H Brown
           Professor C Cook
           Professor J Cooper
           Professor R Dippenaar
           A/Professor S Dodds
           Professor S Dou
           Professor M Gaffikin
           Professor D Griffiths
           Professor B Harper
           Professor J Hill
           Professor D Iverson
           Professor S Kaye
           Ms F McGregor
           Professor J Norrish
           Ms A Simms
           Mr A Skorulis
           A/Professor J Steele
           A/Professor A Vickers
           Professor G Wallace
           A/Professor A Wells (Deputy Chair Postgraduate)
           Professor R Whelan
           A/Professor M Wilson
           A/Professor J Wright

MINUTE
SECRETARY: Penny Potter

PART A - PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

A1  Welcome and Apologies

   Apologies had been received from Professor F Safaei and Professor M Tsamenyi. A/Professor S Dodds was representing Professor John Bern

A2  Business from the Last Meeting

   A2.1  Minutes of previous meeting (10 December 2002)
RESOLVED (01/03)
That the minutes of the University Research Committee meeting held on 10 December 2002 be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

A2.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

A3.3 Centre of Excellence  There had been a positive development with the ARC offering some previously unsuccessful applicants the opportunity to become a Centre of Excellence where the ARC provided less seed funding but greater opportunity over a five year period. Professor Wallace was leading the University’s bid.

B4 Conscientious objection to animal use in undergraduate subjects  The Conscientious Objection Policy had passed through Senate Standing Committee to Senate. The minor changes that had been made involved grammar or clarification (attached).

A3 Chair’s Business

A3.1 HDR Update

The Chair reported that Higher Degree Research Student enrolment numbers were about ten down but were still better than this time last year.

A3.2 Review of CRC Program

The government would be reviewing the CRC program this year.

A3.3 CAPSTRANS

The Key Centres for Smart Foods and CAPSTRANS had both received funding approval for the next two years, and the new Director of CAPSTRANS had arrived.

A3.4 ARC Linkages

There would be an information session for 2004 ARC Linkage Project applications on 4 April. Although there were two rounds this year, researchers would be encouraged to apply for the first round which closed on 9 May.

A3.5 Review of Research Funding

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) had been invited to be part of the AVCC Working Party on Review of Research Block Funding.

A3.6 Publications

The Chair reminded the meeting that responsibility for collection of publications had moved to the Library.
A3.7  ARC Review of Humanities

The ARC Review of Humanities was ongoing and some staff have had input.

A3.8  Science Mapping

The government was undertaking a science mapping exercise and the PVCR had details if anybody was interested.

A3.9  Communications

- The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) reported on the Office of Research Planning Day. Following the changes in staffing an information sheet would be produced to facilitate communication with researchers. In addition Aapo Skorulis and the Office of Research managers would visit the faculties.

- The first Faculty Research Chairs Breakfast Meeting had gone well.

- It was noted that Lenore Lyons was leaving the Office of Research to take up a Research Fellow position at CAPSTRANS. A vote of thanks was made and the PVCR would write to thank her for her work as Postgraduate Research Student Manager.

PART B – GENERAL BUSINESS

B1 Office of Research Report

- Scholarship outcomes had been notified to faculties.
- Discovery Projects – 340 less had been submitted across the sector.
- Staffing – The Office of Research would be advertising for a Database Officer. Susan Clarke and Tim MacDonald had had their positions confirmed.
- NHMRC Equipment Grants - only 2 applications had been received.
- Linkage Infrastructure Grants – 5 applications had been received.
- SciVentures – A Pre-seed Venture Capital Funding Consortium would be visiting the University.

B2 Strategic Planning & Research Units Review

At the University’s planning conference the Vice Chancellor had emphasised that Research Income was a priority for planning purposes. The PVCR had since given her ‘planning’ presentation to several faculties and was currently preparing a discussion paper outlining the University’s current position and priorities. One critical issue was how to define our research strengths. The DEST reporting areas had been decided after UoW had identified its themes and we now needed to match them up and position ourselves for the next ten years. Research initiatives needed to be linked to Faculty planning and recruitment. The discussion paper would be circulated for feedback in May.
PART C – ITEMS FOR NOTING

C1 Thesis Committee Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6 November, 11 December and 12 February were noted.

RESOLVED (2/03)
That the University Research Committee receive the minutes of the University Thesis Committee of 6 November, 11 December and 12 February.

C2 Changes to Advanced Standing

The changes to Advanced Standing endorsed by the University Research Standing Committee on 20 March were noted.

RESOLVED (3/03)
That the University Research Committee endorse the changes made to Advanced Standing regulations.

C3 Meeting Dates Schedule

The meeting dates schedule for the University Research Committee and its operational committees was noted.

PART D – NEXT MEETING AND OTHER BUSINESS

D1 NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 5 June 2003.

D2 OTHER BUSINESS

None.

Signed as a true record .....................................................
Chairperson ....../..../ 03