GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Research Committee was held from 9.30-11:05 am on Monday 23 February 2015 at the Gold Coast Campus (G34_2.02).

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Professor Ned Pankhurst
Professor Sue Berners-Price
Professor David Lambert
Professor Gerry Docherty
Professor Greer Johnson
Professor Wendy Moyle
Professor Nam-Trung Nguyen
Ms Linda O’Brien
Dr Sean Horan
Dr Neda Todorova
Ms Daina Garklavs
Mr Tony Sheil
Ms Julene Finnigan
Mr Nicholas Mathiou

APOLOGIES:
Professor Jason Sharman
Professor Graham Cuskelly
Professor David Shum
Professor Susanne Becken
Dr Vicki Pattemore

Visitors:
Dr Jens Tampe
Mr David Gunsberg

Secretary:
Dr Claudia Arango

1.0 APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies were received from Professor Jason Sharman, Professor Graham Cuskelly, Professor David Shum and Professor Susanne Becken.

The SDVC made the decision to have two ECR members in the Committee to better represent the discipline spread. Dr Neda Todorova and Dr Sean Horan were welcomed as new ECR members of the Committee.

Professor Wendy Moyle returned as member after six months leave.

2.0 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No conflicts of interests were declared at the meeting.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the 8/2014 meeting were confirmed.

4.0 **CHAIR’S REPORT**

4.1 **RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND CENTRES ANNUAL REPORTS AND FOURTH YEAR REVIEWS OUTCOMES**

The Research Institutes and Centres Review Panel evaluated the annual and fourth year review reports provided by each institute or centre and provided feedback about performance, targets, budget, and funding for 2015.

The Chair summarised the outcomes of the reviews:

1. Five research centres/institutes (QCRC, ARI, CQD, ESK and GLY) met the requirements for a fourth year review in 2014 and obtained an overall grade of ‘A’ (‘strong performance’) but the Review Panel emphasised the need for improvement in citation impact and indicators of reputation;

2. Four centres/institutes (GCCR, SLRC, IIIS and URP) will go through a major review during the first half of 2015 and the SDVC asked the PVCs and Deans Research to coordinate preparation of refreshed strategic visions for each of these centres;

3. The Griffith Health Institute (GHI) will undergo major reconfiguration due to the formation of the Menzies Health Institute Queensland. Discussions regarding future research themes will continue throughout the year. For 2015 the existing centres will each be reviewed as scheduled.

4.2 **ARC REPORT ON UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST ROUND OF DISCOVERY PROJECTS AND DECRA**

The ARC provided each administering organisation with comparative charts summarising the performance of their Discovery Projects and DECRA applications. The charts showed that the distribution of successful versus unsuccessful applications is comparable across the various university networks, e.g. Go8, IRU, ATN. Many of Griffith’s applications were clustered in the middle of the ranks indicating that the University needs to continue focusing on shifting highly ranked but unsuccessful applications over the line to improve success rates.

4.3 **EOI PROCESS UPDATE**

The EOI process was introduced to monitor and improve the quality of ACG applications. Concurrent with the introduction of the EOI process, the University has been moving towards a requirement that all research centres and institutes implement processes for internal and external peer review of applications and mentoring of applicants. In order to reduce the administrative burden on researchers and delays in confirming that applications may proceed, the EOI process will be modified to exempt all applications which pass through an approved centre or institute peer review and mentoring process from participating in the central EOI process. Applications which are not subject to an approved process will still be required to take part in the central EOI process.

The Committee approved the draft revised process including the two alternative pathways for applications. The Deans Research will distribute the document *Expression of Interest Process for 2017 Funding Rounds* to research centres, institutes and schools for implementation.

4.4 **ERA 2015 PROGRESS UPDATE**
The Deputy Director Research Policy reported that four Griffith staff members have been appointed as REC members: Professor David Kielbinski, Professor Ross Hornel, Professor Haig Patapan and Professor Nigel McMillan.

Griffith’s ERA 2015 submission is progressing to schedule. Final stage 1 submission will occur in the week of 23 February 2015. The final two-digit FoR explanatory statements will be endorsed by the Deans Research and the SDVC no later than 13 March 2015.

Action
The final ERA report will be presented to the University Council at the June 2015 meeting.

4.5 RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER ON PROPOSAL TO MERGE HERDC AND ERA

Griffith’s response submitted to the ARC on 4 February 2015 noted that none of the three options for combining HERDC and ERA offered by the ARC seems to significantly reduce costs and/or workload for universities, leaving the status quo (i.e. uncoupled ERA and HERDC returns) as the preferred option. This view seems to be shared by others in the sector.

4.6 GRIFFITH SUBMISSION ON THE DEFENCE TRADE CONTROLS AMENDMENT BILL 2015

The Deputy Director, Griffith Enterprise presented an overview of the consultation process undertaken by the Department of Defence through the Defence Export Control Office (DECO) with the tertiary education sector aimed at ensuring that Australian institutions comply with the Defence Trade Controls Act 2012. He also presented Griffith’s submission to the consultation process on the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2015.

Griffith’s submission welcomed amendments to the Act but expressed concern about the short timeframe universities and DECO were likely to have to prepare and assess permit applications following enactment. Following recent consultation it appears possible that the implementation period will be extended allowing universities more time to develop compliance and risk management frameworks. Irrespective of extensions to the implementation period, OR and GE have begun to plan for the audit plan, risk assessment and communication programs directed at relevant research groups within the University.

The Dean GGRS also described on-going discussions with Legal Services to develop a streamlined approach for dealing with the strengthened export controls and the Autonomous Sanctions legislation.

5.0 DEAN, GGRS REPORT

5.1 BOARD OF GRADUATE RESEARCH ACTION SHEET MEETING 9/2014

The outcomes of the Board of Graduate Research (BGR) meeting on 10 December 2014 were noted.

The Chair applauded the combined efforts from Griffith International and GGRS to support international conference travel grants.

Noted
SECTION I: MATTERS FOR DEBATE AND DECISION

6.0 RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN TEMPLATE FOR ACADEMIC GROUPS


The template was presented by the Deputy Director Research Services as a starting point to assist Academic Groups. The Chair pointed out that the template included a $200,000 threshold for equipment included in Sciences and Health Groups plans; this was a guide only and each Academic Group could apply its own judgement in determining the equipment and facilities included.

The PVC INS indicated that Malcolm Wolski would be available to work with Groups on the shared procurement and maintenance of IT infrastructure included in their plans.

Action

Deans Research will submit Academic Group Research Infrastructure Plans by 29 May 2015.

SECTION II: MATTERS REQUIRING RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ACTION

Nil

SECTION III: MATTERS FOR NOTING AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

7.0 PROGRESS UPDATE EICP-FUNDED PROJECTS

The PVC (INS) presented a summary of the 2014 EICP End of Year Highlights Report - Research Portfolio.

Noted

8.0 OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

a) Projects awarded 1/11/14 - 31/01/15
b) Applications submitted 1/11/14 - 31/01/15
c) Consultancies awarded 1/11/14 - 31/01/15
d) AEC minutes meetings 9/2014 and 10/2014
e) HREC minutes meetings 8/2014 and 9/2014
f) UBC minutes meetings 3/2014 and 4/2014
g) AEC 2014 Annual Report
h) HREC 2014 Annual Report
i) UBC 2014 Annual Report

Noted

9.0 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 am on Tuesday 17 March 2015 via videoconferencing between Gold Coast Campus and Nathan Campus.
Confirmed: ........................................ (Chair)

Date: ..................................................
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**Committee Members**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointment Type</th>
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<td>Professor Ned Pankhurst</td>
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<td>Elected member of the Professoriate</td>
<td>To 31 Dec 2015</td>
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<td>Dr Neda Todorova</td>
<td>Early Career Researcher</td>
<td>To 31 Dec 2016</td>
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<td>Dr Sean Horan</td>
<td>Early Career Researcher</td>
<td>To 31 Dec 2016</td>
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**Persons with rights of audience and debate**

- Dr Vicki Pattemore: Director, Office for Research
- Mr Nicholas Mathiou: Director, Griffith Enterprise
- Ms Daina Garklavs: Deputy Director Research Services, Office for Research
- Mr Tony Sheil: Deputy Director Research Policy, Office for Research
- Ms Julene Finnigan: Resource Manager, Finance
- Dr Claudia Arango: Policy Officer Research Excellence, Office for Research (Secretary)

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