A meeting of the Research Committee was held from 9.30-10.50am on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at Mt Gravatt Campus, M10_5.04.

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Professor Ned Pankhurst
Professor Sue Berners-Price
Professor David Shum
Professor Gerry Docherty
Professor David Lambert
Professor Graham Cuskelly
Ms Linda O’Brien
Professor Greer Johnson
Professor Nam-Trung Nguyen
Professor Wendy Moyle

APOLOGIES:
Professor Susanne Becken
Dr Alison Carey
Professor Jason Sharman

Dr Vicki Pattemore
Mr Nicholas Mathiou
Mr Tony Sheil
Ms Daina Garklavs
Ms Julene Finnigan

Secretary:
Dr Claudia Arango

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Professor Susanne Becken, Professor Jason Sharman and Dr Alison Carey.

2.0 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No conflicts of interests were declared at the meeting.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 3/2014 meeting were confirmed.

4.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

4.1 DIRECTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH BUDGET 2014-2015

The Chair commented on the uncertainty for the sector arising from the Commonwealth Budget 2014-2015, noting that the principal focus of changes with significant financial impacts is deregulation of student fees.
4.2 PRELIMINARY OUTCOMES OF NEW ESTEEM AND IMPACT INDICATORS – RESEARCH CENTRE STAIRCASE REPORTING

The Deputy Director, Research Policy presented a brief summary of results for both esteem and impact indicators to be trialled in the 2014 Research Centre Staircase reports. Members of the Committee highlighted the importance of the accompanying narrative, as the indicators measure only one aspect of research performance.

It was noted that the impact indicator, which is based on number of citations over a given period of time, is dependent on the time period chosen and changes in citation benchmarks for individual years over this time period; for example, a paper which is in the top 10 percentile for one year might drop out of that category the following year. Members agreed that, notwithstanding this variability, it would be reasonable to expect to see improvement on these indicators over time.

A report on the preliminary outcomes of new esteem and impact indicators and application to Staircase reporting will be submitted to Executive Group.

4.3 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RANKINGS UPDATE - LEIDEN CWTS RANKING 2014 AND THE TIMES HE TOP 100 UNDER 50

Based on the April release of Leiden CWTS Ranking 2014, Griffith has improved its proportion of outputs in the world top 10% most highly cited papers. The University’s global position in the Times HE rankings Top 100 under 50 rose from 86th to 84th. Members agreed that although the changes in rankings were minor, they provide a general indication of progress while higher citation rates relative to world benchmarks suggested an improvement in the quality of research.

4.4 RESEARCH ACTIVE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION

The Chair reiterated that at the individual level, the new Research Active Standards will inform the ASRP planning process from 2014 but will not have formal performance management implications until 2015. Decisions about the performance management implications of such classifications should only be made in the context of ASRP. Within the ASRP process supervisors in consultation with Deans Academic and Research may ‘deem’ a staff member who has been provisionally identified as research inactive to be research active based on quality considerations or other special factors. This will be approved only in exceptional circumstances.

Members of the Committee discussed possible circumstances under which a staff member listed as research inactive may be ‘deemed’ to be research active.

4.5 QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT ‘ACCELERATE PARTNERSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS’ –APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING IN 2014

The Queensland Government has offered research funding under the 2014 ‘Accelerate Partnerships’ and ‘Accelerate Fellowships’ schemes. A report was presented on applications submitted by Griffith.

The Chair informed members that outcomes of these research funding schemes are likely to be announced around September 2014.

Noted

5.0 DEAN, GGRS REPORT

5.1 BOARD OF GRADUATE RESEARCH ACTION SHEET MEETING 2/2014
The Dean, GGRS provided a report on the outcomes of the Board of Graduate Research April meeting (2/2014) outlined in the Action Sheet.

The Dean informed members that to achieve compliance with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) significant changes were currently being made to the Higher Degree Research Policy to include all HDR Programs (Doctorate and Master (Research)) as well as AQF program information.

Action

The Chair asked the Dean GGRS to present the draft of the revised HDR Policy to the next Research Committee meeting in June (5/2014).

SECTION I: MATTERS FOR DEBATE AND DECISION

Nil

SECTION II: MATTERS REQUIRING RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ACTION

6.0 RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING PARTY INTERIM REPORT AND REVISED GUIDELINES FOR GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Research Infrastructure Working Party provided an interim report on progress in developing the University’s Research Infrastructure Plan. The Working Party recommended changes to the Griffith University Research Infrastructure Program (GURIP) guidelines for a round to be conducted later this year. A survey of the current and developing equipment needs of each Academic Group provided a useful overview of the University’s equipment needs in the immediate future.

Analysis of the survey data highlighted funding required for infrastructure that might be met through the GURIP. The analysis revealed that there is significant demand for equipment in the $100,000 to $400,000 range and proposed that GURIP be used in the 2015 round to fund equipment in this range while equipment and facilities over $400,000 should be sought through the ARC LIEF scheme (or other external scheme) with a University contribution.

The Working Party proposed that priority should be given to applications with wide cross–Group or cross-discipline use and that the assessment process be amended to include a Group-based assessment and prioritisation process before applications are submitted to the Office for Research and considered by the University review panel. The Group assessment would also ensure that the costs of space refurbishment and fit out were addressed in the proposal.

The final report of the Working Party is to be submitted to Research Committee by August 2014 with the Research infrastructure Plan serving as a roadmap for the Groups to establish planning priorities and processes to identify equipment needed to support current and emerging research directions, to ensure cross-Group use of equipment, and to identify strategies for procurement of new equipment and replacement of current equipment.

Research Committee endorsed the revised guidelines for the Griffith University Research Infrastructure Program (GURIP) including the recommendation that the 2015 GURIP round be targeted at equipment requests with a minimum value of $100,000 and a maximum value of $400,000.

7.0 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARC/NHMRC EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) SUBMISSION PROCESS

The EOI process for major grant rounds was revised following analysis of last year’s ARC and NHMRC results and feedback from key participants. The changes to the process include 1)
streamlining the process to remove the NOI component, leaving only one Expression of Interest pro forma to be completed by all intending applicants; 2) consideration of current applications for resubmission right after the rejoinder stage, enabling resubmitted applications to be considered in the same time frame as other applicants; 3) requirement for all research centres and institutes to implement their own internal application improvement and peer review processes. Deans Research will report to Research Committee on the support and peer review processes at Group level and Centres and Institutes will be required to document their processes.

The aim of the new process is to ensure only high quality applications are submitted, and all applicants are provided with the best possible support. Under the new process the SDVC Panels will focus on reviewing project applications that are considered “success-borderline” or those led by researchers with good track record but little recent success.

The Research Committee endorsed the changes proposed to the Expression of Interest process for grant application submissions subject to a review of the timeline to ensure that applications are referred to the SDVC Panel after they have been through the Centre/Institute/Group improvement process.

**Action**

The Deputy Director Research Services will write to Deans Research seeking documentation of each Centre’s peer review process.

**8.0 SYMPLECTIC PROJECT**

A description of the Symplectic project and benefits of the product was provided by the PVC INS. Symplectic is expected to provide an efficient and cost effective means of populating Griffith Research Online and the Research Hub. Work is currently underway to determine the optimum model for integrating Symplectic with the new Research Information Management System.

The PVC INS asked the Committee to endorse the inclusion of the Symplectic project in the EICP as one of the research portfolio projects.

**Action**

Research Committee endorsed the incorporation of the Symplectic project into the research portfolio component of the 2014 EICP program of work. The PVC INS will report regularly to Research Committee on EICP projects, and seek Committee endorsement at critical decision points.

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

**9.0 ERA 2015 UPDATE: ERA 2015 ACADEMIC ADVISERS**

The Deputy Director Research Policy reported on progress in the appointment of more than 60 ERA Academic Advisers as part of the preparations for ERA 2015.

**Noted**

**10.0 EICP RESEARCH PORTFOLIO PROJECTS – APRIL 2014 REPORT**

The PVC INS reported on the EICP Research Portfolio Projects including portfolio and program summaries as well as project-by-project updates as at April 2014.

The Dean GGRS and PVC INS briefed the Committee on the positive response to the consultation process and engagement of the academic community for the development of the ‘Supporting Research Training’ EICP Programme for which Board of Graduate Research will act as a Reference Group.
The PVC INS advised that the delay in progress of projects in the ‘Promoting Research’ and ‘Supporting Research’ programmes were mostly due to unavailability of staff. She indicated that business processes for most projects are already underway and staff are currently being appointed to fill the gaps especially in project management.

**Action**

The Dean GGRS will report to Research Committee on progress of the ‘Supporting Research Training’ EICP Programme.

PVC (INS) will report to members at the next meeting (June, 5/2014) on progress of EICP projects with 0% complete status as at April 2014.

**11.0 DETAILS OF GRANTS AWARDED, APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AND CONSULTANCIES AWARDED**

a) Grants awarded for 01/04/14 - 30/04/14

b) Applications submitted for 01/04/14 - 30/04/14

c) Consultancies awarded 01/04/14 - 30/04/14

d) AEC minutes meeting 02/2014

e) HREC minutes 03/2014

**Noted**

**12.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Research Committee will be held at 9:30 am on Tuesday 17 June 2014 at Gold Coast Campus.

Confirmed: ........................................

(Chair)

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

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Professor Ned Pankhurst</td>
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<td>Professor Greer Johnson</td>
<td>Member - AEL</td>
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<td>Ms Linda O’Brien</td>
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<td>Professor Jason Sharman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Alison Carey</td>
<td>Early Career Researcher</td>
<td>To 31 Dec 2015</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, Corporate Resource Management, Planning and Financial Services
- Dr Claudia Arango: Policy Officer Research Excellence, Office for Research (Secretary)

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