A meeting of the University Research Committee was held from 9:30 am-11:20 am on Tuesday 15 September 2015 at the Mt Gravatt Campus (M10_5.02).

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Professor Ned Pankhurst
Professor Sue Berners-Price
Professor David Lambert
Professor Gerry Docherty
Professor Nam-Trung Nguyen
Ms Linda O’Brien
Professor Greer Johnson
Professor Wendy Moyle
Dr Neda Todorova
Professor Andrea Bishop
Ms Daina Garklavs
Mr Tony Sheil
Mr Nicholas Mathiou
Professor Christine Smith (Acting)

Secretary:
Dr Claudia Arango

APOLOGIES:
Professor Graham Cuskelly
Professor David Shum
Professor Susanne Becken
Professor Jason Sharman
Dr Sean Horan
Ms Julene Finnigan

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Professors Graham Cuskelly, David Shum, Susanne Becken, Jason Sharman, Dr Sean Horan and Ms Julene Finnigan. Professor Christine Smith, Acting Dean Research GBS attended the meeting.

2.0 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No conflicts of interest were declared at the meeting.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 5/2015 meeting were confirmed.

4.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

4.1 COMMENT ON RECENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES

The Chair commented on the recent changes in the federal government and the resulting uncertainty around the education portfolio.
4.2 OUTCOMES OF THE NHMRC NOT FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION (NFFC) 2015 ROUND

The Chair briefed the Committee on the number of NHMRC applications excluded from the evaluation process at the NFFC stage. Thirty-six applications from Griffith (62%) were culled in the process compared to approximately 50% nationally. Twenty-three applications are still under evaluation by the full panel.

The Chair reiterated the need for intending applicants to focus on the quality of the research significance and research background sections to ensure that applications are competitive.

4.3 UPDATE ON CURRENT CONSULTATION PAPERS

• WATT REVIEW OF RESEARCH POLICY AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Deputy Director Research Policy briefed members on Griffith's response to the consultation from the Department of Education and Training on the review of research policy and funding arrangements led by Dr Ian Watt (the Watt Review). The submission is due on 18 September 2015.

The draft Griffith response will be circulated to members after the meeting for information and feedback.

The Deputy Director Research Policy will share Griffith's submission with Mr Conor King, IRU.

• ACOLA RESEARCH TRAINING SYSTEM REVIEW

The Dean GGRS reported on the Griffith response to the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) consultation on Australia’s research training system. The response was submitted on 31 August 2015.

4.4 UPDATE ON RESEARCH CENTRES REVIEWS

The Chair briefed the Committee on discussions regarding the Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems (IIIS) including the recruitment of a new Director.

The Dean Research AEL reported that strategic plans for the Law Futures Centre and the Griffith Centre for Cultural Research (GCCR) will be presented at the October and November Research Committee meetings respectively.

The Dean Research Griffith Sciences will update the Committee on the review of the Urban Research Program (URP) at the next meeting.

5.0 DEAN, GGRS REPORT

5.1 UPDATE ON THE BGR MEETING 6/2015

The Dean GGRS presented the Action Sheet arising from the BGR meeting on 26 August 2015. Actions included recommendation for approval of the amended Academic Misconduct Policy – Higher Degree Research Students by University Council, the submission of the ACOLA response, and endorsement of recommendations of the Scholarship Allocation Working Party.
5.2 SUMMARY OF UPDATES TO THE ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY – HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH STUDENTS

The Dean GGRS briefed the Committee on changes to the Academic Misconduct Policy – Higher Degree Research Students to be submitted to the next Academic Committee for approval.

SECTION I: MATTERS FOR DEBATE AND DECISION

6.0 REVIEW OF THE NEW RESEARCHERS GRANTS SCHEME (NRG)

The Deputy Director Research Services presented a review of the NRG and recommendations for discussion by members of the Committee.

The Committee approved the recommendations with amendments as follows:

1. The Office for Research will continue to follow up awardees who have not submitted a final report with a copy to the Dean Research who should also follow up with awardees. In cases where grantees fail to submit final reports within an acceptable timeframe, their Academic Group will be required to repay the grant to the SDVC budget.

2. In line with the intent of the scheme to support researchers within the first five years of their PhD and who have not held a significant grant, staff employed at levels D and E will not be eligible for funding.

3. Academic Group processes must ensure that applications are thoroughly reviewed for eligibility:
   (a) Check if applicant has external funding by asking OR to provide reports on grant activity for applicants;
   
(b) Check if NRGs have been awarded in the past. Researchers with more than 3 internal GU grants should be mentored on how to translate the NRG to an external application. Applicants previously in receipt of internal or external funding will not normally be awarded a NRG unless there are extenuating circumstances.

4. As up to 45% of awardees do not submit a subsequent external grant application or receive CCR income and as the success rate of external applications is declining, Deans Research offices are to follow up awardees on their future funding on grant applications intention plans at the end of the each NRG funding period and provide advice on developing their career trajectory regarding funding and assigning mentors to assist in this area assistance as required including assigning mentors for application preparation.

5. Unallocated funds from any Group in a round will be reallocated to other Groups with unfunded but supported reserve applications. AEL and GBS do not always allocate all NRG funds allocated to the Group. Following the receipt of their recommendations, transfer and residual funds to Health and Sciences Group for allocation for either reserve applications or reimbursement of Group funded NRGs.

7.0 REVIEW OF THE GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY CODE FOR THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

The Committee resolved to recommend approval of the revised version of the Code to the Academic Committee subject to several minor changes discussed.

8.0 DRAFT ‘STRATEGIC PUBLISHING GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS: FROM PLANNING TO IMPACT’
The Committee discussed the draft ‘Strategic Publishing Guidelines for Authors: From Planning to Impact’ and agreed it needs to be split into two or more documents that target specific audiences or areas.

Action
The Director Office for Research will lead the development of the documents taking into account the Committee’s suggestions.

9.0 DRAFT NHMRC POLICY ON MISCONDUCT RELATED TO NHMRC FUNDING

The Deputy Director Research Policy tabled the Griffith response sent on 10 September 2015 with feedback to the NHMRC on the implementation of the Draft Policy to take effect from 1 October 2015. The members noted that Griffith provided a positive response endorsing its implementation but commented on the possible unnecessary reporting of technical breaches that are not misconduct.

10.0 ANIMAL USE TRAINING AND COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

The Director Office for Research presented the AEC proposal to the Research Committee on their assessment of requirements for Education, Training and Competency Assessment for Animal Use at the University.

The Committee agreed the University needs a more consistent systematic approach for this assessment to ensure enhanced compliance.

Action
The Office for Research will prepare a document that identifies the current gaps in training and recording of procedures as basis for developing the proposal for further assessment in a future Committee meeting.

SECTION I: MATTERS FOR DEBATE AND DECISION

SECTION II: MATTERS REQUIRING RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ACTION

Nil

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

11.0 UPDATE ON THE RIMS PUBLICATION MODULE

The Director Office for Research updated the members on the progress of the Publications module of RIMS.

12.0 OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

a) Projects awarded for 01/07/15 - 31/08/15
b) Applications submitted for 01/07/15 - 31/08/15
c) Consultancies awarded 01/07/15 - 31/08/15
d) AEC minutes meetings 06/2015
e) UBC minutes 02/2015

13.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 am on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at the Gold Coast Campus (G34_2.02).

Confirmed:  
(Chair)

Date:  

(Chair)
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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>
<td>Chair</td>
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<td>Elected member of the</td>
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<td>Dr Neda Todorova</td>
<td>Early Career Researcher</td>
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<td>Dr Sean Horan</td>
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Persons with rights of audience and debate

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<tr>
<td>Professor Andrea Bishop</td>
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<td>Mr Nicholas Mathiou</td>
<td>Director, Griffith Enterprise</td>
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<td>Ms Daina Garklavs</td>
<td>Deputy Director Research Services, Office for Research</td>
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<td>Mr Tony Sheil</td>
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<td>Ms Julene Finnigan</td>
<td>Resource Manager, Business Partners, Finance</td>
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<td>Dr Claudia Arango</td>
<td>Policy Officer Research Excellence, Office for Research (Secretary)</td>
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