GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

A meeting of the University Research Committee was held from 9:30 am-11:40 am on Tuesday 10 November 2015 at the Nathan Campus (N54_2.02).

MINUTES

PRESENT:

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

Secretary:
Dr Claudia Arango

APOLOGIES:
Professor Jason Sharman

1.0 APOLOGIES and ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Apologies were received from Professor Jason Sharman currently on study leave.

The Chair thanked Professors Wendy Moyle and Jason Sharman for their contribution to the Committee during the term of their membership.

2.0 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No conflicts of interest were declared at the meeting.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 7/2015 meeting were confirmed.
SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO ACADEMIC COMMITTEE AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES

4.0 DRAFT PLAN FOR THE GRIFFITH CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH

One of the outcomes of the 2014 annual review process was for the GCCR to undergo major review during 2015. The Dean Research AEL presented the plan for the GCCR ‘A new vision of the Griffith Centre for Cultural Research 2016-2020’ which has engaged a wider group of researchers and thematic programs. The Committee agreed the document outlined a strategic new direction for the Centre and the Chair commented on its quality and coherence.

Resolution

The Committee resolved to endorse the GCCR plan to be approved by the Academic Committee. The Group can proceed to issue an Eoi for the Director role and make an appointment before the end of 2015. The proviso is that the new Director will review the plan and bring an appropriately revised version to the first Research Committee meeting in 2016 (February).

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

5.0 EICP 2016-2018 RESEARCH PORTFOLIO MASTER LIST

The Chair and the Director, Office for Research presented a short briefing paper on the EICP funding allocation strategy and a list of potential research portfolio projects for 2016-2018 identified with input from Deans Research and Centre Directors. The Research Committee, as the EICP Research Portfolio Board, was asked to maintain a clear overview of the current long-list, the approved priority projects and to monitor progress and outcomes for each. The Committee will be called upon to provide advice and input in relation to projects in train and to the risks and opportunities for EICP funded projects that may emerge as a consequence of the evolving research landscape over the funding period 2016-2018.

Resolution

The Committee approved the strategy and the long-list proposed in the document.

6.0 WORKING PARTY ON CREATIVE RESEARCH OUTPUTS REPORT

The Dean Research AEL invited the Research Committee to discuss the key recommendations outlined in the report by the Working Party on Creative Outputs. The recommendations were based on analysis of current practice within Griffith and elsewhere. The Committee agreed on the need for more structured and timely classification, verification and approval processes for creative research outputs. The Committee noted the likely positive impact of increased recognition of creative outputs on the application of the Research Active standards and Centres reporting. The new processes should also improve the ASRP by ensuring full and timely recognition of creative research outputs.

Resolution

The Committee supported the recommendations made by the Working Party on Creative Outputs and invited further analysis of number of creative outputs and scope of activity before approving implementation of the new processes. The Committee expects continuing discussions in early 2016.

SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

Nil
SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION

7.0 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CENTRE FOR CITIES RESEARCH

One of the outcomes of the 2014 annual review process was for the Urban Research Program (URP) to undergo major review during 2015. The Dean Research Griffith Sciences presented a first draft of the proposal 'Centre for Cities Research' at the October meeting (item 7, 7/2015). The Committee made a series of suggestions and asked for a revised proposal to be submitted to its November meeting. At this meeting, the Dean Research Sciences presented a revised, expanded version of the proposal.

The Committee encouraged the formation of the Centre and agreed on the direction of the new proposal including definition of thematic streams and the personnel affiliated with them. The Committee recommended that the proposal needs further strengthening to better reflect the leadership and strategy. It was agreed that the proposal should undergo further development around strategy and membership before the 2016 URP Centre budget can be released.

Resolution

The Committee provisionally approved the Centre but resolved not to endorse the Centre proposal in its current form for final approval by the Academic Committee. The item remains under discussion.

The Senior DVC will discuss with the Centre Director matters related to URP staff contracts coming to an end.

8.0 REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET FOR THE LAW FUTURES CENTRE

The document 'Strategic Plan for the Law Futures Centre' incorporating feedback provided at the Committee’s October meeting (item 6, 7/2015) was noted. The document was endorsed for consideration by Academic Committee for final approval. The draft operational plan including a budget for the Law Futures Centre was also noted.

9.0 EICP – RESEARCH PORTFOLIO STATUS REPORT

The EICP Status Report (September 2015) was noted.

10.0 2016 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (GURIP) OUTCOMES

The report on the conduct of the 2016 GURIP was noted. The Chair commented on the improvement in the process in 2015 round mostly due to the academic Groups rankings which made the final selection easier than in previous years.

11.0 OTHER MATTERS NOTED

a) Projects awarded for 01/10/2015 – 31/10/2015
b) Applications submitted 01/10/2015 – 31/10/2015
c) Consultancies awarded 01/10/2015 – 31/10/2015
d) HREC Minutes 07/2015
e) AEC minutes meeting 08/2015
12.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

12.1 UPDATE ON UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA DVCR MEETING

The Chair reported on a variety of topics discussed at the recent UA DVCR meeting (5-6 November, Melbourne). Dr Ian Watt, commissioned by the federal government to conduct the Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements (Watt Review) was present at the meeting.

Main topics of discussion were: uncertainty around changes to the Research Block Grant (RBG) arrangements, likely transition period until changes come into effect in 2017 (2018 funding); proposal for RTS allocation based on ERA rankings; the assessment of impact and engagement with industry, with the possibility of a combined ERA-HERDC process. Other matters discussed were the uncertainty around the intellectual property policy and the incentives to universities to increase and improve engagement and collaboration with industry. There might be clearer indications of new funding arrangements with the Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook to be released in December 2015.

The NHMRC was represented at the UA DVCR meeting mostly to discuss the implementation of the NHMRC revised Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the processes related to research misconduct (see item 4.2 RC meeting 5/2015). Also, DVCRs commented on the management of the three-week embargo of the NHMRC 2016 outcomes.

A possible delay in the release of the ERA 2015 outcomes in early to mid-December due to the ARC’s need for reassessment of some units of evaluation from several universities was also discussed at the meeting.

12.2 ARC AND NHMRC FUNDING OUTCOMES

The Chair reported on the positive outcomes for Griffith in the 2016 funding rounds for ARC Discovery Projects and NHMRC Project grant schemes. The Chair commented on the need to concentrate efforts on recruiting potentially highly competitive DECRA applicants nationally and internationally and making sure that only the best quality applications are submitted.

The Chair commended the Institute for Glycomics’ 40% success rate in NHMRC Project grants, the positive outcomes for Eskitis and the award of an NHMRC grant to AEL. The Committee discussed the need to disseminate the Glycomics’ peer review process as an example of best-practice to other Centres and Institutes. The Health Group and particularly the MHIQ will look into strategies to improve their success rate.

The Chair asked the Deputy Director Research Services to provide an analysis of the NHMRC outcomes including near misses and resubmissions at the next Research Committee meeting.

12.3 UPDATE ON RESEARCH CENTRES REVIEWS

The Chair commented on the main outcomes of the Research Centres annual reviews and fourth-year reviews. The overall view was that Centres are still working towards achieving thematic coherence and that Griffith needs to further grow the number of high-performing individuals; most Centres research performance is centred on a small number of researchers.

The Chair reiterated the expectation for Centres to spend 50% of the budget on HDR and ECR support. The Deans Research were invited to discuss with the senior DVC strategies to support HDR students not affiliated to any Centre, especially in Business and AEL.
12.4 UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRIFFITH CORE RESEARCH FACILITIES (CRFs)

The Chair advised the Committee that Executive Group fully supported the proposal to establish Griffith Core Research Facilities and that the next step would be for the case study facilities to develop a business plan template which sets out funding of a position (HEW8-9) could be best utilised. A further round of CRFs is to be conducted in 2016 for implementation in 2017 when the University will incorporate funding of all CRFs centrally through the University budget. The Dean Research AEL commented that facilities providing a service not focused on equipment could also be included as CRF and suggested that consideration be given to funding the Griffith Social and Behavioural Research College as a CRF.

The Chair thanked everyone involved in the previous Research Infrastructure Working Party which had led to the CRFs concept.

12.5 FUTURE RESEARCH LANDSCAPE –DISCUSSION PAPER TO EXECUTIVE GROUP

The Director Office for Research provided a short overview of a related series of consultation processes in which the University sector has been engaged. The purpose of the paper presented to Executive Group first and now to Research Committee was to raise awareness of significant external drivers that are likely to impact Griffith’s future operations and to stimulate thinking and discussion about alternative future landscapes.

13.0 DEAN, GGRS REPORT

13.1 UPDATE ON THE BGR MEETING 8/2015

The Dean GGRS presented the Action Sheet arising from the BGR meeting on 28 October 2015. The main item discussed was the establishment of a Research Methods and Statistics Training Taskforce for a university-wide coordination and resourcing of training of HDR students, ECR and possibly supervisors.

14.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at the Gold Coast Campus (G34_2.02).

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

(Chair)

Date: .............................................

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#### Committee Members

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Professor Jason Sharman</td>
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<td>Dr Neda Todorova</td>
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<td>Dr Sean Horan</td>
<td>Early Career Researcher</td>
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#### Persons with rights of audience and debate

- Professor Andrea Bishop: 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, Business Partners, Finance
- Dr Claudia Arango: Policy Officer Research Excellence, Office for Research (Secretary)

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