A meeting of the Research Committee was held from 9.30-11.30am on Tuesday 17 July at Mt Gravatt, Social Science M10 Room 5.01.

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Professor Ned Pankhurst
Professor Sue Berners-Price
Professor Richard Bagnall
Professor Andrew O’Neil
Professor David Shum
Professor Lyn Griffiths
Associate Professor Michael Blumenstein
Associate Professor Rodney Stewart
Ms JoAnne Sparks
Professor Yi-Chong Xu
Dr Vicki Pattemore
Ms Daina Garklavs
Mr Tony Sheil
Associate Professor Duncan Nulty
Ms Julene Finnigan

APOLOGIES:
Professor Brad Sherman
Dr Katherine Main

Secretary:
Dr Freya Mearns

1.0 WELCOME
Apologies were received from Professor Brad Sherman and Dr Katherine Main.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the 3/2012 meeting of the Research Committee were confirmed.

3.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

3.1 ARC FUNDING SCHEMES

3.1.1 The Chair advised the Committee that six out of fourteen Griffith University Linkage applications for funding commencing in July 2012 had been
successful, and reported that the successful applications included some researchers new to the Linkage scheme. He noted that this was a high success rate (43%) compared to the national average; however, the eight that were unsuccessful were not within the top 25% of unsuccessful applications. The Chair advised that the Linkage scheme is likely to become more competitive in future rounds due to funding being required for other ARC commitments. The Committee noted that the successful Linkage project listed as an AEL project in the Attachment was an AEL and Health collaboration.

3.1.2 The Chair reported that the current Future Fellowships round (for funding commencing in 2012) had not yet been announced. The future of the scheme beyond the 2012 round for funding commencing in 2013 was currently unknown. The Committee noted that the budget outlook was shifting and that the Government may need to make some difficult decisions around the distribution of funding for future years.

3.1.3 The Chair reported that 32 Expressions of Interest for the next Future Fellowships round were currently being considered internally. The Chair noted that the University is unlikely to be submitting 32 applications to the ARC in this scheme and will be looking for support from PVCs and Deans in assisting applicants to understand, where necessary, why their applications have not been permitted to proceed after assessment in the EoI process.

3.1.4 The Chair advised that the ARC has called for nominations for appointment to the ARC College of Experts in 2012-2013.

3.2 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY’S 2012 HERDC SUBMISSION FOR 2011 INCOME AND PUBLICATIONS

3.2.1 The Chair reported that the HERDC submission for 2011 income and publications has been submitted. The Deputy Director, Research Policy advised that reported research income had risen from $64million in 2010 to $74million in 2011, including increases in Australian Competitive Grants income, Other Public Sector income, and Industry and Other Funding income, but that CRC income had dropped slightly. The Deputy Director, Research Policy noted that the increase in NHMRC funding (56%) was particularly pleasing, but that the ARC funding increase (17%) was also good. The Committee noted that a change in accounting methodology this year (from cash accounting to accruals accounting) had led to a one-off increase of $4.8million in the reported totals, and so it would be difficult to match this increase next year. The Committee also noted that this would have implications for Staircase reports. The Chair advised that the areas of the University’s research income portfolio which could be expanded were commercialisation income, CRC income, and NHMRC-related income, but that it would be harder to expand in other areas, where maintaining current levels of funding would be considered a good outcome.

3.2.2 The Deputy Director, Research Policy advised that the University target of a 5% increase in HERDC-reported publications had been exceeded. The Deputy Director advised that the number of books reported was slightly lower than in 2010 but that this could in part be due to a change in rules with regards to the eligibility of electronic books. The Committee noted that the number of published book chapters and journal articles had increased, though the number of peer reviewed conference publications had decreased. The Deputy Director advised that there appears to be some confusion among researchers about the fact that peer-reviewed conference publications don’t count towards Research
Active status (except in Engineering and ICT elements) but do count towards HERDC-reported publications.

3.3 INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC) ARRANGEMENTS

3.3.1 The Chair advised that an internal audit of the University’s management of risks in the use of biological materials was carried out in 2011. Recommendations arising from the audit, and endorsed by Audit Committee, included a broadening of the terms of reference of the Institutional Biosafety Committee and a transfer of secretariat responsibilities to the Office for Research to align the Committee more closely with the Animal Ethics Committee and Human Research Ethics Committee, and allow for reporting through Research Committee. The Chair noted that this would lead to better organisational oversight of biosafety compliance. The new University Biosafety Committee would report to the DVC(R) rather than jointly to the PVC (Health) and PVC (SEET). The Deputy Director, Research Policy reported that the new University Biosafety Committee would establish a mechanism for central oversight of activities with quarantine-restricted materials and Security Sensitive Biological Agents. It would also allow for clearer separation of the IBC committee secretary role from that of the University’s biosafety coordinator role, and should facilitate streamlining of research compliance requirements for researchers. The Chair advised that the establishment of the new Committee was proposed for 30 September and a draft constitution for the new Committee would be presented at the August Research Committee meeting.

Action

3.3.2 The Office for Research will present a draft constitution for the University Biosafety Committee, and a proposed revision of the Research Committee’s constitution to include the UBC as a standing-subcommittee, for consideration at the August meeting of Research Committee.

3.4 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK

The Chair reported that he had travelled to the University of Southern Denmark in Odense with Gail Murray (Griffith International); the Dean, Research (SEET); Dean, Research (Business); PVC (AEL); and Dean, Research (Health). The Chair advised that the University of Southern Denmark had been identified as a potential partner university some time ago through a benchmarking exercise and that the Vice Chancellor had made a previous visit. This recent visit was undertaken to allow the universities to develop much stronger links. The Chair noted that the University of Southern Denmark was a Griffith-like university with a very good reputation in Europe. He advised that the two universities have a good alignment of research expertise, and both have a large hospital being built adjacent to one of their campuses, to be serviced by light rail. The University of Southern Denmark is very positive about collaborating closely with Griffith University and will be visiting the University in January. The universities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, and are in the process of setting up a joint funding scheme to seed travel and research collaborations.

Noted
4.0 **DEAN’S REPORT**

4.1 **MID-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS ROUND**

The Dean, GGRS reported that there had been a significant increase in the number of scholarships offered in the mid-year round, due to a decision to bring forward 50 scholarships from the end-of-year round. She noted that it is important to ensure that first-class Honours students aren’t disadvantaged in the scholarships rankings, compared to Masters students, due to fewer opportunities to publish. The Chair advised that the quality of applicants in the mid-year scholarships round was very good.

4.2 **OTHER GGRS BUSINESS**

4.2.1 The Dean, GGRS advised that Alyson McGrath will be starting as the new manager of the HDR Student Centre on 13 August.

4.2.2 The Dean, GGRS reported that, as of 11 July, there had been 75 PhD completions for 2012. The Committee noted that the 2012 target for completions is 218.

4.2.3 The Dean, GGRS reported that the HDR Student Centre had implemented recommendations to speed up the examination process but had received some unsatisfactory responses to reminder requests to supervisors to nominate thesis examiners. The Chair requested that these be forwarded to him.

**Action**

4.2.4 The Dean, GGRS will forward to the DVC(R) any concerning responses to requests for nominated thesis examiners.

**Noted**

5.0 **2013 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (GURIP) OUTCOMES**

5.1 The Chair reported that the University had $1.5 million available to award to researchers for infrastructure in 2013 through the Griffith University Research Infrastructure Program (GURIP). A GURIP Panel reviewed 31 applications totalling $2.6 million and has recommended that 24 infrastructure grants be awarded, as outlined in the Attachment. The Chair advised that a couple of applications were not successful due to poorly constructed submissions, while others were not awarded funding due to alternative funding sources having been found for those researchers. The Chair advised that very few applications had been received from AEL and GBS. The Chair requested that thanks be recorded to Ms Susie Head (Technical Services Manager, Health) and Mr Stephen Boyd (Technical Manager, SEET) for their contributions to the panel.

**Resolution**

5.2 The Committee approved the award of GURIP grants as recommended by the GURIP Panel in Attachment 5.1.

**Action**

5.3 The DVC(R) will send thank you letters to Ms Susie Head and Mr Stephen Boyd for their efforts as GURIP Panel members.
6.0 REVIEW OF INTERNAL GRANT SCHEMES

The Chair advised the Committee that it was prudent to regularly review the internal grants schemes to ensure that the University was continuing to receive real benefit from the research budget. The Committee discussed the ten internal grant schemes and confirmed that all provided value to the University; however, it was agreed that:

- the three travel-related grants assessed at Group level (the International Travel Fellowships, International Workshop Awards, and Short Term Visiting Research Fellowship Scheme) should be reviewed in more detail, by the Academic Groups, to determine their success over recent years – the Committee agreed that, if these schemes were justifiable, it might be sensible to consider combining the schemes to allow each Academic Group to make discipline-specific decisions about the relative funding awarded to travel fellowships, international workshops, and visiting Fellows; and
- the Encouragement Grants scheme, though important, was supporting researchers who were already competitive rather than helping researchers who weren’t yet competitive; ongoing award of funding from this scheme will be subject to further budget review during the coming year.

Action

The Deputy Director, Research Services will provide each Dean, Research with a list of grantees over the past five years for the International Travel Fellowships scheme, the International Workshop Awards, and the Short Term Visiting Research Fellowships scheme.

Action

The Deans, Research will provide information on the returns to the University of the International Travel Fellowships, International Workshop Awards, and the Short Term Visiting Fellowships to the Deputy Director, Research Services.

Action

The Deputy Director, Research Services will provide a breakdown of Encouragement Grants and Postdoctoral Fellowships by Academic Group for consideration by the Committee.

7.0 MATTERS FOR NOTING

7.1 Grants awarded for 01/06/2012 – 30/06/2012

7.2 Applications submitted for 01/06/2012 – 30/06/2012

7.3 Consultancies awarded for 01/06/2012 – 30/06/2012

7.4 Animal Ethics Committee Minutes 0312

Noted
8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

The Dean, Research (Health) raised concerns about the fact that biomedical engineers within the Musculoskeletal Research Program cannot have their peer-reviewed conference publications (E1s) count towards their Research Active status simply because they are employed within a Health element rather than an Engineering element. The Dean, Research (AEL) noted that this was also an issue for cross-disciplinary researchers in Education (particularly from the IT discipline), and that creative artists similarly feel that conference publications are important outlets in their discipline. The Committee noted that there may be some technical issues with changing the rules around the inclusion of E1s in Research Active calculations on the basis of discipline rather than element; however, the Chair agreed that the University should ensure that engineering and IT researchers employed in non-engineering/IT elements should not be disadvantaged. The Chair requested that the Dean, Research (AEL) provide a business case for the inclusion of conference publications in Research Active calculations for creative artists.

Resolution

That peer-reviewed conference publications (E1s) should count towards Research Active status for researchers publishing in the engineering and IT disciplines, rather than only researchers employed in engineering and IT elements.

Action

The Deputy Director, Research Policy will investigate technical options for enabling the inclusion of E1s in Research Active calculations for engineering and IT disciplines, rather than only engineering and IT elements, and report back to the Committee at its November meeting.

Action

The Dean, Research (AEL) will submit to the DVC(R), for consideration, a business case for the inclusion of peer-reviewed conference publications in Research Active calculations for creative artists.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be held at 9.30am on Tuesday 14 August 2012 at Gold Coast, Chancellery G34 Room 2.02 (Council Chambers).

Noted

Confirmed: ..............................................
(Chair)

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

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Professor Yi-Chong Xu</td>
<td>Elected Member of the Professoriate</td>
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<td>Dr Katherine Main</td>
<td>Early Career Researcher</td>
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Persons with rights of audience and debate

- Dr Vicki Pattemore: Director, Office for Research
- Ms Daina Garklavs: Deputy Director Research Services, Office for Research
- Mr Tony Sheil: Deputy Director Research Policy, Office for Research
- Associate Professor Duncan Nulty: Griffith Institute for Higher Education nominee
- Ms Julene Finnigan: Resource Manager, Corporate Resource Management, Planning and Financial Services
- Dr Freya Mears: Secretary

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