The 5/2011 meeting of the Research Committee was held from 9.30-11.30am on Tuesday 14 June 2011, at Gold Coast campus, Chancellery, G34 Room 2.02.

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Professor Parlo Singh (Chair)
Professor Andy Bennett
Professor Andrew O’Neil
Professor Lyn Griffiths
Professor David Shum
Associate Professor Michael Blumenstein
Ms JoAnne Sparks
Dr Vicki Pattemore
Mr Tony Sheil
Ms Julene Finnigan

Secretary:
Dr Vicki Sherburd

APOLOGIES:
Dr Calvin Smith
Professor Lesley Chenoweth
Professor Howard Wiseman
Professor Ned Pankhurst
Professor Graham Cuskelley
Ms Daina Garklavs
Professor Richard Bagnall
Dr Katherine Main

Invited:
Ms Mary Meadowcroft (Office for Research)

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 4/2011 meeting were confirmed.

2.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

2.1 ARC LINKAGE PROJECTS

2.1.1 Outcomes Round 2, 2011

The Office for Research reported that Griffith’s success rate of 50% for Linkage Projects for Round 2, 2011 was a significant improvement on the previous round.

2.1.2 Summary of applications for Round 1, 2012

The Office for Research reported that 19 Linkage applications were submitted for funding in the first half of 2012.

Noted
2.2 DISCOVERY EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARD (DECRA) GRANT ROUND REPORT

The Office for Research reported that while there were some excellent applications in this DECRA grant round the success rate was not likely to be high, given that only 200 DECRAs are available nationally in this round. While some elements appear to have provided excellent mentoring of DECRA applicants, the quality of many applications was not high. Academic Groups were strongly encouraged to ensure that internal peer review processes were in place for all future applications.

Noted

2.3 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY POSTDOCTORAL AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SCHEME 2011 ROUND

The Office for Research reported that 54 applications had been received this year. The Selection Panel consists of the DVC(R) and a representative for each Academic Group. The Selection Panel will meet on 16 June to assess the applications.

Noted

2.4 ERA UPDATE

The Deputy Director, Research Policy, Office for Research highlighted some of the key changes to ERA 2012 recently announced by the ARC and Minister Kim Carr. The major change is the removal of journal and conference ranking, which has implications for University KPIs and for Staircase reporting.

The Deputy Director also reported that the low volume threshold for peer review has been increased from 30 weighted outputs to 50, but will have little impact on Griffith for ERA 2012. Another change has been the ability to allocate journal articles to FoR codes other than those to which the journal in question is formally assigned, provided at least 60% of the content of the article is relevant to the chosen FoR.

The ARC approach to adjunct and conjoint appointments has changed for ERA 2012 to require a minimum 0.4FTE for inclusion in the institution’s ERA submission. Publications authored by staff not meeting this criterion will need to show a Griffith by-line to be eligible for inclusion.

The Committee noted concerns across the university sector about lack of transparency in the REC evaluation process, which may be exacerbated by the elimination of journal rankings.

The Deputy Director Research Policy reported that draft ERA submission guidelines are expected to be available in July with the final version expected in September. OR is working with INS-SIR to ensure that all eligible research outputs for the period 2005-2010 are entered into the publications database.

Action: Circulate website for the ARC’s ERA FAQ on the implications for the evaluation process of removing journal rankings.

Noted

3.0 DEAN’S REPORT

3.1 BOARD OF GRADUATE RESEARCH ACTION SHEET

The Dean reported that GGRS had received 122 new HDR scholarship applications for approximately 60 scholarships available in the mid-year round. SEET had the highest number of scholarship applications.
The Dean reported that GGRS is developing a set of Thesis Declaration forms to enable students to confirm originality of thesis material, to acknowledge existing publications which are included in a dissertation, and to convey to the examiners the specific contribution made by the student.

The Dean reported that GGRS is also working on strategies to assist Indigenous students entering a HDR program and to take account of the desire of some Indigenous applicants with a strong professional background for recognition of prior learning.

The Dean highlighted the Conflict of Interest guidelines for examiners now published on GGRS website.

3.2 SUPERVISOR ACCREDITATION REGISTRATION

The presentation on the Supervisor Accreditation Registration was deferred due to the absence of an ill staff member.

Noted

4.0 RESEARCH CENTRES REPORTING

The Deputy Director, Research Policy reported that a large number of fourth year reviews are scheduled in 2011. This has led to some suggested changes to the fourth year review process such as engaging external reviewers remotely rather than in person. Some Committee members indicated they preferred the existing face-to-face process which resulted in instant feedback and provided a different perspective to that of the internal reviewers.

The Committee considered changes to the reporting forms that are designed to relieve the reporting burden for Centre Directors. The Research Centre Fourth Year and Annual Report forms will be pre-populated by PFS and OR and provided to Research Centre Directors around mid July. The Committee agreed that this was an improvement but noted that the loss of journal rankings post 2011 would require consideration of credible alternative indicators of quality.

The Committee discussed the possible future use of ERA esteem and applied indicators and noted that the Deputy Director would be producing a discussion paper within three months proposing substitute Staircase and Centre reporting indicators for 2012. Members pointed out the importance of using both numbers and narrative to convey disciplinary differences across Academic Groups.

The Committee was reminded that it agreed in October 2010 to remove the 10 per cent funding cap, which will affect Research Centre funding for all Centres this year.

The Dean (Research), Health requested that research programs within GHI not be reviewed separately. She requested that the programs scheduled for review in 2011 (due to their former Centre status) be deferred to 2012, at which time GHI should be reviewed as a whole element.

Action: DVC(R) be requested to agree to deferral of currently scheduled GHI program reviews for 2011 in order to review GHI as a whole in 2012.

Approved

5.0 ARC AND NHMRC EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS AND TIMELINES

The item was not discussed due to lack of time. The Committee agreed to forward any feedback to Mary Meadowcroft with a view to presenting a modified proposal at the next meeting.
Noted

6.0 NEW RESEARCHER GRANT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Two options for devolving evaluation and management of the NRG scheme to Academic Groups were presented. Option B, which would see OR developing a single set of guidelines and application templates, advertising rounds and undertaking post-award management, with Academic Groups responsible for the assessment of applications was universally preferred. The Committee considered that further discussion was required around a funding allocation model.

The Committee recommended that:
- All central NRG funds be allocated to Academic Groups, using a funding distribution model to be agreed, to be used for an NRG scheme administered by each Academic Group.
- Guidelines and application forms to be developed and maintained centrally by Office for Research, along with central advertising of rounds and post award management of grants.
- Each Group manage its own process for evaluation of applications, making recommendations for funding approval to Research Committee.
- Groups advise applicants of the outcome of their applications and provide feedback.

Approved

7.0 MATTERS FOR NOTING

7.1 Research Grant Applications for 01/05/2011 – 31/05/2011
7.2 Grants Awarded for 01/05/2011 – 31/05/2011
7.3 Consultancies Awarded for 01/05/2011 – 31/05/2011

Noted

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be held at 9.30am-11.30am on Tuesday 12 July, 2011 at Mt Gravatt campus, Social Sciences Building, M10 Room 5.01.

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

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

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Ms JoAnne Sparks</td>
<td>Member - PVC (INS) nominee</td>
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<td>Professor Lesley Chenoweth</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
Dr Calvin Smith    Associate Director, Griffith Institute for Higher Education
Ms Julene Finnigan Resource Manager, Corporate Resource Management, Planning and Financial Services
Dr Vicki Sherburd  Secretary

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