GRiffith University

RESEARCH Committee

The 4/2011 meeting of the Research Committee was held at 9.30-11.30am on Tuesday 17 April 2011, at Nathan Bray Centre N54 Room 2.01.

minutes

present:

Professor Ned Pankhurst (Chair)
Professor Parlo Singh (Chair, minute items 3, 4, 5, and 7)
Professor Richard Bagnall
Professor Andy Bennett
Professor Lyn Griffiths
Associate Professor Michael Blumenstein
Professor Howard Wiseman
Professor Lesley Chenoweth
Ms JoAnne Sparks
Dr Vicki Pattemore
Ms Daina Garklav

Secretary:
Dr Vicki Sherburd

Apoologies:
Professor Andrew O’Neil
Professor Graham Cuskelley
Professor David Shum
Dr Calvin Smith
Mr Tony Shell
Ms Julene Finnigan

1.0 confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the 3/2011 meeting were confirmed.

2.0 Chair’s report

2.1 NHMRC project grants and training fellowship update

The DVC(R) reported on the recent NHMRC grant round highlighting operational issues and success factors. The EOI process used for this round appears to have resulted in better quality and application feedback through host elements.

The DVC(R) noted that the quantity of grant applications has remained at the same level as last year but that this is in the face of increased researcher numbers and is indicative of improved internal vetting. There is still a need to continue to improve processes and timelines. One way of achieving this is through more timely and serious engagement in the EOI process by researchers. For example only 70 per cent of applications were submitted by the internal deadline which in those cases provided sufficient operational time to properly review applications.

A small number of late applications were not accepted. Late applications were generally only accepted where the researcher was new to the University and therefore unable to participate in the EOI process.

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For this grant round there was a good distribution of applications across the Health and SEET groups.

### 2.2 ARC FUTURE FELLOWSHIPS, LIEF AND DECRA UPDATE

The DVC (R) reported that 27 Future Fellowship applications were approved to proceed to full application. The decision about whether to progress an application was based on analysis of applicant track record, citation performance where relevant and comparison with successful applications in cognate disciplines in previous years. Feedback has been provided to those applicants who were not approved for development of full applications this year with several encouraged to apply next year.

The DVC(R) noted that the University submitted a large number of applications for Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards (DECRAs) to the ARC in this round. As this appears to have been the pattern across the sector, it is anticipated that the success rate will probably be low. After the results of the DECRA round are known a strategy will be developed for managing applications for the next round.

**Noted**

**Action** OR to prepare a paper for the June meeting on the timing of EOI processes for a range of external ARC and NHMRC schemes.

### 2.3 ARC LINKAGE CONFIDENTIALITY RULES

The DVC(R) reported that the ARC had proposed a change to the confidentiality clauses in the funding rules. The nature of the changes caused concern to industry partners by reducing the certainty that commercial information would be kept confidential. The ARC has now reverted to the original confidentiality clauses.

The Deputy Director Research Services reported that the ARC Linkage round had now closed and that 19 applications had been submitted for the round.

**Action** OR to report on Linkage statistics for next meeting.

### 2.4 IP POLICY

The DVC(R) reported on the key changes in the revised IP Policy, which has been approved by University Council.

The benefits to staff are substantial but these need to be communicated. The revised policy aims to encourage early conversations around IP protection and commercialisation. Amongst other changes, the revised policy now encompasses creative and performing arts outputs, and offers a higher percentage share to creators than is the case for other disciplines. There will need to be some engagement with Indigenous stakeholders aimed at developing a protocol for handling the unique IP issues surrounding Indigenous knowledge. Student IP rights are vested with the student although students may be asked to assign IP where contractual or commercial arrangements make this necessary (eg CRC funding contracts; research partially funded by commercial partners). Therefore it is important that research supervisors understand the IP Policy.

The DVC(R) advised information sessions on the revised IP Policy would be run on all campuses and encouraged staff to attend.

**Noted**
2.5 ERA CONSULTATION RESPONSE AND PROCESS UPDATE

The DVC(R) reported that Griffith is waiting on updated ERA guidelines. However, planning for ERA 2012 is proceeding on the basis that similar timelines and processes will be used as in ERA 2010.

The Griffith submission to the ERA consultation proposed minimal changes to the guidelines to maintain comparability over time.

Noted

2.6 ECR NOMINEE

The DVC(R) accepted the nomination of Dr Katherine Mayne for the position of Early Career Researcher on the Research Committee to serve for a term commencing at the June 2011 meeting up to 31 December 2013.

Action OR to prepare a letter of thanks to Dr Mark Kennard and to Dr Ron Levy for agreeing to be nominated.

3.0 DEAN’S REPORT

3.1 UNIVERSITY HDR TARGETS

The Dean reported that Griffith is on track to meet its HDR enrolments target for this year. However it should be noted that mid-year scholarship awardees need to be enrolled by August for these targets to be met and to meet Commonwealth reporting requirements.

The Dean reported that whilst HDR completions have increased Griffith is not on track to meet targets for this year unless current initiatives go to plan. Achievement of future completion targets will require a culture change, with emphasis on the need to complete on time, – and improved performance management of HDR students.

3.2 HDR SCHOLARSHIPS REPORT

The Dean reported that the quality of current applications appears at this stage to be high.

3.2 BOARD OF GRADUATE RESEARCH ACTION SHEET

3 Minute Thesis Competition

The Dean reported interest has been very high from HDR students.

Implementation of HDR policies

The Dean reported that the supervisor training accreditation system is now operational. It is now possible to review whether supervisors have completed mandatory training. GGRS will be providing training on use of this system at Group Research Committee and HDR Convenor meetings.

Noted

4.0 RESEARCH CENTRES POLICY

The Director, OR reported that changes to the Research Centres Policy relate to organisational and terminological changes only. Performance indicators under Section 20.3 have been updated to align with the University's Staircase reporting and ERA and entail no substantive changes.
5.0 RESEARCH COMMITTEE AGENDA AND MEETING PAPERS DISTRIBUTION LIST UPDATE

The new distribution list will include all PVCs, Research Centre Directors, Committee Members and their support staff, and OR staff.

Approved

6.0 RESEARCH PLAN 2011-2013

The DVC(R) reported that the updated Research Plan 2011-2013 sits beneath the University’s Strategic Plan 2009-2013. Many of the objectives contained in the previous Research Plan 2009-2013 plan have been met and ERA has changed the landscape quite considerably for Griffith.

The DVC(R) reported the Plan is intended to signal further review of ASIs and overall strategic investment. The University will seek to strike a balance between internal investment in and support for additional emerging areas of research strength, and external promotion of its larger concentrations of research expertise.

The revised plan is also informed by ERA and the University’s KPIs. While not every area meeting ERA-defined world standard can be a priority for additional strategic investment, this does not imply that the University will not continue to provide financial and infrastructure support for these areas.

The revised plan includes targets such as proportion of staff that are research active, and growth in research outputs but does not specifically address the quality of outputs (e.g., as determined by ERA journal rankings). This is addressed by an explicit strategy in the new Plan. The DVC(R) emphasised that ERA results should be seen as a validation tool for institutional performance strategies rather than a strategy driver in its own right. Overall the University’s Research Plan seeks to embed a quality agenda to deliver the key outcomes against research KPIs.

Committee members were invited to provide feedback by 27 May so the draft Plan can be finalised for tabling at 23 June meeting of Academic Committee.

Approved

7.0 MATTERS FOR NOTING

7.1 Research Ethics and Integrity Matters eNewsletter for Heads of Element
7.2 Research Grant Applications for 03/03/2011 - 31/03/2011
7.3 Grants Awarded for 03/03/2011 - 31/03/2011
7.4 Consultancies Awarded for 03/03/2011 - 31/03/2011
7.5 Human Research Ethics Committee Minutes 01/02/2011

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 14 June, 2011 at Gold Coast campus in Chancellery G34 Room 2.02.

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

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

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DISTRIBUTION LIST

Committee Members

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<td>Professor Howard Wiseman</td>
<td>Member - SEET</td>
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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>Vacant</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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