

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD RESEARCH COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2009, CONFERENCE ROOM, TC LAMBLE BUILDING.

Present: Professor Ray Cooksey (Chair), Professor Heiko Daniel, Professor David Brunckhorst, Ms Anne Rocznio, Mr Grahame Pearson, Professor David Cottle, Mr Jack Bedson, Ms Disna Sajeewani and Belinda Snell (Secretary).

In Attendance: Ms Donna Santilli

1. Apologies and Welcome

Professor Kay Harman, Ms Eve Woodberry and Professor Paul Martin

Ms Disna Sajeewani was welcomed to her first meeting as HDR student representative.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 25th March 2009 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

3. Business Arising/Action Sheet

3.1. Action Sheet

3.1.2 Online Research Approval Form

Development has started with Rod Lewis from Higher Ed Services (HES) on campus for 2 days to work on this as well as the translation and mapping of old RFCD to the new FOR codes for the ERA.

4.1 ERA Update

Weekly reminders/updates will be sent out to remind everyone to list their FOR codes and update publication lists.

The instructions on how the publications will be assessed were released on 28th April 2009. This will help clarify what are the important issues to address for the report from UNE.

4.2 Thai Scholarship Funding

Ray Cooksey had a meeting with the Finance Committee. This issue was raised but there is no clarification or outcome for this. Ray has asked Anne Rocznio to put together the figures for the 8 applications that were ranked so the financial commitment required for offering them international scholarships can be assessed.

5.1 Review of Policies

The Policy and Procedures Governing Research Institutes, Centres and Groups has been placed on hold in the agenda at this stage as further strategic discussion needs to be held with the DVC and the Pro-Vice Chancellor/Deans on desirable models of and strategic intentions for Research Centres and Institutes into the future and the funding models, staffing models, inputs and outcomes that would be required. This discussion will occur in the larger context of a strategic review

of how UNE should fund research activities (including HDR scholarships) into the future.

5.2-5.4 Discretionary Research Funds

Ray Cooksey and Donna Santilli have worked with the Finance Directorate and the PVCRC budget for 2009 has been finalised and approved by the Finance Committee of Council. There is some discretionary money in the PVCRC budget to use for strategic purposes, but for 2009, a sizeable chunk of this money will be committed to fund 10 additional international scholarships.

5.6 Centre for Applied Molecular Microbiology

This Centre is a Faculty based Centre therefore there is no need for Academic Board Research Committee approval as this only needed to be noted for the record. Ray Cooksey has clarified this with the proposed Centres Director, Associate Professor Brian Cheetham, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean, Professor Margaret Sedgley.

6.2 PVCRC Newsletter: Research@UNE

The first issue of the newsletter has been sent out via une-official and was well received. The next issue will be released in the coming weeks with a spotlight on climate change research.

4. Standing Items

4.1. Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)

Meetings have begun with the Heads of Schools regarding what the ERA is and what will be required from all academics.

Information from 2002 to 2008 is being collected. The ERA trial only requires the data from 2002-2007 but the 2008 data will be collected for this year's publication report to DEEWR.

John Vandenberg is currently working on collating this information as well as the mapping and translation of RFCDC to FOR codes within the publication and research grant databases.

Some queries were raised about the impact of publication-specific FOR codes (outlets) against the FOR codes selected by the researchers, especially in cross-disciplinary areas. As this is only the ERA trial (the full exercise will begin next year), this issue will be addressed before the full exercise is carried out.

4.2. UNE Research Strategy

The Research Funding meeting to be held in mid May will be the starting point for this issue. The Faculties are holding or have already held research strategy days which will feed into this overarching topic. The issue of School based strategic plans was discussed at the last meeting of the PVC Portfolio group where the concept of schools having implementation maps for the University strategic plan (as opposed to their own distinct strategic plans) was discussed.

[Chair's Note: I have pushed the meeting date for the Research Funding strategy meeting until after June 5th. This is so I can obtain feedback from staff in centres and institutes about supporting research and how support services might be improved and about possible models for centres and institutes. This feedback will be obtained in a Research Forum to be held June 5th.]

4.3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report

Professor Kay Harman was an apology at today's meeting so her report will be distributed to the committee members out of term when it is available.

Professor Heiko Daniel mentioned a few points that were flagged: A letter will be drafted by Kay Harman, Professor Larry Smith and Professor Paul Martin about the problem with lack of International Scholarship funding in 2009. This letter will be sent to the DVC and VC once completed.

Also, the Graduate Attributes and Postgraduate Attributes have had all editorial changes made and are now in the final stages of desktop publishing for release.

5. Other Business

- 5.1.** The Council will decide at their meeting this week whether UNE will become a member of INTERSECT. There is funding available for this membership.

[Chair's Note: The Council deferred the decision on the request to join INTERSECT; it asked for more information and clarification from Ray and will then consider the decision to join via flying minute.

- 5.2.** Anne Roczniock has been working on the Future Research Leaders program and it is proposed to be implemented through ODU with possible academics available for the panel and assessment. The Future Research Leaders is a G08 engineered online program of an induction module and 8 core modules covering areas such as how to obtain research funding and project management.

The implementation will be stage based with each module being available separately to begin with. As there was a delay in starting the implementation because of the delayed access to the license, we have been granted an additional 3 months.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 11.00 a.m. Wednesday 27th May 2009 in the Conference Room, TC Lamble Administration Building.

The meeting was closed at 3:15pm.