



Research Induction Committee

Meeting 2/07 of the Research Induction Committee, Faculty of Education held on Wednesday 16TH May 2007 at 09.00 a.m. in the room GO8, Building 6, Clayton Campus.

Mr Mayur Katariya - Executive Officer

1. Introduction to Formal Business

1.1 Present

Assoc Prof Trevor Gale (Chair), Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz, Mr Calvin Taylor, Dr Umesh Sharma, Dr Mandi Berry, Prof Peter Sullivan. Dr Jill Brown

The Chair notified that Dr Margaret Gearon is no longer serving on the Committee.

1.2 Observers

Dr John Roodenberg and Dr Janette Simmonds

1.3 Apologies

Dr Jenny Miller and Dr Zofia Pawlaczek

1.4 Minutes

Mr Mayur Katariya

2. Minutes

Motion:

The Minutes of meeting no. 01/2007 of the Research Induction Committee held on Wednesday 21st February 2007 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Mover: Assoc Prof Trevor Gale

Seconded: Dr Amanda Berry

Carried: Unanimously

3. Starring of unstarred items

All items for discussion on the Agenda were starred.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Proposals for New HDR Combined Courses

- Combined Master of Psychology (Counselling)/PhD
- Combined Master of Psychology (Educational & Developmental)/PhD

Proposed combined courses will offer a combined degree of Master of Psychology and PhD. Monash has not offered PhD in a combined degree mode. While Master of Psychology will be administered by the Faculty, PhD



will be administered by the MRGS. Master of Psychology component is designed such that it meets the APS requirements. Faculty wishes to offer these Combined degrees under the RTS. Faculty believes that the research component in both of the courses is more than 66%. Only H1 or H1 equivalent students could secure the place in the Combined degrees. Other students would require to meet the eligibility criteria at the end of the first year in the course. Faculty is aiming to offer these courses in the beginning of the 2008. These courses will have one intake per year and international students would be able to apply for the courses subject to the approval from the Government.

The proposals were approved by the MRGS Steering Committee on the 15th May 2007 in principle, subject to the suggested changes incorporated in the proposals.

Motion:

The Committee approves the proposals tabled in principle and authorises the Chair and the Director of Research to endorse the updated version of the proposals as per the suggestions made by the MRGS Steering Committee and the Faculty Board.

Mover: Prof Peter Sullivan

Seconded: Dr Umesh Sharma

Carried: Unanimously

The proposals will be tabled in the forthcoming RGSC (Research Graduate School Committee) meeting and Academic Board meeting. The proposals will also be tabled for the endorsement of the Faculty Board.

4.2 HDR Recruitment Plan

Chair informed the HDR recruitment was considered as a possible theme for the Faculty day. After the initial discusses in the Faculty Day Organising Working Party meeting, it was decided that the theme was slightly limited for the scope of the Faculty Day.

4.3 The Committee noted the document regarding the purpose and role of the Education Committee.

4.4 Coursework in PhD

The decision reached in the last Research Induction Committee was conveyed to the Chair of the RGSC Prof Max King. Prof Max King is organising a meeting with Associate Deans and Deans Executives to further discuss the proposal.



5. Reports

5.1 MERC Report

MERC Representative reported that the MERC Conference Working Party has been regularly convening its meeting to organise the MERC Conference on the 4th July 2007. The Conference theme is based around the Faculty's Research Strengths, each Research Strength has been invited to convene a discussion panel and encourage their students to attend the Conference.

EROS (Emerging Researchers Open Seminars) and Writing Group symposiums organised by the MERC are well attended.

MERC is endeavouring to organise events on the Gippsland Campus.

5.2 Associate Dean (Research Degrees and Induction) Assoc Prof Trevor Gale to report

- Research Induction and Degrees Report

The Chair tabled the document with the note that there are many indicators that suggest that the Faculty HDR admission, administration and services are improving. Committee noted the report.

- HDR Load 2007 and Funding

Chair informed the Committee that the DEST allocated funding for specific number of RTS places is distributed amongst the Faculty as per the University funding formula. Since the University did not meet its total RTS allocated load, more funding per student was made available. The Faculty got funded for total 171 EFTSL. The Faculty's original RTS allocation was 152 EFTSL.

- Research Month 2007

From 20th August to the 21st September the University is organising the Research Month. A series of internal and external events will be organised to celebrate the outstanding research and researchers of the Monash University.

- Exit Survey 2006

The Committee noted the document tabled in the RGSC (Research Graduate School Committee) meeting.

- HDR scholarships Funding Sources

The Chair informed the Committee that the Faculty Marketing manager has been requested to pursue the HDR scholarships from the external sources. Such scholarship could be counted as the Faculty's research income. Prof Sullivan suggested that support from



the schools and education provider should be sought. Significant number of schools supports their teachers to pursue the master or doctorate studies in education and pursue research in the area of concerns for the schools.

- Report on Policy/Code of Practice Compliance in Research Training

The Committee noted the document tabled in the RGSC (Research Graduate Scholl Committee) meeting.

- Membership of RIC and RDSC

The Chair suggested that currently vacant position of the Director of the Coursework Program will have the membership on the Committee.

- Researcher Keywords

The Chair informed the Committee that two Research Strength Leaders have already provided a set of keywords that best describes the research interests and research of its members. A meeting with Ms Tania Bull and the IT Manager Mr David Solly is organised to further discuss the project. Chair will request all the Research Strength Leaders in the Research Committee meeting to finalize the set of keywords.

- The Winter School 2007

Mr Mayur Katariya tabled a draft of the timetable of the Winter School 2007 sessions. Mr Katariya reported that two Research Strengths, Childhood Studies and Culture Language and Diversity, have actively contributed in the Winter School. Each of these Research Strengths are presenting seminars that are relevant but not limited to the HDR students associated with these Strengths.

- HDR Orientation

The Research Degrees Office will organise the HDR Orientation during the Research Month in August-September 2007.

- HDR Office allocation

Mr Mayur Katariya informed the Committee that a new HDR student office, at the Clayton campus, in G15 has been refurbished and current HDR office in room number 354 will be refurbished in the semester break. It is estimated that on the Clayton Campus there will be sufficient number of shared offices available to meet the Faculty's full-time HDR student recruitment target. Mr Katariya also reported that Mr Vicky White, The Campus Manager is keen to provide extra HDR offices on the Peninsula campus.



- Plagiarism in the research thesis

Chair informed the Committee that if examiner of the research thesis reports that plagiarism has occurred in the research thesis, a disciplinary process is warranted.

- Mid Year Scholarship 2007 (MGS and MIPRS)

The Research Graduate School Committee is expecting to offer approximately 20 MGS (Monash Graduate Scholarships) and 1-2 MIPRS (Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarships) in a mid-year selection round. The number of scholarships offered depends on the final take up rate by the 2007 awardees. Faculties are invited to submit nominations for these awards by Friday 29 June 2007.

- Peninsula's Campus Student Experience Network (CSEN)

Dr Robyn Zink is representing the Faculty on the Peninsula's Campus Student Experience Network (CSEN).

5.3 Co-ordinator of Honours Degrees

Dr Amanda Berry reported that in liaison with the Academic Services a document is being drafted to propose the major amendments in the Honour course. These amendments were approved by the Research Induction Committee in meeting 04/2006, however, the Education Committee requires the proposal for any course amendments in the standard format.

5.4 Director of Research Degrees

Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz reported on the following matters

- Matters arising from Research Degrees Subcommittee

Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz applauded the contribution made Mr Ed Irons for the Research Degrees Subcommittee meetings and administration.

A student's request for the funding for individual business cards along with the request for funding from the Post Graduate Diploma (Psychology) students will be further discussed in the next Research Degrees Subcommittee meeting.

- External supervision survey

Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz informed the Committee that the response rate for the external supervision survey is good. The Research Degrees Office will collate the data and liaise with the Assoc Prof Forgasz to



analyse the responses. Preliminary findings would be available before the next Committee meeting.

5.5 Education Committee

No representation from the Education Committee.

6 Other Business

There is no other business.

7 Next Meeting

--20th June, 9:00 AM GO 8, Building 6, Clayton.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Associate Professor Trevor Gale -- Chair
Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz
Professor Margaret Somerville
Professor Peter Sullivan
Dr Mandi Berry
Dr Jill Brown
Dr Jenny Miller
Dr Umesh Sharma

FOR INFORMATION

Professor Jane Kenway

Miss Joanne Witheridge
Dr Evan Kritikakos
Ms Sue Plowright
Dr Tasos Barkatsas,
Dr Zofia Pawlaczek,
Dr Janette Simmonds

MERC Representatives

Mr Calvin Taylor

Executive Officer: Mr Mayur Katariya
Administrative Officer: Vacant