



Research Induction Committee

Meeting 03/07 of the Research Induction Committee, Faculty of Education, held on the Wednesday 20th June 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

1.2 Observers

Dr Tasos Barkatsas

1.3 Apologies

Prof Peter Sullivan, Dr Jill Brown, Dr Jenny Miller and Dr Zofia Pawlaczek, Margaret Somerville

1.4 Minutes

Mr Mayur Katariya

2. Minutes

Motion:

The Minutes of meeting no. 02/2007 of the Research Induction Committee were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Mover: Dr Umesh Sharma

Seconded: Dr Amanda Berry

Carried: Unanimously

3. Starring of unstarred items

All items for discussion on the Agenda were starred.

Chair will report on the proposals for new HDR combined courses in his report (item no 5.2).

5. Reports

5.1 MERC Report

Mr Calvin Taylor reported that the MERC conference is structured around Research Strengths. Assoc Dean (Research) Jane Kenway will chair a Panel. Around twenty HDR students have already expressed interest to present papers in the Conference.



Mr Calvin Taylor mentioned that the time for the Winter School and the MERC Conference clashes with a few education conferences which reduces the participation from the academic staff and students. Previously MERC Conference was not a part of the Winter School; Chair suggested that MERC could consider altering the timing for the Conference.

Chair suggested that MERC should consider to organise a seminar from EROS (Emerging Researchers Open Seminars) during the Research Month.

Mr Calvin Taylor reported that Ms Claire Hall has received the funding to organise a symposium to help HDR students enhance their writing skills. The proposed date for the symposium is 29th October. Three external academics have been contacted to contribute.

5.2 Associate Dean (Research Degrees and Induction) reported on the following matters.

- Proposals for New HDR Combined Courses

As per the suggestions received from the RGSC, amendments were incorporated and approved by the Assoc Dean (Research Degrees and Induction) Assoc Prof Trevor Gale and the Director of Research Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz. The proposals are sent to two external assessors; when the proposals will be supported by the assessors they will be tabled in the Academic Board.

Assoc Dean (Research Degrees and Induction) met with Prof Merran Evans, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Education) (Acting) to discuss the proposals. It may be appropriate to fund the coursework component of the first year of both the courses under the Commonwealth Supported Places and then after under the RTS (Research Training Scheme). A ruling is requested from the DEST on the possibility of offering the entire combined courses under the RTS. Depending on the advice from the DEST the proposed costing model might be required to change.

The Chair explained that the proposed courses are the only degrees combined with PhD in the Monash University. Due to the requirements imposed by the APS (Australian Psychology Society) proposed courses have mandatory coursework components in them. Prospective students with H1 or H1 equivalent could apply for the combined courses, whereas students with H2A or H2A equivalent could only apply for the MPpsych courses and after one year of MPpsych courses, if the average high distinction is achieved in any two units out of the first four units, student will be eligible to apply for the PhD component. Academic Staff who are not registered psychologists are eligible to supervise the students doing research if deemed appropriate by the student and the Head of the Department.



- MRGS HDR Recruitment Plan

A forum was held on the 29th June by the MRGS with the aim to rethink the PhD degree and HDR recruitment. A proposal for introducing coursework components in PhD was discussed. A university wide HDR recruitment plan will be developed from the workshop to be held on the 27th July.

- Research Month 2007

From 20th August to the 21st September the University is organising the Research Month. A memo was sent to the Faculty instructing on the format of the student poster presentations. All the research strength leaders are requested to encourage and support students associated with their research strength. Dr Brian Wattchow and Ms Sarah Pavy will conduct a seminar during the Research Month..

- Research Keywords

A university wide keyword based online search system will be developed to assist prospective HDR students searching for the appropriate supervisors for their proposed research projects. Research Strength Leaders and the Faculty IT services are advised of this development.

- The Winter School 2007

The timetable and abstract was tabled for the Committee's attention. Chair said that the Winter School has various workshops and seminars for the students in their early candidature, however, more workshops and seminars should be included for the students in the different stages of their candidature.

- Mid Year Scholarship 2007 (MGS and MIPRS)

The Selection Panel assessed four applications received for the Mid Year Scholarship 2007 and final ranking was unanimously determined. Currently only one MIPRS (Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship) and twenty MGS (Monash Graduate Scholarship) have been allocated across the University

- Annual Progress Reports 2007

New Annual Progress Reports for the Doctorate and MEd research students were tabled for the Committee's attention. Student have received the Annual Progress Reports along with a descriptive cover letter and a form to nominate Research Strengths students want to associate with.

- Administrative Office Position

Interviews were held to fill the position of Administrative Office (Research Degrees Office). A candidate is selected and offered the job. The Chair noted that the Research Degrees Office is currently operating under-staff,



however, the Office is efficiently carrying out the student administration tasks and other projects.

- Research degrees in Singapore

Faculty is considering offering the PhD in education from the Monash Singapore Campus. Cohort structure and portfolio based thesis are also being considered for this program. It is noted that academics from the Education colleges in Singapore could serve as the prospective student base.

5.3 Coordinator of the Honours Degree mentioned that change in the entry requirements for the Honours course will be required to get ratification for the Education Committee. Credit transfer and examination related policy and procedure might also be included in the major course amendment documentation. Ms Sue Plowright is assisting Dr Mandi Berry with the draft.

5.4 The Director of Research reported on the following matters.

- Matters arising from RDSC (Research Degrees Subcommittee)

Faculty Research Project Funding for the Graduate Diploma in Psychology students was debated in the last Research Degrees Subcommittee meeting. The Committee decided to fund the students for one year and suggested that the Director of Research discusses the matter of potential lack of funding for the HDR students. It was also suggested that MEd coursework students who are doing a minor thesis should also be allowed to apply for the funding, however, the total funding available to cover the funding is deemed insufficient. The Director of Research and the Coordinator of the Research Degrees Office met with the Faculty Manager to raise the matter. The Director of Research will further discuss the matter with the Dean.

- External supervision survey

A document summarising the survey was tabled. It was noted that the responses received so far suggest that the staff supervising external students have different arrangements in place in relation to the workload points and payment. A reminder was sent to all the academics to respond to the survey. In next RDSC meeting a final summary sheet will be tabled.

5.5 Chair suggested that in the next RIC meeting Dr Jane Southcoat should be invited. Dr Jane Southcoat is appointed as the deputy of the Director of the Masters courses Prof John Loughran.

6 Next Meeting

---8th August, 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
Dr Robyn Zink
Miss Joanne Witheridge
Dr Evan Kritikakos
Ms Sue Plowright
Dr Janette Simmonds
Dr John Roodenburg
Dr Tasos Barkatsas
Dr Zofia Pawlaczek

MERC Representatives

Mr Calvin Taylor

Executive Officer: Mr Mayur Katariya
Administrative Officer: Vacant