



Research Degrees and Induction Committee

Meeting 04/08 of the Research Degrees and Induction Committee, Faculty of Education, held on the Wednesday August 13 2008 at 2:00pm in room GO8, Building 6, Clayton Campus.

Mr Michael Enticott - Executive Officer

1. Introduction to Formal Business

1.1 Present

Assoc Prof Ilana Snyder (Chair), Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz, Ms Ros Winter, Dr Helen Watt, Mr Calvin Taylor, Mr Mayur Katariya and Ms Hilary Monk

1.2 Observers

Paul Davies and Ms Bronwyn Dethick

1.3 Apologies

Dr Jane Southcott, Dr Anna Hickey-Moody, Dr Mindi Blaise, Dr Amanda Berry and Mr Michael Enticott

1.4 By invitation

1.5 Minutes

Mr Mayur Katariya

2. Minutes

Motion:

The minutes of meeting no. 03/2008 of the Research Induction Committee were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Mover: Assoc Prof Ilana Snyder

Seconded: Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz

Carried: Unanimously

3. Starring of unstarred items

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Update on working parties

- Seminars on HDR and Supervision Matters

The Chair informed the Committee about the seminars that have been planned by Dr Mindy Blaise and requested members to promote and attend these seminars. The first seminar – 'Doctoral education as collective responsibility?' is scheduled for 14th August. This seminar will be conducted by Prof Alison Lee. Alison Lee is Professor of Education and Director of the Centre for Research in Learning and Change at the University of Technology, Sydney.

5. Ms Fiona Zammit could not attend the meeting.

6. Reports

6.1 MERC Report

31 students presented their work orally and 3 students prepared posters in the MERC Conference 2008. Total 89 students registered on the Conference day, out of which 38 were PhD, 40 were MEd, 5 were Honours students, and 6 didn't nominate a course. Total 75 feedback forms were received, out of which 23% respondents reported that the Conference was overall 'good' and 75% respondents considered it 'very good'. Respondents appreciated the good event management on the day and before the Conference. To address a concern expressed by some students, MERC will request MRGS to organise seminars and workshops regarding poster preparation and presentation specific to non-laboratory based faculties.

MERC Clayton has organised its next meeting following a workshop to be conducted by Ms Hazel Tan. The strategy to run a workshop as a part of the MERC meeting is likely to increase attendance of members in the meetings.

MERC Peninsula's August meeting will begin with a workshop by Dr Joce Nuttall on the topic of preparing for conference presentations.

MERC is also organising a series of lunchtime seminars to showcase student work during the Research Month.

6.2 Associate Dean (Research Degrees and Induction) reported on the following matters:

- Chair's report on RGSC matters

The Chair presented a verbal report on the matters that relate to the Faculty's HDR courses and administration.

Electronic submission of HDR thesis: There are a range of views around the University regarding the proposed compulsory electronic submission of HDR theses. A group of students from the School of Historical Studies and academics from different faculties believe that it may have detrimental effects on students' intellectual property rights. A number of issues were raised in the discussion amongst RIC members:

- students should have the option to withhold their theses from e-submission for several years. One committee member argued that students require 3-4 years to publish from their theses and e-publication might jeopardise publishing prospects.
- Is the electronic copy of the thesis different from a microfiche version with regard to IP?
- Who owns the IP for the thesis? The student or Monash?
- Some theses are already submitted in electronic form or with a significant dimension in electronic form eg an MEd by research thesis is only available as a DVD.
- Are there implications for SCERH? Will participants in the research need to be informed that the thesis will be available electronically and thus asked for permission for research

reports to be published on the web?

- Perhaps it should be a judgment to be made by each individual student – ie not mandatory. The corollary is that students should be able to opt out of e-submission.
- Is electronic access to abstracts a better way to go?

The Chair noted the concerns and feedback provided by the members and will convey them to the MRGS special meeting about this matter scheduled for Friday 15 August.

Split PhD with Monash Malaysia: The Malaysian Government is encouraging Malaysian academics to pursue Higher Degrees by Research and Monash Australia is currently making arrangements for a 'split' PhD. Students would be Monash students but spend half of their time in Malaysia and half on Australian campuses with co-supervision at Monash and at a home university in Malaysia.

Education HDR load: The Faculty has accepted a proposal from Prof Max King's Office to increase its HDR load. The Faculty may decide to recruit a cohort to meet its planned load. The Chair encouraged members to explore the possibilities of recruiting an EdD cohort.

English Language Proficiency requirements (ELP): the University's as well as the Faculty's ELP requirements remain unaltered as the result of a review conducted by the MRGS. Most GO8 universities have a proliferation of different ELP requirements and Monash has only three.

Acknowledgement of editing assistance: The Chair tabled a document outlining some of the recommendations from MRGS regarding the use of editors in research theses. Help from professional editors should be restricted to matters of language, illustrations, completeness and consistency. Students must consider whether or not to accept each suggested editorial change. Dr Helen Watt asked whether there existed, or whether there should be developed, an acknowledgment also for methodological advice. The Chair advised such a policy was not needed in her view.

MRGS has constituted a dedicated group to consider new courses and streams.

Faculty matters

- Residency requirements for MEd by Research:

The Chair proposed that PhD and MEd by research courses in Education should be in alignment with the new more relaxed requirements centrally. Rather than 15 days, Education HDR external students will be required to undertake the equivalent of 5 days of full-time study within the university each year although this requirement may be relaxed in later years depending on the candidate's progress. The next edition of the Handbook will be updated in accordance with this change.

- Winter School Evaluations

A report on the Winter School evaluation was tabled and noted.

- MEd Confirmation and PhD mid-candidature milestone



The Chair thanked Dr Anna Hickey-Moody, the Chair of the MEd Confirmation and PhD mid-candidature milestone working party, for her contribution. A working party in MRGS is planning to introduce a mid-candidature milestone for PhD programs. The Chair is a member of this working party and will update the Committee on the progress.

- Mid year scholarship

Mr Mohammad Siddique has been awarded an Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (MIPRS) in the mid-year scholarship round 2008.

- 2008 Scholarship round

This year all the central HDR scholarships like APA, MGS, MIPRS and IPRS etc will move to an online application system. The online system came into operation on the 1st August. The new system will enable faculties to do most assessment and ranking based processes online.

- Becoming an accredited supervisor

The Chair tabled emails that were circulated to encourage the new academics, who are not accredited for HDR supervision, to undertake the supervisor training. Emails were also circulated to the academics who are level 1 accredited to encourage them to achieve level 2 accreditation.

- Update - HDR Admissions Project

Planning and deployment are under way to establish the new HDR Admissions online system. The plan is to have a central unit, based within MRGS, to handle all the initial inquiries and online applications for all the HDR courses across the University. The planned date by which the system will be fully operational is 31/7/09, with training scheduled to commence on 1/5/09.

- HDR Dot Points

The Chair thanked Mr Mayur Katariya for preparing and distributing the third addition of the HDR Dot Points. The Chair suggested that information regarding funding, acknowledgement of editing assistance and scholarship should be included in the next addition of the Dot Points.

- Composition of Confirmation/Upgrade panel

All the Confirmation as well as the Upgrade panel memberships must be endorsed by the Director of Research Degrees, Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz. It is imperative for the Upgrade panels to determine if the applicant is H2A equivalent or not before determining the outcome. The Chair informed the Committee that MRGS is planning to recommend that composition of the mid-candidature milestone panel and the Confirmation panel should be same.

- Electronic submission of the HDR thesis

Prof Margaret Somerville requested the Chair that students should be required to submit either an unbound original or an online copy of the thesis so that when a copy is required it is a simple process of printing and binding. The Chair recommended that the Committee should wait till MRGS works out the process for Electronic submission of the HDR theses.

6.3 Director, Higher Degrees by Research, Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz reported on the following matters.

- Faculty Research Students Funding applications

After some discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to approve all the Research Students Funding applications. As Mr Justin Karol has received the MRGS Travel Grant for the proposed travel, none of the travel related expenses could be reimbursed via the Faculty Research Students Funding. Committee approved total of \$773.7 for Mr Karol's funding application. HDR candidature matters

Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz thanked Mr Michael Enticott for collating the information and suggested that the composition of the Confirmation panel should also be included in this report so that wherever possible the composition of the mid-candidature panel be the same

6.4 The Coordinator of Honours program could not attend meeting. The Honours Information sessions are planned and being promoted. Students have shown high interest in attending them. There is great interest in Prof Shoemaker's Honours Passport strategy.

6.5 Education Committee

Dr Jane Southcott was not able to attend the meeting. The last Education Committee meeting was cancelled.

7. There was no other business.

8. Next Meeting

Meeting 6 Wednesday, 22 October 2008 9:30 to 11:00 AM G08, Clayton

Meeting 7 Wednesday, 19 November 2008 9:30 to 11:00 AM G08, Clayton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FOR INFORMATION



Associate Professor Ilana Snyder, Chair
Assoc Prof Helen Forgasz
Dr Amanda Berry
Dr Jane Southcott
Dr Mindi Blaise
Dr Helen Watt
Dr Anna Hickey-Moody
Ms Hilary Monk
Mr Calvin Taylor
Ms Ros Winter
Mr Mayur Katariya

Professor Peter Sullivan
Dr Janette Simmonds
Dr John Roodenburg
Professor Margaret Somerville
Dr Robyn Zink
Dr Evan Kritikakos
Ms Sue Plowright
Ms Trudi Brunton
Assoc Prof Laura Brearley
Mr Paul Davies
Ms Bronwyn Dethick
Exec Officer: Mr Michael Enticott

Action Sheet:

Mr Mayur Katariya:

- Mr Katariya to include the information regarding funding, acknowledgement of editing assistance and scholarship should be included in the next addition of the Dot Points.
- Mr Katariya to organise updating of the next edition of the Handbook with regards to changes in the residency requirements for the external students.

Assoc Prof Ilana Snyder:

- Assoc Prof Snyder is a member of the MEd Confirmation and PhD mid-candidature milestone working party and will update the Committee on the progress.
- Assoc Prof Snyder to update the Committee regarding e-submission of theses at the next meeting
- Assoc Prof Snyder to update the Committee regarding Acknowledgement of editing assistance

MERC representatives:

- MERC Representative will request MRGS to organise seminars and workshops regarding poster preparation and presentation specific to non-laboratory based faculties.