



MONASH University
Education

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting No. 2/09
29 April 2009

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Meeting No 2/09 of the Research Committee of the Faculty of Education held on Wednesday 29 April, 2009, at 11.00am, in Room G08, Education building, Clayton Campus.

Ms Prue Madden

Acting Executive Officer

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Present

Professor Jane Kenway (chair), Professor Margaret Somerville, Professor Marilyn Flear, Professor Ilana Snyder, Professor Terri Seddon, Professor Dennis Moore, Associate Professor Helen Watt, Dr Joel Windle, Associate Professor Phil Payne, Dr Michael Henderson, Ms Bronwyn Smith, Ms Hazel Tan.

In Attendance

Ms Sue Plowright, Ms Prue Madden

Apologies

On Leave

Dr Chris Siva

*CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Starring of Items

Notice of Motion

The Chair moved that for all items other than those starred, the recommendations contained therein be adopted without discussion or the information noted.

MINUTES

Meeting No 1/09

Recommendation

The Minutes of Meeting No. 1/09 of the Research Committee held on Wednesday 11 March 2009 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

ITEMS FOR REPORT

4.1 *Chair's Report

a. Internationalisation. The Research Resource Sub-committee allocated \$15,000 in its budget to support the internationalisation of Faculty research. The Chair called for all Committee members to think about a Faculty strategy for internationalisation.

Action: This matter would be an item on the agenda of the next Research Committee meeting.

b. ERA. A small number of Education researchers publish in Humanities and Creative Arts cluster journals. In relation to Education Field of Research codes, all Faculty researchers will be encouraged to give an Education code as a proportion of the code allocation for their publications. Jane Kenway advised that she will send a communication to all researchers about ERA codes and

will also present information sessions in the Faculty to advise Faculty members of this matter and wider implications of the ERA.

Action: JK to send email to all Faculty members.

The political implications of the coding policy as currently defined, on the education discipline was discussed. The Committee decided to hold a special meeting of the Committee and to invite Peter Goodyear from the University of Sydney to attend by videolink. A representative from the Monash Research Committee would also be asked to attend.

Action: JK to invite Professor Goodyear.

c. ECR Induction Sessions. Jane Kenway and the ECR Working Group will be holding ECR Induction Sessions at each campus

d. Monash Research Month. Research Committee encourages all Faculty members to become involved.

e. Interdisciplinary Activities. The Chair encouraged all Faculty members to undertake interdisciplinary activities.

f. Institutes and Centres. The Chair reported that this matter was not on the current agenda for the Monash Research Committee, but hopefully it would be shortly.

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

5.1 Node Working Party

Notes from the Node Working Party of 25 March were tabled. There was considerable discussion about involvement of non-Node members, appropriate size of the Nodes, open/closed membership, workload point issues for Node Leaders, types of Node and alternative Node nomenclature including the use of the term 'centre', epistemological and performative reporting and accountability.

Agreed: Research Committee members agreed unanimously that Nodes should be of the 'hothouse' type as set out in the Working Party notes. Most Research Committee members preferred the name 'Group' rather than 'Node'.

There was considerable discussion about the workloads of Node Leaders. Committee members supported the view that Node Leaders should have a workload allocation. Any decision on this would have to take into account of activities undertaken by Node Leaders.

Action: JK and PM will contact each Node Leader to ask them to indicate their activities as Node Leader and their teaching load.

Action: PM to send Phillip Payne and Marilyn Fler a copy of tabled Node Working Party notes.

The Chair commended the current Node webpages and noted that Node Leaders would be asked to think of ways further to improve their webpages, such as listing the activities of their HDR students.

Action: PM to send email asking Node leaders to think of ways to improve their Node webpage with links to the webpages being provided.

There was discussion about resourcing of Nodes in relation to their size and the productivity expected of them. It was thought vital to strike a balance between epistemological and performative issues, particularly in the light of the ERA.

Action: PM to put the resourcing/productivity issue on the agenda for the next meeting of the Node Working Party.

5.2 ARC Working Group update

The ARC Working Group had met and was in the process of developing a document summarising the resources and opportunities available at the Faculty level for promoting ARC grant applications. At present, Linkage applications are low throughout the University. The Chair congratulated Joel Windle and Jenny Miller for their Linkage submission. The Chair noted that increased conversation between the Development Office and the Research Office would be beneficial in relation to Linkage applications. The Working Group was asked to circulate the draft document before the next meeting.

Action: JK and Bronwyn Smith to share information from the University Linkage working party.

5.3 ECR Working Group update

The Early Career Working Group had met to discuss ideas for improving research development support for Early Career Researchers. It had been decided to hold an ECR day as part of the MERC Conference and also as part of Faculty Day. The Group would also provide information as part of the ECR Induction Day on each campus.

Other recommendations included a handbook for ECRs and a webpage. The Chair suggested that ECRs' approaches to research leadership could also be put on the agenda for the next ECR Working Group meeting.

Action: Chris to talk to Tania Bull about an ECR webpage.

OTHER ITEMS

6.1 *Monash University Draft Strengths and Themes

The Chair noted that Research Committee members did not think that the list of University strengths and themes in Research Committee Agenda Paper 13/09 was entirely appropriate for Education. Members were asked to look at the strengths and themes and suggest additions.

Action: PM to circulate Node Leaders with a table similar to the table in Agenda Paper 14/09, asking Node Leaders to note where they see their activities fitting in.

6.2 *Faculty Seminar Series

This item was held over until the next meeting and was to be placed early in the agenda.

6.3 *Research Month

All Committee members were asked to involve themselves in this event.

6.4 *Node Update

Phillip Payne and Margaret Somerville each presented a summary of their recent Node activities. The Chair thanked them for their interesting summaries and noted that Node Leaders should consider using some of the \$15,000 earmarked for international activities when considering the resourcing of their Node Visiting Scholars.

Action: This matter would be an item on the agenda of the next Research Committee meeting.

Action: CS to circulate MEC operational plan to members of the research committee.

7. Any Other Business

Hazel Tan advised the Committee of the MERC Conference on 3 July and the Global Education Systems Day on 8 June.

8. NEXT MEETING

Page 4 of 5

Wednesday 22 July, 2009

DISTRIBUTION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Professor Jane Kenway (chair)
Professor Margaret Somerville
Professor Marilyn Flear
Professor Ilana Snyder
Ms Bronwyn Smith
Elected Members:
Professor Terri Seddon
Professor Dennis Moore
Associate Professor Helen Watt
Dr Joel Windle
Dean's Nominees:
Associate Professor Phil Payne
Dr Michael Henderson
Student Representative:
Hazel Tan

FOR INFORMATION

Professor Sue Willis, Dean
Mr Peter Lawford, Faculty Manager
Ms Susan Plowright, Manager,
Academic Services & Quality
Mr Romesh Perera, Manager
(Finance and Resources)
Ms Anita Forsyth, Director Research
Degrees
Mr Andrew Jackson, Assistant
Manager, Research Development
Mr Mayur Katariya, Coordinator
Research Degrees Administration
Mrs Halina Oswald, Director
Research Office
Ms Winifred Hirst, Education Subject
Librarian, Matheson Library