



MONASH University
Education

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting No. 3/09
22 July 2009

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Meeting No 3/09 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.

Dr Chris Siva

Executive Officer

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Present

Professor Jane Kenway (chair), Professor Margaret Somerville, Professor Marilyn Flear, Professor Ilana Snyder, 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 Winifred Hirst, Dr Fiona Nielson, Professor John Loughran, Dr Bernard Holkner, Dr Paul Richardson

Apologies

On Leave

Professor Dennis Moore, Professor Terri Seddon

*CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Starring of Items

The ADR accepted a request from Winifred Hirst (Librarian) to speak briefly on the ERA

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. The ADR advised that a special meeting of the Committee with Peter Goodyear (University of Sydney) was cancelled.

MINUTES

Meeting No 2/09

Recommendation

The Minutes of Meeting No. 2/09 of the Research Committee held on Wednesday 29 April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

ERA Presentation

Dr Fiona Nielson (Arts Faculty) made a short presentation on issues faced by the Faculty of Arts during the ERA trials and implications for Education. Faculty of Arts has been assessed for both

trial clusters - Physical Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCE) and Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA). The PCE cluster was assessed through citations while HCA underwent peer review. The peer review process involved the nominated top 20% of outputs for each 4 digit Field of Research (FoR) discipline code. The process was coordinated by the ADR (Arts Faculty) with two different senior Arts researchers coordinating for each 4 digit discipline code. As some of the nominated outputs fall across faculty boundaries, the University ERA team provide the faculty with a list of publications x discipline x faculty to identify their origin. These senior coordinators would liaise with nominations from researchers within and outside the faculty. The final list is sent to the ADR (Arts Faculty) for approval and finally submitted to the University ERA team.

The nominated outputs were selected in the ERAMIS online database and prepared for submission as part of the ERA trials to be submitted to the ARC. The University ERA team will write a background statement for each 2 digit FoR level discipline area (i.e. Education). Creative works also required a 250 word justification statement in order to articulate how the output is classified as research. The University ERA team compile 1 page statements from each 4 digit FoR discipline area. The Faculty identify one researcher who can discuss research in these codes (usually one of the core senior coordinators for that discipline). In larger disciplines there may be a requirement for more than one person to write the statement.

The ERA is to be conducted at the 4 digit discipline level. The University ERA team have identified that 4 digit disciplines do not align well against the Faculty school/department structures. The University is therefore classifying outputs down to the 6 digit level in ERAMIS to facilitate mapping existing outputs against organisational units. The implication is the Education Faculty will have to conduct a mapping exercise to identify how the current Faculty Research Groups (FRG's also formerly known as nodes) best fit into the 4 digit FoR codes.

Arts are continuing to assign FoR codes in the ERAMIS online database against authors. The advice to Education is to assign codes to authors that concentrate research in disciplines that ultimately maximise benefit in a future ERA funding model.

The faculty librarian advised the committee that SCOPUS has won the contract with the ARC to be the source of citation data for the ERA. She recommended that researchers check their SCOPUS I.D.'s to ensure they are accurate.

Action: Winifred Hirst to prepare workshops or handout for training staff on using SCOPUS

ITEMS FOR REPORT

4.1 *Chair's Report

a. Budget. In the absence of Terri Seddon (on leave till 2010) a representative from Education Peninsula will replace Terri for the remainder of 2010 on Research Resourcing Sub-committee.

Action: Phil Payne and Marilyn Flear to rotate as replacement/s for Terri.

The ADR indicated that recipients of Research Committee funding were advised to spend their money before November 30 2009 otherwise they will lose their allocation.

The question was raised on the use of postdoc money to fund salaries for professional staff?

Action: Research Resourcing Sub-committee to assess 2009 expenditure and decide how Postdoc budget will be allocated in 2010.

The ADR referred to the current budget and indicated that there was \$3000 from dissemination grants plus \$16,000 recovered from research assistant salaries. The proposals for spending the remainder of this money include; Internationalisation, visiting scholars, FRG funding, ECR retreat, research support funding in Peninsula campus.

Action: Suggestions to be sent to Research Resourcing Sub-committee for approval.

*ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Node Policy Document

The draft Future Node Policy document was tabled outlining research support within the faculty. The document proposed re-naming nodes as Faculty Research Groups (FRG's).

Agreed: Research Committee members agreed unanimously that Nodes will be renamed Faculty Research Groups.

There was agreement that Non-FRG members should be mentored by FRG members or by campus FRG leaders. The role of FRG leaders and campus leaders was discussed in relation to their workload. Recognition of the role should lead to deductions from teaching load for FRG leaders. The committee recognised the proportion of ECR and new staff will impact on the work load (in relation to support and mentoring).

Action: Helen Watt to assist JK in calculating load re-distribution to FRG leaders

Action: JK and IS to go to the Dean's Executive to propose workload credit for node leadership roles

The committee proposed the following suggestions for FRG's in the document;

- membership to be limited and the committee to strongly discouraged more than 8 members per group.
- FRGs to have other supports in place for ECRs and new staff
- FRG's to have group mentoring to include non-FRG members
- Appoint leaders on each campus
- Proposal for workload redistribution for FRG leaders

Agreed: Research Committee members agreed unanimously to approve the Future Node Policy Document.

Action: JK to take Node document to Dean's executive for approval

The ADR would like all FRGs to be fully organised research units by the end of the year. External assessors will be consulted to make plans for the future of FRGs attending to all developmental aspects. Recognition was made that some FRG's may become centres recognised by the University.

Action: As described in RC32/09 each FRG will be required to report to the committee on how their group have been "hothouses" of research activity and demonstrate productivity in performative and epistemological ways.

5.2 ECR Working Group

The ECR working party will organise a retreat for the 26-27 October and budgeted \$6,600. Activities over the last three months include;

- Running information sessions/seminars.
- Conducted a review of ECR website, recognise need to simplify online information retrieval and propose to include podcast recordings of information sessions.
- Mentoring – exploring role of campus leader functions

Discussion on how many people should attend the retreat – 20-50? – the committee was made aware that University has no standard definition of ECR, suggestion that ECR identify themselves rather than be designated or classified.

5.3 ARC Working Group update

Two sets of activities;

1. Information Sessions;

- a) Monthly Research Faculty Seminar Series working with existing faculty seminar series
- b) Invited speakers
 - Peter Hudson (QUT) to talk on mentoring
 - Andrew Martin (Sydney) half day workshop on managing grants
 - Mary Ainley (Melbourne) team based research

Propose to run Faculty seminar series across all campuses in existing rooms using video-linkup. Group session could be run in G08.

Within Faculty Bronwyn and Research Office provided information sessions about support that can be offered.

2. Grant Development Scheme (RC34/09);

- Preparation for grants
- Develop substantive grant applications
- Campus based research leaders to mentor
- Mentoring – individuals/groups meetings/seminars
- Resourcing should fund existing support (good procedural aspects – applications and drafting budgets plus rejoinders for applications) in addition beef up funding to help prepare ECR's to improve track record and preparing for grants (seminars/training).

In relation to grant support and campus leadership roles the ADR advised process is to first get the role, second to fill the role and third productivity? In relation to mentoring there should be clear articulation of research committee in the document and implement steps to reduce the dependency element (i.e. develop a sense of responsibility and reciprocity in the mentee).

Appointments of research leaders made on basis of teaching gaps and should be the argument to the appointment.

Action: JK to bring document RC34/09 forward to Dean's Executive

OTHER ITEMS:

6.1 *Research Month

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

6.2 *Node Update

Bernard Holkner, Paul Richardson and John Loughran each presented a summary of their recent Node activities. Points discussed included projects, prospective grants students, funding and membership. The Chair thanked them for their interesting summaries.

7. Any Other Business

Meeting Closed.

8. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 16th September, 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