

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting No. 4/09
16 September 2009

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Meeting No 4/09 of the Research Committee of the Faculty of Education held on Wednesday 16 September, 2009, at 11.00am, in Room G08, Education building, Clayton Campus.

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

Present

Professor Jane Kenway (chair), Professor Margaret Somerville, Professor Marilyn Flear, , Associate Professor Helen Watt, Dr Joel Windle, Associate Professor Phil Payne, Dr Michael Henderson.

In Attendance

Ms Sue Plowright, Ms Winifred Hirst, Dr Bernard Holkner, Dr Paul Richardson, Dr Mary Lou-Rasmussen, Associate Professor Debbie Corrigan, Dr Amanda Berry

Apologies

Bronwyn Smith

On Leave

Professor Dennis Moore, Professor Terri Seddon, Professor Ilana Snyder, Ms Hazel Tan

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

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.

Carried.

3. MINUTES

Meeting No 2/09

Recommendation

The Minutes of Meeting No. 3/09 of the Research Committee held on Wednesday 22 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting. Minor corrections were made as follows;

The word 'unanimous' in relation to name change from node to group was deleted.

4.1 a. Replace "Budget" with Research Resourcing subcommittee membership.

5.3 "*Appoints of research leaders made on basis of teaching gaps and should be the argument to the appointment*" to be replaced with 'Margaret Somerville commented that academic staff appointments are currently made on the basis of teaching gaps and the Research Committee should recommend that research leadership needs to have some priority in new appointments.

4. ITEMS FOR REPORT

4.1 *Chair's Report

The Chair requested the committee move to discuss item 5.1.

Agreed.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 FRG Evaluation Framework

The Faculty Research Group (FRG) Policy document (RC42/09) was tabled. The document had been approved by both Research Committee and the Dean's Executive. The Dean's Executive had also endorsed workload support for FRG and campus Research Leaders.

In accordance with the policy document, members noted that FRG's would now undergo external review at the end of 2009. The ADR sought feedback from FRG leaders (in attendance) on a possible set of criteria for evaluating FRGs. The current Faculty funding was intended as seeding funds to support FRGs during an establishment phase. As part of the evaluation process FRG's would now be assessed on their relative position to continue and be self funded within 3-5 years.

Agreed: There was general agreement from FRG leaders present that a set of criteria for evaluation of FRG's be developed drawing on original 'node' criteria. .

Jane Kenway suggested that questions could broadly relate to criteria such as: epistemological program, plan of action to attract external research income, publishing program, connection to epistemological and professional communities. She indicated that a need for accountability was necessary and that assessment reports would be submitted in late November for assessment by external assessors in December. A list of issues raised by FRG leaders included:

- Budget constraints restricting self determination
- FRG autonomy
- Emerging FRG's requiring more support than currently on offer
- Inability to carryover funds
- Increased workload issues because of formalised evaluation, interviews with assessors
- Time constraints for full formal evaluation
- Inability to set up a research agenda in 2 years
- Membership restrictions
- Support for staff not in an FRG

Jane Kenway indicated their (FRG) views would be taken into account as much as possible in the reporting application process.

Action: Jane Kenway to draw up draft evaluation criteria based on FRG policy document.

5.2 Budget

Preparation of 2010 Research Committee budget to be started in September 2009. The Faculty has been asked to generate a surplus so where possible the Research Committee will be asked to cut spending. Discussion included:

- leftover Postdoc. money to be transferred back to the faculty.
- It is expected there will be 10-11 FRGs in 2010 each receiving \$6000. Some of the leftover Post-Doc money (around \$28,000) could be used to top up FRG's if not returned to the faculty.
- The \$6000 for ECR support is to be managed by the campus research leaders. In 2009 the expenditure for ECR is likely to be in excess of the allocation thus there might be a need to boost ECR activity funding.
- Excess International funding allocation could be moved into another budget line.
- Journal writing half day workshop is run at \$1500 so there is sufficient funding to fund an extra session in Peninsula campus.
- Dissemination grants could be moved to the ECR budget line.

- Funding for visiting scholars should be linked to the international budget line.
- Discretionary funding could be used for competitive grants scheme or maybe increase support for more applications.

Agreed: The committee agreed to recommend to Faculty Executive funding ERA support at 0.5EFT in 2010 and to continue the fulltime position at Clayton for FRG support.

5.3 Campus Research leaders

- Appointment is likely to be sought through self nomination particularly at Clayton.
- Campus leaders already exist in Gippsland and Peninsula however this will be subject to final appointment decision.
- Questions included”
 - If there is capacity for rotating the role?
 - Will points previously allocated for PMS be re-allocated back to the campus leader?
 - What happens when a campus research leader goes on OSP?

Action: Jane Kenway to consult with the Dean, Margaret Somerville and Marilyn Fler and advise.

Action: Call for expressions of interest at Clayton immediately – to be done.

6. OTHER ITEMS:

6.1 ERA Esteem Factors

Action: Jane Kenway to advise ERA team of additional indicators appropriate for education

6.2 Human Ethics and Research Conduct policy documents

Action: Jane Kenway to meet with Helen Watt, Sue Plowright and Chris Siva and provide a faculty response.

6.3 Node Update

Debbie Corrigan presented a summary of recent Science Education FRG activities. Key points included the work with the Sir John Monash Science School; an ARC project and contract research; and a very successful writing workshop in Prato with a group of 25 people, including ECR and students, writing 17 chapters for the second in a series of three books through the Monash University and Kings College London International Centre for the Study of Science and Mathematics Curriculum. ; The Chair thanked Debbie for an interesting summary.

7. Any Other Business

Phil Payne and Marilyn Fler noted that the new research structure and proposals were excellent in their view.

Meeting Closed.

8. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11th November, 2009

DISTRIBUTION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Professor Jane Kenway (chair)
Professor Margaret Somerville
Professor Marilyn Fleer
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 Devos, Director Research
Degrees
Mr Andrew Jackson, Assistant
Manager, Research Development
Mr Mayur Katariya, Coordinator
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