MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) (Professor D McEachern) - Chair
Nominee of the Chair of the Academic Board (Professor K Simmer)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) (Professor R Owens)
President of the Postgraduate Students' Association (Ms D Bond)
Professor S Anderson
Professor H Barrett
Associate Professor S Broomhall
Associate Professor A Lynch
Professor K Miller
Professor J Milroy
Professor N Morgan
Professor D Pannell
Professor C Raston
Professor Z Rengel
Professor J Sweeney
Associate Professor L Vidovich
Professor G Yeoh

Standing Invitees:
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Initiatives) (Professor Alistar Robertson)
Director, Energy and Minerals Initiative (Mr Tim Shanahan)

By invitation in an Observing Capacity:
Dr A Buti
Dr E Chapman
Professor K Croft
Associate Professor R Cardell-Oliver
Professor J Davidson
Associate Professor J Lee
Dr W Maier
Associate Professor I McLean
Dr S Stewart

Dr Judy Berman

RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING – 14 August 2008

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be held in the Senate Room on Thursday 14 August 2008 at 2.15pm.

Dr Campbell Thomson
Executive Officer, Research Committee

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES

   Confirmation

   Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Research Committee held on 8 May 2008.
3. DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

PART 1 – ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC

4. UWA SUPPLEMENTARY TRAVEL GRANTS FOR NEW ACADEMIC STAFF – REF F896

Attached (Attachment RC1) for noting are the final reports of Dr Tobias Schoep, Biomedical, Biomolecular & Chemical Sciences, Dr Jason Wu, Medicine & Pharmacology, Dr Martina Kocan, CMR/WAIMR, Dr Marianne Peters, Animal Biology, Dr Wendy Davis, Medicine & Pharmacology, Dr Juliana Hamzah, CMR/WAIMR, and Dr Esther Ooi, Medicine & Pharmacology, for their UWA Supplementary Travel Grants for New Academic Staff.

PART 2 – ITEMS FOR DECISION TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC

5. CENTRAL RESEARCH ALLOCATION – REF F19621

Members approved by circular the attached (Attachment RC2) 2009 budget request for the Central Research Allocation (CRA). This CRA budget request is supported by a detailed rationale of each budget line.

For endorsement and forwarding to Planning and Budget Committee.

6. STATISTICS CLINIC QUARTERLY REPORT – REF F19621

Attached (Attachment RC3) for noting is a report by the Director of the UWA Statistical Consulting Group on activities of the Statistics Clinic for Postgraduate Research Students for the period 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007.

This Report is relevant because the Statistics Clinic is funded as part of the Central Research Allocation approved by the Research Committee each year.

7. OUTPUT IN THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS – REF F23570

The allocation of funds to reward Output in the Performing and Visual Arts (OPVA) was $118,000 in 2006 and $122,000 in 2007. Responsibility for the allocation of these funds is delegated to the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences by the Research Committee, and attached (Attachment RC4) is a report on the deliberations and outcomes of the OPVA Audit Committee meetings in both years.

For noting.

PART 3 – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH AND INNOVATION)

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) will report on items of interest which have arisen since the previous meeting.
7. DEFINITION OF RESEARCH ACTIVE

At the May 2008 meeting of the Research Committee it was agreed that the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) would convene a working party to look at the conjunction of the different elements of research active, including research publications, research income and HDR student load and completions, and how this might be impacted by academic level and discipline. The purpose was to propose a framework in which Faculties can review their definitions of research active within the context of some generally accepted principles.

The working party has now met and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) will report on progress at the meeting.

For discussion.

8. UWA RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRES

(a) Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CGEB)

Attached (Attachment RC5) is a proposal to establish the Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Biostatistics as a UWA Research and Training Centre in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. The proposed Centre will focus on the application of genomic knowledge to complex human diseases, combined with novel biostatistical methodology. It involves collaboration with staff in a large number of UWA schools and centres in the Faculty, as well as external medical organisations. It has a budget of around $9 million over three years, including VCDF support of almost $1 million. The proposal has the support of the Dean. Details and costs of accommodation are yet to be finalised and will be provided by the Faculty as soon as possible. Approval for a 3-year period from a current date is sought.

(b) Centre for Marine Futures

Attached (Attachment RC6) is a proposal to establish the Centre for Marine Futures as a UWA Research and Training Centre in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. The proposed Centre will focus on marine resource assessment, mapping and diversity surveys in Western Australia. It involves collaboration with staff in a number of schools and centres in the Faculty, as well as with industry, state government and the community. It has the support of the Dean and a budget of around $3 million over three years. Approval for a 3-year period from a current date is sought.

(c) International Centre for Plant Breeding Education and Research (ICPBER)

Attached (Attachment RC7) is a proposal to establish the International Centre for Plant Breeding Education and Research (ICPBER) as a UWA Research and Training Centre in the School of Plant Biology, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. The proposed Centre will focus on research and training in genetics and plant breeding at an international and national level, addressing an emerging international deficiency. It involves collaboration of staff from a range of schools and centres within the Faculty with international, national and state organisations. It has the support of the Dean and a budget of over $1 million over five years. Approval for a 5-year period from a current date is sought.

(d) Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy (CEEP)

Attached (Attachment RC8) is a proposal to establish the Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy (CEEP) as a UWA Research and Training Centre in the School of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. The proposed Centre aims to improve the cost-effectiveness of Australia's policy programs for land, water and biodiversity conservation. The stimulus for the Centre was the award of a Federation Fellowship to Professor David Pannell for his interdisciplinary work bringing together economics, social science and biophysics to work closely with environmental managers and policy makers. The proposal has the
support of the Dean and a budget of over $5.2 million over five years. Approval for a 5-year period from a current date is sought.

(e) Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law (CMENRL) – Ref F4617

Attached (Attachment RC9) is a final report for the Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law (CMENRL) for the period 2003-07 and a proposal to re-establish it as a UWA Research and Training Centre in the Law School. The Centre, currently established until November 2008, aims to promote, encourage and publish research in mining, energy, environmental and natural resources law in collaboration with professional and industry groups. The Centre has developed a successful conference and seminar program which it wishes to continue at a state, national and international level. Its activities are regarded as central to the Faculty’s research and research training program. The proposal has the support of the Dean and the President of the National Environmental Law Association of Australia. Approval for a 5-year period from November 2008 is sought.

For discussion and endorsement.

11. OTHER BUSINESS