MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) (Professor D McEachern) - Chair
Nominee of the Chair of the Academic Board (Professor S Anderson)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training) (Professor R Owens)
President of the Postgraduate Students' Association (Mr Raoul Oehmen)
Professor H Barrett
Associate Professor S Broomhall
Professor M Gillooly
Professor D Haskell
Professor K Miller
Associate Professor I McLean
Professor D Pannell
Associate Professor J Pillow
Professor C Raston
Professor K Siddique
Professor J Sweeney
Mr M Thomas
Associate Professor L Vidovich

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

By invitation in an Observing Capacity:
Associate Professor R Cardell-Oliver
Dr E Chapman
Professor K Croft
Professor J Davidson
Dr K Guelfi
Dr D Jorgensen
Professor T Mazzarol

Dr Judy Berman

RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING – 12 February 2009

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be held in the Senate Room on Thursday 12 February 2009 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 13 November 2008.
3. DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

4. PRINCIPLES AND RULES OF OPERATION OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES, AND MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Members are asked to refresh their knowledge of the Principles and Rules of Operations of University Committees, and the Members' Code of Conduct which can be found at http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/uwas_committee_system/other_committees_and_general_information.

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

Attached (Attachment RC1) for noting are the final reports of Dr Flavie Waters, Psychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences, Dr Martin Kocan, Electrical, Electronic & Computer Engineering, Dr Mark Cruickshank, Biomedical, Biomolecular, & Chemical Sciences, Dr Nicole Jones, Environmental Systems Engineering, Dr Igor Shufrin, Mechanical Engineering, Dr Kimberley Strong, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Dr Gavin Pinniger, Biomedical, Biomolecular, & Chemical Sciences, Dr William Macdonald, Biomedical, Biomolecular, & Chemical Sciences, Dr Jasmin Dromey, Centre for Medical Research, Dr Graeme Polglase, Women's & Infant's Health, Dr Melissa Latter, Biomedical, Biomolecular, & Chemical Sciences, and Dr Matt Dalrymple, Centre for Medical Research, for their UWA Supplementary Travel Grants for New Academic Staff.

6. STATISTICS CLINIC QUARTERLY REPORT – REF F19621

Attached (Attachment RC2) for noting is a report by the Directors of the UWA Statistical Consulting Group on activities of the Statistics Clinic for Postgraduate Research Students for the period January to June 2008.

The Statistics Clinic is funded as part of the Central Research Allocation (CRA), which is approved each year by the Research Committee.

7. NHMRC EQUIPMENT GRANTS – REF RA/1/486/1

Attached (Attachment RC3) for noting is a report of the Assessment Committee for the award of NHMRC Equipment Grants in the 2008 round.

8. DEFINITION OF RESEARCH ACTIVE STAFF – REF F18982

Members will recall that in 2008 a Working Party was convened 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 definition of research active within the context of some generally accepted principles.

In reviewing the definition of research active the Working Party recommended a change in the weightings of the Socratic Index which was agreed by the Research Committee and is reflected in the final document which is attached (Attachment RC4). These changes have now been implemented in the new version of Socrates (Socrates II).

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

9. UWA RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARDS – REF RA/1/989/1

Attached (Attachment RC5) is a report of the Assessment Committee for the 2009 Research Development Awards. During its deliberations the Committee recommended changes to the guidelines of these awards including: removing the provision for resubmission of applications but instead provide detailed feedback to all unsuccessful applicants; deeming ineligible adjunct researchers employed by other tertiary institutions; and bringing forward the closing date for the scheme to allow for early decisions to be made.

For endorsement.

PART 3 – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

10. 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 last meeting.

11. EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AUSTRALIA (ERA) – REF F24715

In February 2008 the Government announced plans for a new research quality and evaluation system to replace the Research Quality Framework (RQF). The Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) initiative was to be developed by the Australian Research Council to assess research quality using a combination of metrics and expert review.

In late December 2008 two ERA Indicator Principles documents were released for comment, as well as the ERA Submission Guidelines and Technical Specifications. These apply to the first round of the ERA, which involves assessment of discipline clusters 1 and 2: Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCE); and the Humanities and Creative Arts (HCE). The documents are not the final specifications, but they can a good indication of what data is required and the ERA submission process.

Attached (Attachment RC5) is a summary of the information provided so far and the likely tasks that UWA needs to perform to meet the ERA deadline on 8 May 2009.

For discussion.

12. OTHER BUSINESS