MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) (Professor D McEachern) - Chair
Vice-Chancellor (Professor A D Robson)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor M Seares)
Chair of the Academic Board (Professor G Martin)
Dean of Postgraduate Research School (Professor R Owens)
President of the Postgraduate Students' Association (Ms N Mast)
Professor R Bartlett
Professor S Berners-Price
Associate Professor S Dunlop
Professor J Finlay-Jones
Dr J Henry
Professor S Houghton
Associate Professor A Lynch
Dr I Mclean
Professor S Morgan
Professor S Powles
Professor M V Sargent
Associate Professor K Singer
Professor S Smith
Associate Professor I Watson

By invitation:

Mr Simon Anderson
Associate Professor L Baldassar
Professor John Cordery
Dr Sarah Hopkins
Mr Frank Morgan
Professor A Robertson
Professor D Sampson
Professor B Waddell
Professor G Yeoh

RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING – 12 May 2005

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be held in the Senate Room on Thursday 12 May 2005 at 2.15pm.

Dr Campbell Thomson
Executive Officer, Research Committee
AGENDA

1. MINUTES

Confirmation

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Research Committee held on 10 February 2005.

PART 1 – TO BE DEALT WITH EN BLOC

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES – F11369

Attached (Attachment RC1) is the UWA Statement of Compliance with the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

For noting.

3. UWA RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME – REF RA/1/485/1

Members will recall that several recommendations for amendments to the UWA Research Grants Scheme were approved (resolution 3/05) at the February 2005 meeting of the Research Committee. The changes include a clearer definition of pilot project and early career researcher (ECR), as well as it being made clear that subcommittees assessing the applications have the option of not providing feedback to ECR applicants which are not of sufficient quality and therefore are deemed unworthy of resubmission. It was also approved at the February meeting that the maximum grant size should be increased and that there should be a split of funds to support ECR and established researchers.

The revised guidelines for the UWA Research Grants Scheme are now attached (Attachment RC2) and include an increase in the maximum grant size from $20,000 to $30,000 and a split of the funds 70% for ECRs and 30% for established researchers to support pilot projects.

For approval.

4. UWA RE-ENTRY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS – REF RA/2/831/1

Members will recall that at the February 2005 meeting of the Research Committee it was agreed that there needed to be clearer selection criteria for the scheme and that the guidelines should, where possible, be the same as for the UWA Postdoctoral Research Fellowships scheme.

The revised guidelines and application form are attached (Attachment RC3), and include a section 6 which outlines three criteria against which the applications are assessed, including a criteria to assess the extent of career interruption which counts for 20% of the total.

For approval.

5. GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARDS – REF

Attached (Attachment RC4) in an extract from a meeting of the Board of the Graduate Research School held on 8 March 2005, which recommends a change to the Regulations Governing the Graduate Research Travel Awards Scheme. Under the current Regulations candidates are eligible for only one University Travel Award during enrolment in one or more research higher
degree programmes at UWA. The Board has asked that the Research Committee approve a change to the Regulations to allow a candidate who has received an award and who subsequently completes their degree programme to be eligible for another award if they later enrol in a further research higher degree programme at UWA. This will have implications to the budget request for this Scheme via the Central Research Allocation.

For approval.

PART 2 – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3. REPORT OF THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH AND INNOVATION)

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) will report on items of interest which have arisen since the previous meeting.

7. CENTRAL RESEARCH ALLOCATION – REF 06/04/010/060

Attached (Attachment RC5) is a draft budget submission to the Planning and Budget Committee for the 2006 Central Research Allocation (CRA), which includes research support schemes, the Graduate Research School and the Institute of Advanced Studies.

This draft submission includes a detailed explanation of the rationale of the 2006 CRA budget request.

For discussion and endorsement to Planning and Budget Committee.

8. 2006-2008 OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES PLAN – REF F12186

The next iteration of the University’s Operational Priorities Plan (OPP) covering the 2006 to 2008 triennium is being progressed with four working groups to facilitate its development:

- OPP Coordinating Group
- OPP Teaching and Learning Group
- OPP Research Group
- OPP Management Group

The OPP is the component of the University’s Cycle of Planning and Accountability that provides the link between broad strategic and detailed operational planning by specifying the particular objectives that are to have the highest priority during a specified three-year period. For members’ information the 2003-2005 OPP is available for download at http://www.registrar.uwa.edu.au/page/65558 and includes clearly defined priorities in research and research training.

The OPP Coordinating Group, whose membership included the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Director of Planning Services, met on 27 April 2005 and established the following principles which will underpin the development of the 2006-2008 OPP:

- The OPP should have fewer, broader objectives than the previous two OPPs, and that the structure of the document should be modified to reflect this, including providing, where appropriate, sub-targets relating to aspects of each overall priority objective. It is expected that approximately 10 priorities will be identified.
- Internationalisation is not explicitly identified as a separate priority area and has now been mainstreamed under the themes of teaching and learning, research and research training, and management. International priorities and strategies would be listed under
these themes, and international excellence would continue to be measure of the
University’s performance.

The OPP Coordinating Group identified the following preliminary priority objectives for research
and research training, recognising that these would inevitably change as a result of deliberations
of the Working Groups and consultations with key stakeholder groups, such as the Research
Committee:

- Improve the quality, productivity and impact of research, including:
  - Improving the number of UWA staff publishing in quality journals
  - Improving the citation impact of UWA publications
  - Increasing the number of higher degree by research students and their
    completion rates, and
  - Increasing total research income from all sources as a share of the national total
    and on a per capita basis

The OPP Research Group also met on 5 May 2005 to consider the priority objectives for
research and research training and the outcome of this meeting will be reporting at the meeting.
In the meantime the Chair has requested that members give consideration to the research and
research training priority objectives identified by the OPP Coordinating Group, and provide
comment on these objectives and well as identify any other priority objectives for research and
research training that they feel should be included in the 2006-2008 OPP.

For discussion.

9. RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING MANAGEMENT REPORT – REF 4816

As part of the DEST Institutional Assessment Framework (AF) Information Collection submission
(formerly the Educational Profiles Data Collection) the University is required to submit a
Research and Research Training Management Report (RRTMR). The RRTMRs have been
collected from the sector each year except 2004, and the latest version of the UWA’s Report can
be downloaded at http://intranet.uwa.edu.au/planning/PlanServ/EdProf03.

Part B of the RRTMR requests quantitative information on the University’s research and research
training performance in a standardised format. This includes:

- Data on research and research training
- Performance in all research, and
- Performance in areas of research strength.

In the latter category DEST advises that areas of research strength should be guided by, but not
necessarily limited to, the ‘discipline’ and ‘division’ categories as provided in the Research Fields,
Courses ad Disciplines Classification of the Australian Standard Research Classification
framework. Areas of strength will generally have attracted a core of researchers and research
students.

Attached (Attachment RC6) for information is Part B of the UWA’s RRTMR for 2003, which lists
the top ranked schools and centres as areas of research strength based on their 2003 budget
allocation using the research and research training component of UWA budget model. The
research and research training component is derived from research income, higher degree
research completions, research publications, staff distinction and higher degree research

Members are asked to consider whether areas of research strength at UWA should again be
guided by the research and research training component of the budget model for the 2005
RRTMR, or whether some other measure of identifying areas of research strength should be
used.

For discussion.
10. REPORT OF FACULTY NOMINEES OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE

To help with a two-way interaction between the Faculties and the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), the Chair asks that each Faculty nominee of the Research Committee elected by the Academic Board (note that this is not the invited observer nominated by the Faculty) provide a brief verbal report at the meeting on recent research related issues in their faculty.

11. OTHER BUSINESS