

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

An informal meeting of the University Research Committee will be held on

**Wednesday, 15 March 2006**

**at 9.30 am in the**

**Ross Hohnen Room of the Chancelry**

Apologies:  
Ext.54080

J A Bruce  
Secretary to the Committee

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**AGENDA SUMMARY**

**PART 1: GENERAL ITEMS**

1. **Minutes**
2. **Matters Arising**
3. **Announcements and Apologies**

**PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY ITEMS**

4. **University Research Committee**
5. **College Research Committees**
6. **Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**
7. **ARC Funding**
8. **Research Infrastructure: NCRIS Update**
9. **Research-Related Policy Review**
10. **Research Planning**

**PART 3: ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS**

11. **Other Business and Question Time**

**Procedural Matters for Members to note:****CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Consistent with the policy and practice of Council, all matters in the agenda of the University Research Committee relating to individual persons, including appointments, enrolment, candidacy for degrees, personal details, performance and conduct are declared to be confidential. If any member wishes to raise a confidential matter in relation to any other item, he or she should do so under Item 3. After consideration of the confidential items, observers will be admitted to the meeting.

**DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY OR MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST**

Sections 27F to section 27H of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/pasteact/2/3067/top.htm> impose a duty to disclose any material personal interest in a matter which relates to the affairs of the University. This disclosure must give details of the nature and extent of the interest, the relation of the interest to the affairs of the University, and be given at a meeting as soon as practicable after the person becomes aware of the interest. The nature and extent of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Unless the meeting determines otherwise, a person who has a material personal interest in a matter must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting, and must not vote on the matter.

**USE OF INSIDE INFORMATION OR POSITION**

Under sections 24 and 25 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, a member of the University Research Committee must not make improper use of his or her position or of inside information to gain an advantage for himself or herself or to cause detriment to the University or to another person.

jab/6 March 2006

**PART 1: GENERAL ITEMS**

**ITEM 1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Joint Meeting of the University Committee on Research Policy and the Divisional Research Committees (1022/2005 attached), held on 16 November 2005, were confirmed out of session.

(published at <http://www.anu.edu.au/cabs/ucrp/meetingdates.htm>)

**For noting**

**ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING**

**ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES**

**3.1 Apologies**

**To be received**

**3.2 Announcements**

**For noting**

**3.3 Confidential Items**

Confidential Items will be dealt with in this part of the agenda.

**For consideration**

## **PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY MATTERS**

### **ITEM 4. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

#### **PURPOSE**

To inform the meeting about the proposed University Research Committee structure and membership from 2006.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### **4.1 University Committee Structure**

On 9 December 2005, Council noted:

- A progress report on implementation of the Operational Improvements Plan (891/2005);
- The Vice-Chancellor's intention to change the structure, role and membership of the Academic Board and its policy sub-committees to reflect the organisational change within the University from Divisions to Colleges.

Details of the new University committee arrangements have not yet been finalised and will be considered further at the Council meeting to be held on 31 March 2006.

##### **4.2 University Research Committee**

Attachedments:

- The interim membership of the University Research Committee and Schedule of Meetings ([29/2006](#))
- An [extract](#) from the Vice-Chancellor's report to Council on the implementation of the Operational Improvements Plan (891/2005) which describes the measures to be implemented for research in Colleges and at University level.

**SPONSOR:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting note the interim arrangements for the University Research Committee from 2006.

## **ITEM 5. COLLEGE RESEARCH COMMITTEES**

### **PURPOSE**

For the meeting to note progress with the establishment and implementation of ANU College Research Committees.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **5.1 College Arrangements**

The Vice-Chancellor has asked Colleges to put in place a range of measures:

- The Convenor to take oversight of planning for the College as a whole;
- The Dean to take authority over all education matters (including HDR students) for the College as a whole;
- The College Executive to meet regularly to advise the Convener and Dean on operational matters in the College;
- The College Advisory Board to be formally constituted, and meet at least four times in 2006;
- All sub-committees of the College Advisory Board – for instance, those dealing with Education and Research – to be formally constituted for operation in 2006, and for the Terms of Reference of these committees to have been approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

#### **5.2 Progress reports**

ANU College representatives will be asked for an update on progress with the establishment of College Research Committees and related research arrangements in their College.

**SPONSOR:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting:

- (i) note the progress reports from College representatives; and
- (ii) ask College representatives to provide the Secretary with the membership and terms of reference for their College Research Committee as soon as it has been formed.

## ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

### PURPOSE

For the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) to report on matters of interest.

### BACKGROUND

#### 6.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will report.

- **Major Equipment Committee:** Newsletter ([26/2006](#) attached)  
Membership:
  - Chair (nominee of the DVC (Research): Professor Rob Elliman
  - Two members from the Humanities and Creative Arts/Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences discipline:
    - Dr Robert Ackland (2004-2006)
    - Mr Nigel Lendon (2006-2008)
  - Two members from each of the Engineering and Environmental Sciences/Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences discipline; and Biological and Biotechnology/Medical and Health Sciences discipline:
    - Dr David Tremethick (2006-2008)
    - Professor Rosemary Martin (2006-2008)
    - Professor Andres Cuevas (2006-2008)
    - Dr Marcus Hegland (2006-2008)
  - Three members from the Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences discipline:
    - Dr Ping Koy Lam (2006-2008)
    - Dr Chris Easton (2006-2008)
    - Dr Victoria Bennett (2004-2006)
- **Preferred RQF Model**  
The *Final Advice* of the EAG on the preferred RQF model has been forwarded to the Minister for consideration. The *Final Advice* will be publicly released and published at the DEST website as soon as it becomes available.
- **Research Office:** Office of Commercialisation and Office of Research Integrity  
A paper ([30/2006](#)) is attached.

#### 6.2 Items for Information

- The Hon Julie Bishop MP was sworn in as Minister for Education, Science and Training on 27 January 2006.
- Dr Jim Peacock, AC, has been appointed as the Chief Scientist.  
The press release of 28 February 2006 is attached (<http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Bishop/2006/02/B001280206.asp>).
- The French-Australia Science & Technology Program (FAST). An outline of support is attached. (see <http://www.ambafrance-au.org/science>).
- 2006 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science Nominations close 19 May 2006. (see <https://sciencegrants.dest.gov.au/scienceprize/pages/home.aspx>)

**SPONSOR:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

### RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting note the report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

## **ITEM 7. ARC FUNDING**

### **PURPOSE**

To note advice from the ARC regarding raising researchers' awareness of the issue of accountability for the use of public funds for research.

### **BACKGROUND**

Professor Peter Høj, CEO of the Australian Research Council, has written to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research):

- Summarising the outcome of the 2005-06 ARC funding round;
- About the implications of the rise in research funding for demonstrating the return on the investment of public funding for research and on evaluating the outcomes of this research;
- About the responsibility of researchers to communicate more effectively the importance of their research.

Attachments (in hard copy only)

- A copy of the letter dated 9 January 2006 from Professor Høj
- An article, "Humanities need to spread the word", which was published in the *Australian Financial Review* on 12 December 2005
- *Quadrant Magazine Editorial* March 2006 – Volume L Number 3: "What is Wrong with the ARC"

**SPONSOR:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting:

- (i) note the advice from the ARC; and
- (ii) ask ANU College representatives to bring the issue to the attention of researchers in their Colleges.

**ITEM 8. RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE: NCRIS UPDATE****PURPOSE**

To receive an update on the NCRIS *Strategic Roadmap* and its implementation.

**BACKGROUND**

The Minister for Education, Science and Training announced the release of the *Strategic Roadmap* for Research Infrastructure on 28 February 2006.

(<http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Bishop/2006/02/B002280206.asp>).

The *Roadmap* (at <http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/8CA3BC8F-A6A7-417A-955F-2B605DFF8276/9520/NCRISStrategicRoadmap.rtf>) outlines priority areas for major research infrastructure investment. It will be implemented in three phases:

- 2006 - Implementing nine areas of capability within 6-9 months
  - Evolving biomolecular platforms and informatics
  - Integrated biological systems
  - Characterisation
  - Fabrication
  - Biotechnology products
  - Networked biosecurity framework
  - Optical and radio astronomy
  - Integrated marine observing system
  - Structure and evolution of the Australian continent
- Capabilities requiring development before proceeding to implementation
  - Population health and clinical data linkage
  - Terrestrial ecosystem research network
- Capabilities to be reviewed for possible implementation in 2007
  - Translating health discovery into clinical application
  - Heavy ion accelerators
  - Low-emission, large-scale energy processes
  - Next generation solutions to counter terrorism and crime

ANU Co-ordinators with NCRIS are listed in the attached [memo](#) from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) dated 7 March 2006.

**SPONSOR:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting:

- (i) note the release of the *Strategic Roadmap* for Research Infrastructure and implementation measures; and
- (ii) note measures for liaison with NCRIS at ANU.

## **ITEM 9. RESEARCH-RELATED POLICY REVIEW**

### **PURPOSE**

To note the timetable and order of priority for the review and revision of research policies in 2006.

### **BACKGROUND**

A meeting of Research Office Section Heads with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) has agreed to the following order for the review and revision of research policies in 2006:

- *Intellectual Property: Ownership, Protection and Commercialisation*
- Commercialisation (new policy)
- Infrastructure Access (new policy)
- NIH Research Integrity Procedures (update to reflect revised NIH requirements)
- *Undertaking Individual Consultancies and Professional Practice (52-Day Rule)*
- *Responsible Practice of Research* (following release of the new National Statement)
- Clinical Trials (possible separating out from the current *Policy on Externally-funded Grants, Consultancies and Contracts*)
- *Establishment, Management and Closing of Academic Centres*

**SPONSOR:** Director, Research Office

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting note the proposed review of research policies in 2006.

**ITEM 10. RESEARCH PLANNING**

**PURPOSE**

For the meeting to comment on possible research content for ANU's Strategic Plan, *ANU to 2010*.

**BACKGROUND**

Some sessions at the Retreat 2006, "Moving Ahead Together", held on 15-17 February 2006, focussed on the development of the ANU's strategic plan to 2010. Work is in progress to further develop a draft paper for comment in the University.

The power point slides from the presentation given by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the Retreat are attached (in hard copy).

**SPONSOR:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting note any matters arising in discussion about the Research component of *ANU to 2010*.

**PART 3. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS**

**ITEM 11. OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME**

**PURPOSE**

For members to ask questions and raise items of other business.

**BACKGROUND**

- **Grants and consultancies** awarded between 31 August 2005 and 28 February 2006 ([27/2006](#) and [28/2006](#)) are available electronically.

**SPONSOR:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting note the matters raised and the responses.