

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

Meeting No. 1, 2007

Meeting No. 1, 2007 of the University Research Committee will be held on

Thursday 8 March 2007

at 9.30 am in the

Ross Hohnen Room of the Chancelry

Apologies:
Ext.54080

J A Bruce
Secretary to the Committee

AGENDA SUMMARY

PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS

- 1. Minutes**
- 2. Matters Arising**
- 3. Membership and Operating Procedures**
- 4. Announcements and Apologies**

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY ITEMS

- 5. Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor**
- 6. Research Integrity**
- 7. ANU and the Research Quality Framework (RQF)**
- 8. Higher Degree Research Training Program Review**
- 9. Research Policy Developments**
- 10. Major Equipment Committee**
- 11. Reports from ANU Colleges**

PART 3: ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

- 12. Other Business and Question Time**

Procedural Matters for Members to note:**OPERATING PROCEDURES**

The operating procedures of the University Research Committee are detailed in paper 174/2007 (at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/University_Research_Committee/index.asp).

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 4.3. 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/26 February 2007

PART 1: GENERAL ITEMS

ITEM 1. MINUTES

The unconfirmed minutes of Meeting No. 5, 2006 of the University Research Committee (1008/2006 attached) held on 16 November 2006 have been circulated (published at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/University_Research_Committee/_meetings.asp)

For confirmation

ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING

ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

The “Membership and Operating Procedures” of the University Research Committee are detailed in the attachment ([174/2007](#)).

For noting

ITEM 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

4.1 Apologies

To be received

4.2 Announcements

For noting

4.3 Confidential Items

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

For consideration

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY MATTERS

ITEM 5. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

PURPOSE

For the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to report on matters of interest to the Committee.

BACKGROUND

A report will be made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on current issues:

- **ANU Executive Structure**
- **NCRIS**
- **ANU Connect CEO**
- **Update on Grant Applications**
- **Prizes, Awards and Honours**
- **Trends in External Funding**
 - Attachment: Grants data ([179/2007](#))
- **Commercialisation Training Scheme (CTS)**
- **AUQA and Research Management Data**

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

ITEM 6. RESEARCH INTEGRITY

PURPOSE

For the Committee to:

- (i) Consider the terms of reference of the ethics committees; and
- (ii) Receive reports on matters of current interest.

BACKGROUND

6.1 Terms of Reference, Mode of Operation, and Membership of Ethics Committees

- ANU Human Research Ethics Committee ([176/2007](#) attached)
 - On-line Course
- Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee (Institutional Biosafety Committee) ([175/2007](#) attached)

6.2 Reviews

- *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (1999)*
The Working Committee established to review the *National Statement* has completed its role and functions. Prior to being released, the National Statement is required to be tabled in both Houses of Parliament. This is expected to occur by mid-2007. Institutions are likely to be allowed three months to implement the new processes.
- *Joint NHMRC/AV-CC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice* - release of report

6.3 Clinical Trials Subcommittee

Following consultation, the ANU Subcommittee is to be disbanded and new processes introduced for the review of clinical trials that make use of ACT Health HREC expertise and reduce the current duplication. Following the introduction of the *National Statement*, clinical trials for ANU will be reviewed first by ACT Health HREC. Depending on the level of associated risk, they will then be put to either one of ANU's local committees or the ANU HREC.

6.4 OECD Global Science Forum: *Workshop on Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct, 22-23 February 2007* Professor Thomas will speak to the item.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- (i) Endorse the statements of the terms of reference of the ANU HREC and rDNA Monitoring Committee;
- (ii) Note the remaining items and any matters arising in discussion.

ITEM 7. ANU AND THE RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK (RQF)

PURPOSE

For discussion and to receive an update on progress towards establishing processes at ANU.

BACKGROUND

Attachments and References:

- *ANU Response to the Research Quality Framework* ([177/2007](#)) and memorandum from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (dated 10 January 2007)
- *Retreat Washup*
(http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/About_this_Office/files/_anu_only/Retreat%20followup.pdf)
- Access to Research Findings
ARC and NHMRC Media Release of 18 January 2007
(http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/media_18Jan07.htm)

In early January, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor circulated a preliminary outline of the ANU's approach to managing its engagement with the RQF. Areas were invited to comment on the processes and to nominate the chairs, deputy chairs and academic secretaries for the ANU Panels to be administered by ANU Colleges.

The "ANU Response to the Research Quality Framework" was also presented at the University's Leadership Retreat in February.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note matters arising in discussion and the progress report.

ITEM 8. HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM REVIEW**PURPOSE**

To consider the terms of reference for the Higher Degree Research Training Program Review Reference Group.

BACKGROUND

A review of the University's management processes for Higher Degree Research (HDR) was raised at the 2007 Leadership Retreat in the presentation from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Thomas (see "Higher Degree Research Nature and Numbers" at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/About_this_Office/files/_anu_only/Higher%20degree%20research.pdf). The proposal to establish an HDR Training Program Review Reference Group was discussed and received support from the Vice-Chancellor and the ANU College Deans and Convenors.

The Reference Group will consider strategic objectives for the HDR program, and in particular, how the number of HDR students and the quality and nature of the HDR experience may be improved. It will have oversight of several working parties formed to examine issues in key areas: Attraction and Recruitment; Content and Supervision of the HDR training program; Scholarships and Funding; Administrative arrangements; and Management Advice and Reporting.

Attachments:

- [Background](#) extracted from the paper "Higher Degree Research Training Program Review" from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- "Higher Degree Research Training Program Review Reference Group Establishment": Terms of Reference and Membership ([178/2007](#))

SPONSOR: Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Thomas

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the proposed establishment of the HDR Training Review Reference Group and endorse the terms of reference.

ITEM 9. RESEARCH POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

PURPOSE

For the Committee to note recent policy issues and the framework for the review and maintenance of the suite of University research policies.

BACKGROUND

- **Anti-Terrorism Legislation: dealing with requests for information**
Attachments (not available electronically):
 - Memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor from University Counsel dated 6 February 2007
 - “Summary of Terrorism Offences under the *Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2) 2005* for Individuals involved in ANU Research” prepared by the Legal Office

- **Policy on Externally-funded Grants, Consultancies and Contracts (180/2007)**
(published at the ANU's website: http://info.anu.edu.au/policies/Policies/Research/Other/External_Grants.asp)
The Policy has been revised following approval by Council on 8 December 2006 of a statement of principle relating to funding. The new clause reads:

“2.2.1 Agreements which compromise Academic Freedom and the integrity or reputation of the ANU

The ANU recognises that bodies providing funding for research and/or education programs are entitled to specify the fields and scope of the programs, and to monitor their quality and timeliness. However, the ANU will not accept funding either:
 - * where the funder requires a dominant position in the appointment of relevant staff; or
 - * where the funder has any right to interfere in, or alter, or prevent publication of, the outcome generated by the ANU's researchers and teachers in delivering the funded program. The ANU does recognise that commercial or other considerations might sometimes require delays in publication.”

- **Research Office Policy Framework Work Plan ([170/2007](#) attached)**

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note:

- (i) Recent policy developments; and
- (ii) An overview of work required or in progress to update the University's suite of research policies.

ITEM 10. MAJOR EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

To receive:

- (i) A statement of the current terms of reference and membership of the Major Equipment Committee; and
- (ii) A report of the 2006 Major Equipment Committee funding round.

BACKGROUND

Papers for this item will be distributed separately.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee endorse the updated terms of reference of the Major Equipment Committee and note the report of the 2006 round.

ITEM 11. REPORTS FROM ANU COLLEGES

PURPOSE

To receive reports from the Chairs of ANU College research committees and for members to raise any research issues.

BACKGROUND

The Chairs of ANU College Research Committees, or their representatives, are invited to report on current research activities and to raise any issues for discussion.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the reports and matters arising in discussion.

PART 3. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS
ITEM 12. OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

- Grants and Consultancies for the period 1 November 2006 to 31 January 2007 ([161/2007](#)) may be viewed at the website.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the matters raised and the responses.