

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting No. 2, 2008**

Meeting No. 2, 2008 of the University Research Committee was held on Thursday 1 May 2008 at 9.30 am in the Ross Hohnen Room of the Chancelry.

**Present:** Professor Cram, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair); Professor Deane; Professor Stanton; Professor Thomas; Dr Ganguly; Professor Gatenby; Dr Jones; Ms Kelly; Professor Kirk; Dr Leigh; Dr McMahon; Dr Rendall; Professor Smith; Mr Smyth; Professor Wheeler; Professor White; Professor Williams; and Ms Wood.

**By invitation:** Dr Bain; Professor Carroll; Professor Elliman (Item 7.)

**In attendance:** Ms Bruce

**Disclosure of Pecuniary or Material Personal Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or material personal interest in matters listed on the agenda.

**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.

**MINUTES**

**PART 1: PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**ITEM 1. MINUTES**

The minutes of Meeting No. 1, 2008 of the University Research Committee (85/2008 attached) held on 11 March 2008 were confirmed (published at [http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/060PP\\_Research/meetings.asp](http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/060PP_Research/meetings.asp)).

**ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING**

**Item 5. Research Governance Matters**

Chairs of ANU College Research Committees have been asked to revise the terms of reference for their Committees. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor referred to discussions being held with Chairs of ANU College Research Committees about working together and keeping communication channels open about such matters as infrastructure and quality of research in particular.

**ITEM 3. APOLOGIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**3.1 Apologies** were received from Dr Golley and Professor Williamson.

**3.2 Announcements**

The Committee noted the following changes in the membership:

- Postgraduate student representative: Ms Tegan Kelly (following Mr Choo's resignation)
- ANU College of Asia and the Pacific representative: Professor Hugh White

### 3.3 Confidential Items

There were no confidential matters. Professor Elliman, Ms Hicks-Desvignes and Dr Osborne attended as observers.

## PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY MATTERS

### ITEM 4. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Committee noted a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the following matters and comments made in discussion:

- **Update on Platforms for Collaboration (Cap.5.16)**  
The Commonwealth Government is building national information infrastructure following its discontinuation of APAC:
  - (a) National Computational Infrastructure
    - Professor Lindsay Botten has been appointed Director
    - Tenders have been called for two high performance computers, one for the Bureau of Meteorology and the other as a replacement for the ANU Super Computer
    - These will strengthen research support for earth systems science and continue to service other areas with a higher-level capability national facility
  - (b) Australian National Data Services
    - Monash University is the lead institution with ANU and CSIRO
    - A six-month planning project to define the project will see ANU taking responsibility for repository practices and utilities
    - The relationship offers an important way to build a capability for social sciences data sets and a more stable and enduring framework
    - The search for a Director is about to commence
  - (c) Interoperation and Collaboration Infrastructure
    - To provide collaboration tools to enable access to research facilities and services and collaboration tools
    - A business plan has been submitted and initial services are being planned
    - No immediate impact on ANU users is expected other than possible improvement of services
- **NCRIS Roadmap Revision**  
The Chair requested that areas communicate their researcher needs for inclusion in the submission to the NCRIS Committee review of the Roadmap which was currently in progress. The NCRIS Committee was preparing for when additional funding becomes available in about two years time.
- **Go8 Future Research Leaders Scheme (<http://www.go8.edu.au/public.html>)**
  - Funding under the Australian Government's Workplace Productivity Program has been received to build teaching resources

- . The program provides best practice training in financial management, grant administration, business planning, commercialisation and technology transfer, corporate governance, financial reporting, acquittal and audit requirements to current and emerging researchers in Go8 universities who are identified as future research leaders
- . Phase 1 has commenced and the “Settling-in” online induction/orientation module trialed at ANU this week. The subsequent eight modules seek to prepare participants for future roles as managers of research grants and leaders of research teams.
- . Younger researchers were being encouraged to participate. Many modules would also be suitable for postgraduate students
- **Open Access and presentation of ANU research**
  - . Presentation of ANU research publications and capabilities is being workshopped through a process involving the Vice-Chancellor
  - . A report and demonstration about the project was expected for the next meeting of the Committee
  - . Open Access issues are being pursued in the first place through two position papers to be circulated to ANU Colleges on digital presentation of PhD theses and open access to research publications
  - . The establishment of a working group has been deferred pending outcomes from the two strands of open access and presentation of research
- **Principles for Research Contract Negotiations**

The draft paper (366/2008), *In the interests of innovation: time for a new approach to negotiating research contracts with Australian universities*, prepared for use by the Go8 by ANU’s Legal Counsel, would assist researchers to understand the more complex principles for contract negotiation and assist them in any discussions they may have with Government.

The paper was referred to ANU College Research Committees for comments to be forwarded to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Mr Grime.

- **Agreements**
  - University of Melbourne:
    - . The MOU has been publicised to all staff
    - . Significant joint activities should be notified to Central Administration
    - . Opportunities to be explored included protection of small-enrolment language studies
  - University of South Australia:
    - . The MOU was still to be announced
    - . Undergraduate opportunities were largely in allied health in relation to the Bachelor of Medical Science and Bachelor of Science and engineering
    - . Summer research projects at ANU and potential supervision are under discussion
  - Charles Darwin University
    - . The agreement will be allowed to lapse
    - . Joint PhD arrangements will be maintained, especially in the area of indigenous research and education and visual arts
  - University of Tasmania
 

Connections have been established between Chancelrys and at researcher level

- Other universities  
ANU may consider linkages with other regional and remote universities in the “hubs and spokes” context
- **ANU Reviews**
  - Biosciences  
Discussions involving staff from the ANU College of Science and College of Medicine and Health Sciences are in progress about the configuration of Colleges in light of the review recommendations.
  - Chemistry  
The report from the review is expected to be well received and will propose closer integration of the Research School and the Department of Chemistry.
  - Proposed Reviews
    - ANU College of Asia and the Pacific: a review of Asia-Pacific planning is under development
    - Physics, Mathematics and Engineering: a review was being planned for mid 2009. The approach to be taken to the review would be discussed with the Vice-Chancellor and the respective areas, to take account of previous reviews and to provide a foundation for future development.

- **Australian Research Council (ARC) Fellowships**
  - Fellowships are to become more international by opening them to the best Australian and international researchers as part of a suite of improvements to ARC funding schemes to create and enhance international collaboration opportunities
  - APA(Industry) scholarships (stipend) will be awardable to international students. Payment of tuition fees will be a matter for institutions to decide. Applicants must be competitively ranked in a transparent process
  - Changes to funding rules include use of ARC funds for travel for international collaborators.
  - The Future Fellowships scheme will provide 200 mid-career Fellowships each year for five years plus funds for research support
  - Fellowships will be tenable for four years and available across all disciplines and to staff of all publicly funded organisations including medicine
  - 10-15 Fellowships per year for ANU was a plausible estimate for planning purposes

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised that a discussion paper would become available in the coming weeks about the scheme.

- **Commercialisation Training Scheme**
  - 20-25 six-month scholarships at the enhanced APA rate would be available for students enrolled in a PhD to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Commercialisation in Semester II
  - Areas were asked to encourage students to enrol to gain excellent experience in the Scheme

It was observed that some projects were difficult to suspend and part-time enrolment would allow for greater flexibility. International students also encounter visa constraints. While modularisation of the program could be considered, the regulations about study intensity may be an issue.

## ITEM 5. INNOVATION REVIEW

The Committee noted the submissions to the review of Australia's innovation system:

- ANU Submission (tabled):  
[http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/060PP\\_Research/\\_urcmtg2\\_2008/ANUNatInnovationRevSubmay08.pdf](http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/Committees/060PP_Research/_urcmtg2_2008/ANUNatInnovationRevSubmay08.pdf)
- Go8 Submission:  
<http://www.go8.edu.au/policy/papers/2008/Go8%20Innovation%20Review%20Submission%20April%202008.pdf>
- Universities Australia:  
<http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/documents/publications/policy/submissions/Innovation-Review-Submission-April08.pdf>

ANU's draft submission had been circulated to ANU Colleges for comment and contained a series of recommendations about "How do we balance our priorities for innovation?" The Go8 submission provided useful comparative information, especially with Canada, where a great deal more is being invested in the innovation sector than in Australia.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor referred to the Research Evaluation and Policy Project workshops on:

- . Creative Industries
- . Service Sector
- . Taking Risks in Research
- . Financing Innovation Systems
- . Fully costed Research

These feed into the issues of the review being chaired by Dr Terry Cutler and were ones that were vitally important for universities.

The Committee noted the report on the progress of the review of the innovation system.

## ITEM 6. EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA: STATUS REPORT

The Committee received a status report on the University's state of preparedness for the Government's new initiative for quality in research, "Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)", which was announced on 26 February 2008 and was under development by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in conjunction with the DIISR.

The following papers were noted:

- *The RQF and ERA Status Report* April 2008 (365/2008)
- *Evaluating Research Excellence*, presentation of 2 April 2008 by Professor M Shiel, CEO, ARC

Principal comments arising in discussion were:

- . An ARC discussion paper on the ERA was expected in the coming weeks
- . ANU has many of the same concerns about the ERA as it had with the RQF

- . It is believed that submission of researchers names in groups mapped to ARC and NHMRC panels (2 in medicine) and submission of information about research work and publications for bibliometric assessment would be needed for the ERA
- . The bibliometric process became harder to apply in the social sciences and humanities and requires more consultation
- . Institutions would be asked to comment on changes to the eligibility criteria
- . The Research Office and local teams have continued their excellent work in anticipation of the ERA requirements. Good data was already available and further collections in progress
- . Arrangements for the preparation of “groups” relating to ARC Panels will be reviewed and discussions held about taking the ERA project forward
- . The first groups were expected to be physics, chemistry, geosciences and possibly the biosciences
- . Accuracy of records of current levels of appointment through the HR system needs to be investigated
- . ERA claims to focus on quality. A perceived trend towards reintroducing impact as a factor needs to be counteracted as part of ERA
- . The Go8 comparisons with OECD benchmarking, which demonstrate the huge efforts of other countries to build power economies and Australia’s declining relative position, present a strong argument for public funding of international research areas and for a Government focus on areas where Australia can make a difference

The Committee noted the status report and the matters raised in discussion.

## **ITEM 7. MAJOR EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

### **7.1 Review of Major Equipment Funding**

The Chair advised that the proposed review of major equipment funding had its genesis in discussions between himself and Professor Elliman about whether the current practice of separate provision for electron microscopes, mass spectrometers and MNR machines was the best approach. The following papers were noted:

- ANU Major Equipment Funding Discussion Paper (369/2008)
- Review of ANU Major Equipment Funding - terms of reference (368/2008)

Professor Elliman spoke to the item. The review would address the funding of items below the \$50k MEG limit and major items above \$500k and related issues by considering equipment funding at the ANU in a broad context. The model proposed in the discussion paper (369/2008) for: Small Equipment Grants; Major Equipment Grants; LIEF Support Fund; and Large Capital Equipment Grants, would be referred to ANU Colleges for comment and discussed in open forum. The composition of the review committee was still to be determined.

Comments arising in discussion related to:

- . Small grants administration, whether centrally or in ANU Colleges. Some areas have been unable to manage their budgets to fund small items or provide start-up funding; a grants scheme would provide a cross-campus perspective

- The Teaching Equipment Fund criteria are designed explicitly for teaching equipment but do not include equipment used for teaching and research. This Fund would be run again in 2008 and forward planning for equipment needs for courses was in train
- Distinguishing between research infrastructure and research equipment funding. An increasingly controlled and planned approach to the funding of specific high-end infrastructure was necessary and one that was directed at research strengths and quality.

## 7.2 Major Equipment Committee and Sub-Committees

The Committee noted the appointment of Chairs and members of the following:

- Major Equipment Committee (377/2008)
- Electron Microscopy Management Committee (372/2008)
- ANU Bioscience Services Advisory Committee (372/2008)

## ITEM 8. COMMERCIALISATION AND INNOVATION

The Committee noted an update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on developments in commercialisation and innovation at ANU.

- ***Innovation ANU***: This exciting staff and student enterprise in commercialisation and business planning commenced in March. For further information see: <http://www.anu.edu.au/InnovationANU/>.
- **Personnel, Office of Commercialisation**: It was anticipated that attracting the necessary skills to Canberra for the Directorship would be difficult and the position was not advertised following Dr Fiona Nelms departure. Commercialisation managers have been appointed on a temporary basis.
- ***ANU Connect Ventures*** is the commercialisation arm providing funding of up to \$500k for proof-of-concept research opportunities, business planning and similar activities endorsed by the Board. The ANU Connect Ventures team work alongside ACT researchers and entrepreneurs, shaping the investment opportunity and managing the development of the venture, post investment. For further information see <http://www.anu.edu.au/commercialisation/anu-connect.php>.

## ITEM 9. RESEARCH RELATED POLICIES AND ANNUAL REPORTS

### 9.1 Research Related Policies

Draft Policy: *Responsible Practice of Research* (74b/2008) with ANU College Research Committee comments incorporated.

It was noted that:

- Significant matters had been raised in the comments from ANU Colleges, and that it had been asserted that conforming to some aspects of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* could be problematic, e.g. in the area of record keeping, and peer review prior to publishing

- The policy must state what the University was seeking to achieve and ensure that researchers were not subject to misunderstanding about the *Code*, e.g. disclosure of primary data; authorship requirements
- Preservation of data and collections and archiving were large and important issues which need to be addressed separately
- The student and researcher relationship and option for PhD students to produce papers (s3 of the draft) should be captured appropriately in the policy

The Committee noted that:

- (i) The document could be reframed to include a preamble which sets out ANU's view about how the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* has been framed, captures disciplinary cultures, and describes staff obligations under the *Code*;
- (ii) The revised policy would need to be referred to the Legal Office for review.

## **9.2 Annual Reports for 2007**

The Committee noted the following:

- Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee Annual Report (81/2008)
- Human Research Ethics Committee Annual Report (371/2008)
- Institutional Biosafety Committee/Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee (IBC) Annual Report (80/2008)

## **PART 3. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS**

### **ITEM 10. OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME**

#### **10.1 Grants and Consultancies**

The Committee noted that a report (364/2008) on grants and consultancies awarded between 1 February and 31 March 2008 had been published at the Committee's website.

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7 May 2008