

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 4, 2006

Meeting No. 4, 2006 of the University Research Committee will be held on

Thursday 14 September 2006

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: GENERAL ITEMS

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

PART 2: REPORTS AND POLICY ITEMS

- 4. Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**
- 5. National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)**
- 6. Report on Research Support Planning Day**
- 7. Reports from ANU Colleges**
- 8. Grants Rounds**
- 9. *ANU by 2010***
- 10. Policies**

PART 3: ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

- 11. Information Papers**
- 12. 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 3.3. 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/4 September 2006

PART 1: GENERAL ITEMS

ITEM 1. MINUTES

The unconfirmed minutes of Meeting No. 3, 2006 of the University Research Committee (536/2006 attached) held on 13 July have been circulated (and have been published at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/University_Research_Committee/meetings.asp)

For confirmation

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 5. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will report on current issues.

- University Executive: Future arrangements
- International Alliance of Research Universities: meeting to be held in March 2007
- RQF update
- ANU Rodent Facilities
- Appointment of Executive Officer to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research): Ms Kus Pandey has been appointed as Executive Officer on a part-time basis.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

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

**ITEM 5. NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (NCRIS)**

PURPOSE

To receive a report on the development of Investment Plans.

BACKGROUND

The timeframe for the development of Investment Plans for each prioritised research capability anticipates that funding proposals would be submitted to the NCRIS Committee, through DEST, by 8 September 2006 for assessment. Following assessment, the Plans are to be forwarded to the Minister for Education, Science and Training. Consideration and approval of the first set of Investment Plans is expected to be completed by late 2006.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will report on the ANU NCRIS activity.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the statement of the ANU NCRIS activity and the report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

ITEM 6. REPORT ON RESEARCH SUPPORT PLANNING DAY

PURPOSE

To receive a report on the Research Support Planning Day.

BACKGROUND

The Research Support Planning Day organised by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Research Office was held at Old Parliament House on 10 August 2006.

Attachment:

- A summary of the breakout sessions Report ([960/2006](#))

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report on the Research Support Planning Day.

ITEM 7. REPORTS FROM ANU COLLEGES

PURPOSE

To receive reports from the Chairs of ANU College research committees.

BACKGROUND

The Chairs of ANU College Research Committees have been invited to submit issues and/or brief outlines of their reports in advance of the meeting.

- ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science:
 - . The previously mentioned identification of themes and associated debate will conclude soon to complete the College Strategic Plan; the role of themes in future planning is unclear between a minimalist approach, based on seeing them as useful for presentation of existing College research to stakeholders, to a more intrusive role involving validation and resource allocation;
 - . The main current task is recording of all relevant research outputs in the last six years (RFQ window) in convenient tabular form for all staff;
 - . This will feed into planning at group level as well as preparations for the RQF;
 - . Development towards increased grant earnings and HDR numbers is ongoing.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

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

ITEM 8. GRANTS ROUNDS

PURPOSE

To receive an update on the 2006 grant rounds.

BACKGROUND

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will provide a progress report on grant rounds.

- ARC Discovery
 - Federation Fellowships
 - Discovery – Projects
- ARC Linkage
 - Linkage – Projects
 - Linkage – Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
 - Linkage - International
- ARC Centres of Excellence
- NHMRC Project Grants
- NHMRC Research Fellowships and Career Development Awards

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report.

ITEM 9. ANU BY 2010**PURPOSE**

To note the University's strategic plan, *ANU by 2010* and for discussion about an ANU Research Plan.

BACKGROUND

The University's strategic plan was launched by the Vice-Chancellor on 1 August 2006 at an all staff meeting addressed by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor in Llewellyn Hall. ANU College Plans are being developed in the context of the values articulated in *ANU by 2010* and will be presented to Council in the coming months.

Work, through Quality Enhancement and Statistical Services in consultation with the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), to develop and finalise a University Research Plan was deferred during 2004 because of the ANU Review. A draft Plan had been prepared and was circulated for comment and for input to the sections dealing with targets and current status. The University Executive recently discussed the need to review ANU's Education Plan, which is required by DEST under funding guidelines, and to proceed with a Research Plan once ANU College Plans become available.

Attachments:

- *ANU by 2010 (extracts)* (The full plan may be viewed at http://info.anu.edu.au/OVC/About_this_Office/Current_Issues.asp)
- (Draft) Research and Research Training Management Plan to 2005 ([955/2006](#))
- Summary of ANU College draft research plans ([957/2006](#))

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note matters raised in discussion of a University Research Plan.

ITEM 10. RESEACH POLICIES

PURPOSE

To note research policy issues.

BACKGROUND

- Sedition Laws

Council, at its July meeting, noted a paper outlining the implications for staff, students and the University of the *Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2) 2005*. It was commented that:

- . advice should be issued to all staff and students rather than “researchers and students who could potentially be affected by the legislation”
- . it is inappropriate to distribute a summary of the legislation
- . it should be made clear in any communication to staff on the legislation that staff likely to be affected should read the *Act*

Discussion are in progress between the University Counsel and the Pro Vice-Chancellor leading to a University policy dealing with central notification of requests for the production of information and documents and the internal processes to respond to these requests.

Attached is a Summary of Changes to Legislation ([954/2006](#)) prepared by the Legal Office for the information of staff and students.

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the work in progress to draft a policy on terrorism offences under the *Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2) 2005*.

PART 3. ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS
ITEM 11. INFORMATION PAPERS

PURPOSE

For information and an update on reviews currently in progress.

BACKGROUND

- **NHMRC: Statutory agency**
 The NHMRC was established as an independent agency with financial and operational autonomy effective from 1 July 2006. The new *National Health and Medical Research Council Act* has been published at www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw
 Information about the NHMRC Council and Principal Committees is available at www.nhmrc.gov.au
- **Update on Reviews**
 - . *NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans*
 - . *Joint NHMRC/AVCC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice (1997)*
- **National Competitive Grants Program Dataset (See http://www.arc.gov.au/funded_grants/default.htm#dataset):** The data set contains information, as at the time of Ministerial approval, on projects, Centres, Fellowships and other awards approved for funding under the NCGP since its inception in 2001. It does not include data on proposals first funded prior to 2002, which was the first year of funding under the NCGP
- **Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation (FEAST)** (See <http://www.feast.org/>)
 - . Appointment of ERC Secretary General
 - . Conference 28-29 November “Research without Borders”
- **Focus on Business (See: <http://www.focusonbusiness.com.au/default.aspx>)**
 Focus on Business 2006 is an ACT Government activity that offers some opportunities for ANU to form relationships with people from the region and beyond. It will be held in Canberra between 13 – 15 September. ANU has been involved in the planning from an early stage, with the intention of positioning our participation to produce maximum benefit to ANU without excessive involvement in the “small business” programs that would involve few research and education opportunities.

 The ANU Exchange will sponsor a lunch at the Hyatt for selected (“VIP”) national and international business men and women on 13 September. The lunch will be followed by a VIP visit to the ANU organised by the DVC(R)’s Office with groups formed according to interests that align with various activities at ANU: ICT (CECS – host: Prof John Richards), Physical Science & Bio-technology (COS – host: Prof Jim Williams) and Service Sector Research (CBE – host: Dr Rod Tyers).
- **Grants and Consultancies** awarded between 1 May and 30 June 2006 ([956/2006](#) attached)

SPONSOR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the information and reports.

ITEM 12. OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTION TIME

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

SPONSOR: Chair, University Research Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the matters raised and the responses.