UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
FACULTY OF INFORMATICS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 1/08 be held at 1:30pm on Thursday, 28 February 2008 in Building 8, room G24.

PRESENT: Prof A Bouzerdoum (Chair), Dr T Coltman, Prof R Chambers, Dr G Cox, Prof J Fulcher, A/Prof Y Mu, Prof F Naghdy, A/Prof G Naghdy, Dr M Nelson, Ms A Norris, A/Prof S Perera, and A/Prof M Zhang.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Lonard.

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from A/Prof R Macgregor and Mr M Stevens. Prof S-P Zhu is on study leave for this session. Dr Mark Nelson will be attending for Professor Song-Ping Zhu. Mr Mark Stevens is the temporary replacement for Mr Craig Peden as the Faculty’s Manager of Innovation and Commercialisation.

This will be the last meeting for the current student representative, Ms Alison Norris. A new student representative will be elected in April.

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 16 November 2007

The minutes of the meeting 16 November 2007 were confirmed. The Chair advised that before circulation of the minutes, the confidential ranking data would be removed.

A/Professor Golshah Naghdy queried the ranking for one of the students, which was resolved with the Secretary post-meeting.

1.3 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

2. REPORT FROM CHAIR – VERBAL REPORT

The Chair’s report encompassed the following:

♦ New DVC (Research): the newly appointed Professor Judy Raper will commence at UOW in mid-July. She is currently visiting the campus for the day. The RQF reports compiled from the Faculties will be given to Professor Raper.

♦ Assessment of Research Excellence: Trials will be undertaken with two science disciplines this year. The process will be based mainly on metrics. The previous RQF team has been disbanded and responsibility for the assessment will be moved to the ARC.

♦ ARC Discovery Grant applications: there were 30 expressions of interest received. It is expected that approximately 25 applications will be submitted
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by the Faculty this year. 19 applications were submitted for external review by an editing firm.

- Vice-Chancellor’s Research Awards: closing date, Friday 4 April 2008. The awards will be for: Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership, Senior Researchers and Emerging Researchers. The Committee was asked to discuss the awards with their fellow staff members to encourage nominees.

3. PROGRESS ON RESEARCH STRENGTHS/STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Chair distributed copies of the Faculty Research structure. He requested feedback on the accuracy of the structure. This document was drafted by the International Unit to be taken overseas and promoted to potential partners.

It was advised that the Power Quality Research Centre listed on the document should read “Integral Energy Power Quality Research Centre”.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Scholarship Ranking Process

The Scholarship ranking process is to be reviewed in 2008. Feedback is requested from those who were involved in last year’s scholarships ranking process.

In 2007, the scholarship applications were split between the research strengths and the Faculty. This year the applications may all be distributed back to the Faculties as in previous years and a point system used to score the applications.

A member believed last year’s scholarship ranking process to be unclear and messy. It was found that some applications were given to the incorrect group for ranking.

The Chair welcomed all feedback.

4.2 Funding Shortfall for ARC APDs and PRFs

The Chair advised that staff considering professorial fellowships should discuss this with the Dean or Head of School. Due to a funding shortfall, these fellowships are costing the University a huge amount of money.

The Research Services Office is reviewing the fellowships and their viability as they are a very prestigious opportunity.

4.3 Faculty Research Budget

The Chair advised that the University Research Committee will be using the Faculties’ 2007 expenditure reports to determine the 2008 budget. He warned this could mean a decrease in the budget allocated to the Faculty.
4.4 Reminders

- Nominations for the Vice-Chancellor’s Research Awards close 4 April 2008.
- Deadline for publication data collection is 18 April 2008.
- A number of HDR student APRs are yet to be completed.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm Thursdays 1 May. This may be shifted to accommodate the ranking for the RIBG applications.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.00pm.

Angelina Lonard
Secretary
17 March 2008