UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
FACULTY OF INFORMATICS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 2/04 held at 1:30pm on Thursday, 22nd April 2004 in the Faculty Meeting Room, Building 39, Room 150A.

PRESENT: Dr S Gower (Chair), A/Prof I Burnett, Mr M Freeman, A/Prof T Marchant, Dr Y Mu, A/Prof G Naghdy, Dr M Nelson, Dr P Ogunbona, Prof R Safavi-Naini and A/Prof Wysocki.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms K Oborn.

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from: Prof A Ghose, A/Prof F Naghdy, Prof F Safaei and Prof J Seberry.

The following member is currently on leave: A/Prof J Rayner.

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 4th March 2004

The minutes of the meeting held 4th March 2004 were confirmed.

1.3 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1.4.1 Terms of Reference

The Chair is currently looking at the Terms of Reference for the Faculty Research Committee, and is awaiting information from University Research Committee before commencing the update. The Dean has requested that the final update be held over for input from the soon to be appointed Associate Dean (Research).

ACTION: Chair to complete an update of Terms of Reference.

1.4.2 Faculty Planning and Resource Report

The Chair and Prof David Steel have provided input into this document.

2. REPORT FROM CHAIR – VERBAL REPORT

2.1 URC Funding

The Faculty is in the process of finalizing its Faculty Research Allocation. The funding includes the Research Student Maintenance Fund but excludes funding for areas of research strength. The Dean is looking at strategic initiatives to maximise the research return on funding.

2.2 RIBG Grant Applications

There were 28 applications University wide for a total pool of $500,000.00, with approximately 1/3 of the applications each coming from Informatics, Science and Engineering.
3. RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE BLOCK GRANT (POOL 2) RANKING

Each member present at the meeting provided a preliminary ranking prior to the meeting.

The Chair discussed the process to be undertaken and noted that Primary and Chief Investigators were not allowed to rank their own application nor members where there was a perceived conflict of interest. A method had been devised where these applications could be appropriately compensated for this disadvantage.

A/Prof Tim Marchant raised the issue of everyday computing equipment not being an acceptable, claimable item for these grants. The Chair pointed out that the guidelines only exclude general purpose computing equipment and that the committee could decide whether the intended use complied with the guidelines. A/Prof Marchant advised that more justification was needed to be successful in receiving funding for certain equipment items.

A/Prof Ian Burnett raised the issue that Dr Steve Gower as Chair, may be in breach of rules as he has an application to be ranked. The committee decided that A/Prof Marchant, who did not have a conflict of interest, become the independent Chair for the ranking part of the meeting. A/Prof Marchant accepted and the meeting proceeded.

Each application was discussed with those with a conflict of interest asked to leave the room during the discussion of their application. The committee agreed that it would need to justify support for those who don’t currently have a National Competitive Grant but have one pending.

At the conclusion of discussions the final ranking and recommended $ were approved to go to URC.

(Rankings and recommended $ omitted due to confidential nature)

4. SPECIAL ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

There were no special items for discussion.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that Mark Freeman’s term as Student Representative is due to expire on 30th April. He has nominated to serve another term on the committee. The Chair thanked Mark for his input and wished him well in the elections.

6. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 17 June, 2004 Faculty Meeting Room, Building 39/105A

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

Dr Steve Gower
Chair