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

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 28 February 2008

The minutes of the meeting 28 February 2008 were confirmed.

1.3 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

2. REPORT FROM CHAIR – VERBAL REPORT

The Chair's report encompassed the following:

♦ General announcements:
  o Congratulations to Professor David Steel, Professor Ray Chambers and Dr Robert Clark on their success in the ARC Linkage International Social Sciences program; they received a grant of $140,000 in collaboration with Dr Mark Tranmer and Dr Mark Elliot from the University of Manchester.
  o Congratulations to Professor Matthew Wand on being elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences.
  o Congratulations to Professor Jim Hill on being awarded the ANZIAM medal.
  o Congratulations to Professor Jennifer Seberry on being awarded the Australasian Combinatorial Mathematics Society Gold Medal.
  o Congratulations also to Professor Farzad Safaei and Associate Professor Willy Susilo on being appointed as Director and Deputy Director of TITR, respectively.
  o 31 new HDR students enrolled in the Faculty in the first session of 2008: 21 Ph.D. and 10 Research Masters students.

♦ Research Excellence for Australia (ERA) is currently under intense development. A consultation paper is due to be released in May. There will be 8 discipline
panels and the outcomes will be used to inform Research Funding Pacts with Universities. There will be no overall numerical scores, but bibliometric data will be used to assess research excellence. No impact statement will be required.

- ARC Future Fellowships: There will be about 200 new ARC Fellowships open to mid-career researchers (Professor and Associate Professor level), each year for the next five years. All applications require University justification; therefore, they must be coordinated with the research office.

- Two reviews have been undertaken by the government: Innovation and Higher education.

- APAI Scholarships will be open to International students from the first round of 2008.

- ARC Linkage Grants. So far only two expressions of interest submitted from the Faculty.

- Vice-Chancellor’s Research Awards. There were a good number of applicants in all categories.

- Reminders:
  - Endeavour scholarships, applications are now open.

3. PROGRESS ON RESEARCH STRENGTHS/STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Chair reported that there was no progress on the Faculty’s research strengths as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) has not yet commenced.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 HDR Scholarship Ranking Process

Feedback was sought on the revised HDR Scholarship ranking process. Discussions have been held since the last FRC meeting, as well as a trial.

Members discussed the new ranking system and commented on the need for more weighting on “Additional Research Experience”. The Chair argued that First Class Honours students may be disadvantaged by this as they tend to do more projects in their Honours year.

The Chair advised that unless there were any further comments across the University, the revised process was finalised. Comments can be sent to the Chair after the meeting.

4.2 Faculty of Informatics Research Development Scheme (FIRDS)

The Chair encouraged members to raise awareness of the FIRDS to new staff; guidelines are available on the Faculty’s website.
The Chair advised that the annual budget of $50,000 for the Scheme is usually adequate to cover the Faculty’s needs. This year however, unsuccessful applicants will be referred to the ARC Near Miss Grants.

4.3 RIBG Pool 2

The guidelines for the 2008 RIBG Pool 2 were attached to the agenda. Applicants have a deadline of 5 May to submit their applications. Presentations by applicants are to be held after this meeting.

The Chair scheduled a ranking meeting for 1.30pm on Wednesday 14 May and advised he would distribute a ranking sheet to members, to be returned to the Chair before the meeting. Those members unable to attend were asked to still submit their rankings prior to the meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 FRC Membership

The Chair reported that a new Faculty Representative needs to be elected as the current representative, A/Professor Minjie Zhang’s term has ended.

A/Professor Sarath Perera advised that he will be on study leave in Spring Session. Professor John Fulcher will also be on study leave in Spring Session and has asked Dr Jennifer Seberry to replace him for the session.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm Thursday 26 June.

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

Angelina Lonard
Secretary
14 May 2008