UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG  
FACULTY OF INFORMATICS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 3/08 held at 1:30pm on Thursday, 26 June 2008 in Building 8, room G24.

PRESENT: Prof A Bouzerdoum (Chair), Dr B Keating, Prof D Steel, A/Prof Y Mu, Prof F Naghdy, A/Prof M Zhang, Prof J Seberry, Dr G Cox, Prof F Safaei, A/Prof G Naghdy, Dr M Nelson, and Mr M Cheow (Student Rep)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Lynne Clements

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from A/Prof G Williams, Prof Ray Chambers, A/Prof W Susilo, A/Prof S Perera, A/Prof T Coltman

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 14 May 2008

The minutes of the meeting 14 May 2008 were confirmed. 
Moved: Y Mu; Seconded: G Naghdy.

1.3 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

• SCSSE Research Representative, for researchers outside the research strengths, has not been resolved. The Committee awaits advice from the Head of SCSSE.

• Elections are being held for the Faculty Representatives on the FRC, two nominations received.

2. REPORT FROM CHAIR – VERBAL REPORT

The Chair’s report encompassed the following:

♦ VC Awards:
  o Congratulations to Prof David Steel, who was highly commended for Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnerships for his work with the ABS.
  o Congratulations to A/Prof Minjie Zhang, who was highly commended for Excellence in Research Supervision.
  o The Award ceremony is to take place on the 27 June.

♦ Grant Success.
  o Congratulations to Prof Peter Eklund on being awarded an ARC Linkage Project with the Australian Museum and researchers from Creative Arts.
  o Congratulations to Ass/Prof Kashem Muttaqi, Dr Philip Ciufio, Ass/Profs Serath Perera and Paul Cooper on their success in RIBG Pool 2 grant.
The University sent a submission to DIISR Research Training Review which calls for an increase in the amount and duration of the APA stipend, opening more scholarships to international students, and a review of postdoctoral training.

A new Honorary Postdoctoral Research Associate Position has been created. The aim is to allow graduating Ph.D. student to remain part of the Univ. to allow them to complete their publications and additional research work. No funding support is attached to such positions, and the Honorary Research Associates will not have access to internal research funding schemes.

The URC terms of reference are being revised. The proposal is to reduce the membership, two Deans, two Directors of Research strengths, and no FRC chairs; the latter will be represented by the URSC Deputy Chair.

3. PROGRESS ON RESEARCH STRENGTHS/STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Nothing to report at this stage.

4. CONSULTATION PAPERS

4.1 ERA Consultation Paper
Research Excellence for Australia (ERA) Consultation Paper (feedback due by COB Friday)
- A consultation paper along with the draft journal rankings have been released.
- There will be 8 discipline panels.
- The outcomes will be used to inform Research Funding Pacts with Universities.
- There will be no overall numerical scores, but citations and other bibliometric data will be used to assess research excellence. No impact statement will be required.
- Clarification was requested by Prof Seberry on the classification of particular topics? Prof Bouzerdoum stated that we are currently being asked for input on general format and if anyone had particular requests to email him with their suggestions and he will forward these accordingly.

4.2 ARC Future Fellowships Consultation Paper
ARC Future Fellowships (Feedback due by COB Friday).
- There will be about 200 new ARC Future Fellowships open to mid-career researchers (at the level of Prof and Ass/Prof), each year for the next 5 years.
- Mid-career is defined as Researchers who have between 5 and 15 years research experience after the award of the Ph.D.
- All applications require University justification.
The question was raised by Prof Seberry regarding researchers who have established their career in other languages and how this impacts their eligibility? Prof Bouzerdoum replied that other contributions in other languages should be accepted.

Prof Steel stated that the University must then justify the sponsorship. Prof Seberry raised the question regarding a 50% contribution? Prof Safaei stated that a 50% contribution should also be allowed.

5. RANKING OF RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS
There was some discussion on the process of this procedure. Prof Bouzerdoum explained that the ARC publish ‘draft’ rankings and we then make submissions with our justifications. There was also discussion on the fact that the top 5% ranking was not seen as particularly accurate. Prof Bouzerdoum stated that he attended an ARC Presentation Mtg in Sydney last week on this topic and expressed his view on providing an option for clustering or grouping journals to overcome the percentage issue.

Further discussion was held regarding the form of submissions to Prof Bouzerdoum. He requested that everyone make their submissions to him on the spreadsheet he has provided ensuring the necessary changes are made with clear justifications.

If submissions are required to other schools or indeed other faculties, the best approach would be to contact the appropriate research strength and make submission via this avenue along with clear justifications.

6. OTHER BUSINESS
1. Nominations for NSW Scientist of the year are open.
2. URC Small grants
3. Ph.D. Scholarship workshop in China

7. NEXT MEETING
The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm Thursday 21 August.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.05pm.

Lynne Clements
Secretary
26 June 2008