UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG
FACULTY OF INFORMATICS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes for Distribution of Meeting 5/03 held at 1:30pm on Thursday, 13th November 2003 in the Faculty Meeting Room, Building 39, room 150A.

PRESENT:  Dr S Gower (Chair), Prof H Brown, Mr M Freeman, Prof J Fulcher, Dr J Getta, A/Prof T Marchant, A/Prof F Naghdy, Dr S Perera, Prof F Safaei and Prof J Seberry.

IN ATTENDANCE:  Ms K Sheridan, Mr T McDonald (OoR) and Ms K Roser (OoR).

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from: A/Prof J Rayner, Prof R Safavi-Naini and A/Prof T Wysocki.

1.2 FRC Membership

It was noted that, for this meeting:

- Dr S Gower is the Dean’s nominee as Chair.
- Professor J Fulcher, A/Professor T Marchant and Dr S Perera are Head of School nominees.
- Dr J Getta is the Faculty Postgraduate Coordinator nominee.
- A/Professor F Naghdy and Professor F Safaei represent two of the three key research institutes in the Faculty.
- Professor J Seberry is the elected Faculty Representative.
- Mr M Freeman is the elected Postgraduate Student Representative.
- Professor H Brown is the visiting URSC member, as required by the URC 2004 PG Research Scholarship Ranking Guidelines.

1.3 Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 25 September, 2003

The minutes of the meeting held 25 September 2003 were confirmed.

1.4 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

There was no business arising.

2. RANKING OF 2004 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Committee members were provided with School rankings of relevant applicants at the meeting. Applications were made available at the meeting for discussion.

The Committee agreed to rank domestic fast-tracked applicants first, followed by other domestic and, lastly, international applicants.
Domestic Postgraduate Scholarship Applications

The Chair noted that, in the past, fast-tracked applicants have been successful, however, due to the high number of excellent applicants, this may not be the case this year.

Professor Fulcher noted that SITACS has ranked three excellent Masters by Research candidates for fast-tracking, as the SITACS committee considers them 'equivalent' to Hons I (in accordance with the guidelines), if not better. It was noted that this argument may not be accepted at the University-level and that the fast-tracking process is supposed to be for straightforward applications.

The Committee reviewed the results of all recommended fast-track applicants, in particular focusing on the proportion of HDs and, where indicated, the WAM. It was noted that, in future, all Schools should provide details regarding WAM, where possible, to assist with the ranking process at Faculty level.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed on rankings for domestic applicants.

[Rankings omitted due to confidential nature]

International Postgraduate Scholarship Applications

The Committee noted that only 7 International applications should be ranked, due to the limited number of scholarships available.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed on rankings for international applicants.

[Rankings omitted due to confidential nature]

3. REPORT FROM CHAIR

3.1 URC Funding of Faculty Research

The Chair noted that the Faculty is required to put forward a budget for research activities. In devising the budget, the Faculty needs to consider what research activities it wishes to pursue over the next 3-4 years and what infrastructure may be required to facilitate this. This may include activities such as setting up an international conference, cross-faculty initiatives, assistance with writing grant applications etc.

The Chair will send an email to all Informatics academic staff members with examples of what may be included in the budget and calling for further suggestions regarding initiatives that could be funded.

3.2 FRC Chair

The Chair noted that Professor Jim Hill had stepped down as Chair due to commitments. As a consequence, Dr Steve Gower has been selected as Chair.
4. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

5. NEXT MEETING


Dr Steve Gower
Chair