The University of Western Australia

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN ROOM 158, FIRST FLOOR, PHYSICS BUILDING ON TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2009

PRESENT:
Dean as Chair (Professor George Stewart)
Deputy Dean (Professor Bob Grove)
Dr Jane Emberson (Academic Student Adviser)

Heads (or their nominees) of the following Schools:
Professor Line Schmitt (Anatomy and Human Biology)
Professor Geoff Stewart (Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences)
Associate Professor Ian McArthur (Physics)
Associate Professor David Morrison (Psychology)
Professor Bruce Elliott (Sport Science, Exercise and Health)

Associate Deans:
Professor Colin Raston (Associate Dean (Research))
Professor Arunasalam Dharmarajan (Associate Dean (South Asia Research Initiatives))

Managers of the following Schools:
Dr Ron Swann (Anatomy and Human Biology)
Ms Jennifer Stevenson (Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences)
Mr Jegatheva Jegathesan (Physics)
Dr Craig Clark (Psychology)
Mr Ron Kelly (Sport Science, Exercise and Health)

Elected Representatives:
Dr Giles Plant (Anatomy & Human Biology)
Mr Doug Robb (Psychology)

APOLOGIES:
Ms Jenny Gamble (Faculty Manager)
Professor Geoff Hammond (Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning))
Dr Mohamed Makha (Associate Dean (Middle East Research Initiatives))
Professor Ian Dadour (Centre for Forensic Science)

Mrs Lesley Tubic as Executive Officer

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED – 3

that the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 24 February 2009 be confirmed.

2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Dean invited members to declare conflicts of interest in relation to any item on the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

3. DEAN’S REPORT

The Dean reported on the following issues:
• **Australian Universities Quality Agency (AQUA) Review**
  A review of UWA would be conducted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AQUA) in May 2009. The review would include the offshore programs taught in Singapore by FLPs and the PSB Corporation. At the Faculty briefing on 27 March 2009 the Vice-Chancellor informed staff that the University would be scrutinized in depth. The Dean told members that it was important that staff in schools be kept up to date about the review.

• **Review of Course Structures**
  The Dean informed members that the proposed implementation date for the new course structure was first semester in 2012. He told members that it was important that the Faculty progress committees and get reports prepared by the end of first semester. The next step would be to hold discussions with schools. He felt that the process would be a difficult one with a number of issues to be resolved. These included ensuring that units were not duplicated, clarification of rules governing broadening units and finding ways in which BPhil students could be encouraged to stay the course for the full four years.

• **University of Science and Technology China (UTSC)**
  The Dean informed members that a joint PhD program had been established as part of an agreement between The University of Western Australia and the University of Science and Technology China. He encouraged members to take this opportunity to collaborate with scientists from UTSC. Areas of particular interest were Physics and the Life Sciences.

• **World University Network**
  At the previous meeting of the Executive Committee members had been made aware of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). WUN is a partnership of research-focused universities in Australia, China, Europe and North America. The Vice-Chancellor recently visited the University of Leeds. The Associate Dean (Research) will be visiting the University of Alberta, the only member university in Canada. The criteria for collaborative research projects included a requirement that partnerships be established with at least two member universities. Under a scheme devised by the Vice-Chancellor a fund had been created to support collaborative projects between UWA and one university from the WUN network. The Dean informed members that the terms of reference for this scheme would be available soon.

4. **TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE REPORT**
   The Associate Dean (Research) was unable to attend the meeting. On his behalf the Dean reported on the following teaching and learning issues:

   • **Teaching and Learning Funds**
     Members were forewarned that the next round of Teaching and Learning funding would be coming soon.

   • **Research Based Teaching**
     The review of course structures provided an opportunity for research based teaching to be incorporated into courses in this Faculty.

5. **RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**
   The Associate Dean (Research) provided an update on research issues and activities within the Faculty. This included:

   • **ARC Discovery Projects**
     The number of ARC Discovery Project applications submitted by UWA in the current round had been disappointing. The number of applications submitted by both the University and the Faculty had fallen below that submitted in the previous round. The
Faculty had to develop strategies to achieve the minimum standard expected of Go8 institutions.

- **NHMRC**
  The closing date for submission of NHMRC grants had passed. There had been an increase in the number of applications submitted across UWA this year. However the number of application from this Faculty had fallen by 6 compared to last year. Although it had not been apparent at UWA there was an Australia wide trend amongst proven NHMRC applicants to move to ARC grants. The reverse was true for ARC applicants.

- **ARC Linkage Grants**
  Applications for ARC Linkage closed on 10 May 2009. As there had been a decline in the success rate amongst late applications the University was pushing to ensure that applications were submitted by the internal deadline. Clarification had been sought regarding the process for matching funds for ARC Linkage grants. Faculties had been advised that applications for matching funds would be funded centrally. In some instances the Faculty had been approached by the centre for contributions.

- **Federation Fellowships**
  Nominations for the next round of Future Fellowship applications would open in April 2009. This would be followed by the announcement of results for the current round of applications in October 2009.

- **Research Active at UWA**
  At the March meeting of the Faculty Research Committee members considered a discussion paper entitled ‘Research Active at UWA”. The paper contained a series of guidelines concerning eligibility, minimum research active levels, inspirational research active levels, targets appropriate to academic levels and targets appropriate to discipline. The outcome of the analysis of research activities in 2008 had resulted in this Faculty being awarded a Socratic Threshold index of 8.3. These results have been sent to schools for their feedback and comment.

- **Survival Skills for Scientists Workshop**
  A two day workshop will be held 26 and 27 May 2009. The workshop will focus on the survival skills for a successful career in science and engineering. Information can be obtained from the Institute for Advanced Studies website at:


6. **SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH INITIATIVES REPORT**
   The Associate Dean (South Asia Research Initiatives) provided an update on the Faculty’s recruitment activities and collaboration with institutions in India. Members had before them a copy of his report. His report included:

   - **Visit to India – February - March 2009**
     This visit had been very successful and included meetings and lectures at tertiary institutions in Chennai, Trichy, Bangalore, Kerala and Hyderabad. All these institutions have very strong biotechnology/biomedical programs. To date the focus had been on the establishment of collaborative research links with tertiary institutions in South India. Future visits would focus on institutions in North India.

   - **Scholarships**
     India Only scholarships – applications will become available in June 2009 and close in July 2009. Under this scholarship fees will be split equally between UWA and the students while living costs will be funded between Central Admin and the host group. Students will only have to pay $12,500.00 per annum.
7. **TISC GUIDE FOR 2010**
The Academic Student Advisor informed members that the deadline for changes to entries in 2010 TISC Guide was 20 April 2009. She reminded members that some changes may need to be approved by Faculty.

Confirmed

CHAIR