WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY
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Research Committee

1. Role

The Research Committee assists Academic Senate by providing leadership and advice with respect to the University's strategic plan relating to research and research training, including but not limited to assurance of quality and ethical research and research training standards, student experience and ensuring collaborative research across Schools and Research Institutes.

2. Terms of Reference

The Research Committee is the principal advisory committee to Academic Senate on research training. The Committee provides advice and comment to Senate, by undertaking the following tasks:

2.1   Provides strategic advice to Academic Senate on research, research training and research related matters to ensure high academic and ethical standards and support the strategic direction of the University;

2.2   Provides strategic advice to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Research, Enterprise & International on the implementation of the Strategic Plan to enable strategies that support innovative, flexible and inclusive research practice;

2.3   Reviews proposed amendments to policies and procedures that relate to research training to ensure compliance with the Higher Education Standards;

2.4   Reviews proposed amendments to policies and procedures that relate to research at the University;

2.5   Exercises the responsibilities located in relevant policies and procedures of the University in relation to research and research training related matters; and

2.6   Promotes the development of productive collaborative research within the University between University Research Institutes and Schools, and external entities;

2.7   Provide advice, and make recommendations to Academic Senate regarding the development, implementation and effectiveness of research policy and practice in the University. This will include:

   a. identifying, encouraging and promoting good practice with regard to the responsible and ethical conduct of research;

   b. reviewing and providing advice on the University's Research Plan, having regards to the University's mission, goals and priorities;

   c. reviewing University Research Institutes and Schools research plans and monitoring performance and progress against these plans;

   d. developing and monitoring the University's research policy framework and research performance reports; and

    e. advising on the University's strategy in regards to research block grant budget and submissions.

2.8 Provide advice to Academic Senate and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research, Enterprise & International) on strategic policy, planning, quality assurance and performance in relation to research training and higher degree research programs. This will include advice on:

    a. the pathways that contribute to student access including credit and articulation, participation, retention, and success;
    b. the admission and selection policies and procedures for research training and higher degree research programs;
    c. the quality and structure of research training and higher degree research programs;
    d. the methods of assessing the quality of all research training activities, including those of third party providers;
    e. the proposals relating to the establishment, revision, discontinuation and disestablishment of postgraduate research programs; and
    f. any other academic policy and quality assurance matters;

2.9 Consider matters referred by Senate, School or University Research Institute Committees as appropriate.

3. Membership

Membership is as follows:

a. Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President, Research, Enterprise & International (Chair)
b. Deputy Chair; nominated by Chair of the Research Committee in consultation with Chair, Academic Senate. The nominated member is chosen from elected members of Academic Senate and endorsed by Senate Executive
c. Chair, Academic Senate
d. Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research
e. Chair, Research Studies Committee
f. Director, Indigenous Research
g. Director or nominee from each University Institute
h. Associate Dean, Research (or equivalent) from each School
i. Two Senior Research Academics nominated by Chair of the Research Committee in consultation with Chair, Academic Senate. The nominated members are chosen from elected members of Academic Senate and endorsed by Senate Executive
j. Two Early Career Researchers (ECR) or Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) academics nominated by Chair of the Research Committee in consultation with Chair, Academic Senate. The nominated members are chosen from elected members of Academic Senate and endorsed by Senate Executive

k. One Higher Degree Research student, elected by and from the Higher Degree Research students of the University.

4. Chairing of Meetings

The meeting is Chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President, Research, Enterprise & International. In their absence, the Deputy Chair will preside.

5. Meeting Frequency

Research Committee will meet between 4 to 6 times per year, as required. E-meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair to consider urgent matters.

6. Quorum

Quorum is one-half (or if one-half is not a whole number, the whole number next higher than one-half) of the total number of members for the time being of the Committee, and there must be at least one representative from each School of the Cluster in attendance.

If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the stated commencement time, the meeting shall automatically lapse and the business on the agenda shall be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

Approved at Academic Senate on 26 February 2021.
Updated membership approved at Academic Senate on 15 October 2021.