

## **AGENDA ITEM 12** **Report of the Research Committee**

### **12.2 Report of the Research Committee meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2005**

The Committee met on 23 February 2005 when there were present: The Chair (Professor J Carter) presiding, Professors M Behnia, D Burke, M Crossley, G Gill, T Hirst, P Jones, D Melrose and C Pollock, Associate Professor P McCallum, Drs J Lingard and L Poladian, Mr K Croft and Mr W Dawson.

#### **12.2.1 Receipt of Report**

The Committee **recommends** that the Academic Board receive and note the following report of the meeting held on 23 February 2005.

#### **12.2.2 Proceedings of the Committee**

**(1) APA-UPA scholarships – revised ranking guidelines**

The Research Office will oversee a comparative analysis of both the revised and former guidelines when applied to the 2005 APA-UPA cohort. This may lead to some minor modifications to the revised guidelines, particularly to the research potential component. It is intended to use the revised guidelines for semester 2 co-funded UPA scholarship awards.

**(2) Early Career Development Awards**

Final guidelines and forms were circulated within Colleges in early December 2004. Applications were due to Faculties 18 February, with Faculty nominations to College PVCs due 28 February. College recommendations to the DVCR&I are due early March.

**(3) National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)**

The USyd submission in response to the NCRIS implementation framework recommends:

- a consultative approach given the importance of research infrastructure in positioning Australia's research at the forefront internationally;
- that the strategy not be limited to the narrow national research priority areas;
- that multiple funding rounds be considered to be responsive to change;
- consideration of international opportunities, particularly re access and networks; and
- an evidence based approach in determining need.

**(4) Review of the Business Liaison Office**

The key recommendations focus on a new structure and commercial focus, changes to policies and procedures particularly ownership of student IP and entrepreneurial education. Mr Grant Fulton will manage the implementation of the recommendations.

**(5) University of Sydney Strategic Plan 2005-9**

The draft plan includes R&I key performance indicators – research intensity, research income, research publications, research collaboration, higher degree research load and completions and commercialization. The target of increasing the proportion of research active staff to >90% by 2009 was emphasized as underpinning all other targets.

**(6) Reports**

Professor Hirst reported that USyd did not have any of its 8 ARC Centre of Excellence bids shortlisted for interview. The underlying reasons for this should be considered at a future meeting once final outcomes are known.

Professor Behnia reported the poor completions performance of the 1999 (60% after 6 years) and 2000 (49% after 5 years) APA-UPA scholarships cohort. This is a major concern for USyd moving forward.

Mr Dawson reported that ARC Discovery and NHMRC project grant rounds are well underway with USyd application numbers on track to match or exceed those from last year.

Mr Croft reported on the BLO involvement in intellectual property negotiations re Linkage Project grants, the review of patent use by the Advisory Council on Intellectual Property, and the 2005 BLO seminar series.