

MINUTES

SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH AND CLINICAL PRACTICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 24th May 2006 at 9.00am
Level 1 Eleanor Harrald Bld, Room 1-23

Present: Neville Marsh (Convenor), John Moss, Judy Magarey, Nigel Stocks, Jonathan Newbury (videoconference), Greg Bussell and Felicia Matthews. By invitation: Andrew Somogyi, Simon Brennan.

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Annette Braunack-Mayer. A Braunack-Mayer was invited to the meeting as the Convenor of the School Research & Higher Degree.

N Marsh welcomed Andrew Somogyi (Associate Dean, Research) and Simon Brennan (Research Manager) to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (10th May)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate and will be available on the School website.

3. Matters arising

School Committee membership

N Marsh said that A Braunack-Mayer had almost completed recruiting members to the Research & Higher Degree Committee. J Moss asked N Stocks to notify A Braunack-Mayer of General Practice's representatives. There was concern that there had not been a Higher Degree Student nominated yet. J Newbury said that he would nominate a fulltime PhD student, located in Whyalla. It was also important that each School committee had a representative who was on the Faculty related committee and because of this, N Stocks will now be on the Research & Higher Degrees Committee and Cate Howell will take his place on the Teaching & Learning Committee. N Stocks also suggested that Nicole Moulding be on the Research & Higher Degrees Committee.

English Language Policy

J Magarey had submitted a statement on the English Language Policy to the University on behalf of the School. Neville thanked Judy for her hard work.

Signage

The signs have gone up in the Eleanor Harrald Building.

4. Faculty Research Issues (Andrew Somogyi)

N Marsh welcomed Andrew Somogyi and Simon Brennan. Andrew asked what issues wanted to be discussed and N Marsh raised the issue of Faculty's research KPIs:

Growing International and domestic HDRs - N Marsh said that the School will meet the Faculty's KPIs for domestic HDRs by the addition of students from the Johanna Briggs Institute. The number of international students was discussed at great length, in particular the possibility of the AusAid contract being re-established with the University and current and future international links at Discipline level: Public Health: Shangdong Province in China, Indonesia, Vietnam, East Timor and Iran; Nursing: Malaysia, General Practice: United Kingdom and Korea (Grief and Palliative care students), Rural Health: Quebec, Nepal and Malaysia. The discipline Heads explained the extent of their relationship and all agreed that the School was well set up to work on these links and increase the number of international students, however political circumstances and other issues out of our control will always be present. N Marsh asked about links with the United Kingdom and other English speaking students and whether this would be a good target. N Stocks said that PhD stipends were not competitive with GP income in the UK, so they would move to Australia for other reasons, but he agreed that we should market ourselves at various conferences to recruit GPs who were interested in research. The University signs a number of agreements with overseas institutions but it is the Disciplines which need to start working at the ground level to make things happen. N Marsh asked about University scholarships for overseas students and S Brennan said that this had been investigated but it was not cost effective to pay for the full scholarship. Double badging, ie. one degree with two (university) badges, has been approved by the Academic Board and this is seen as a way of attracting overseas students who wish to spend part of their time at Adelaide and part in their home institution.

Research income – N Marsh said that this is difficult to predict because the end of very large contracts has a big impact on the Discipline. A Somogyi said that this is why it was important to gain ongoing NHMRC grants, because with this scheme, as grants end, others are usually beginning. This then maintains Category 1 funding levels. N Stocks, said that General Practice have been successful in gaining NHMRC grants in the past, but pointed out that an extra \$2m a year for the past six years was allocated to primary health care (special funds allocated for particular areas) and that this money could potentially disappear in four years time. N Marsh asked J Newbury how much of SGRHS grant was designated as research, as this can be added to the Schools block grant income. However as soon as it is labelled as research funds, any block grant revenue will have to be shared with UniSA.

RQF - there was some discussion about research-active staff and how we are going to increase our output. N Marsh said that we do not know how big the research group will need to be in the final RQF model and asked if there was anything Schools/Disciplines should be doing to prepare. A Somogyi said that the Faculty have the research performance output data for all members of the School, but the impact criteria are not finally agreed. Thus, there is little point in spending time, effort and money until we know exactly what to do. Likewise, we do not know how to measure our "best" papers. J Newbury will endeavour to glean information from UniSA, and indicated that they are in the same situation. A Somogyi said that it will be another 18 months before we have to submit anything and in the meantime, we should think about high impact factor journal outputs and checking employment arrangements to ensure that working being done for the University is being recognised, ie. secondments and staff working for the University but being paid by the Hospital or other organisations.

A Somogyi said that the School should be developing its own research and teaching plan. N Marsh said that this will be considered by the Research and Higher Degree Committee. A Somogyi suggested using the Faculty's research and teaching plan as a guide and to think about working towards Faculty research units and University Clusters. Preliminary discussions have been held with Bernie Hughes about double badging with UniSA, however, the RQF discourages double badging despite DEST being able to apportion RTS income across more than one institution.

Other issues

J Newbury highlighted Minister Bishop's review of national research priorities in an article in The Australian.

J Moss asked if the Faculty is prepared to top of funds obtained from NHRMC because they are grants in aid. A Somogyi replied that this will not be possible.

N Stocks asked about a number of collaborative research programs with other universities, and whether this counted towards RQF scores. A Somogyi said that this was the case and S Brennan commented on setting up account coding to identify cross-institution funding.

N Marsh thanked Andrew and Simon for their attendance.

5. School 3 yr budget - attached (Greg Bussell)

G Bussell distributed a Budget – Operating and Research and figures underpinning the budget. He said that it was extremely complex, indicative budget, and it should be read in conjunction with the 5 pages of assumptions and suggested that Chris Soteriou (Faculty Finance Manager) come and give a detailed breakdown of this to the School HODs, after we have had a chance to digest it. After the Faculty have embarked on their Business Review Planning process in June, the budget should be more accurate for years 2007 & 2008. Overall, the School is running well and any profit will depend on growth in EFTSLs and research block grant revenue. This budget reflects Faculty funded figures only and for our School, most of the growth is in contract/consulting income which was not on the balance sheet. J Newbury asked how SGRHS manages to get EFTSL-based funding in the future, which is currently distributed on an unknown historical basis from past records. N Stocks said that Alison Jones did do a project on teaching allocation in Disciplines for the Faculty two years ago but this did not reflect the allocation of funding. Disciplines are now starting to get more involved in teaching as it is foreseen that funding will be allocated in the future on the amount of teaching done by each Discipline.

G Bussell said that Chris Soteriou will be invited to the next meeting and asked that any questions on the budget be put in writing beforehand to allow time to prepare.

6. IT provision for School (John Moss)

J Moss sent a detailed summary of IT issues to N Marsh which need to be addressed with some urgency. These included the Faculty's deciding on a choice between using IT services over local computing support and what ITS can provide to Public Health and General Practice with their current complex systems, cost effectiveness, and current local computing support.

Synergies within the Disciplines were discussed. It was agreed that ITS could provide some services but not all. G Bussell said that a savings of \$200k over three years had been estimated by using local computing services and this would enable an increase in local staff assistance. The possibility of increasing Rural Health's IT services to link across the School was discussed.

J Moss said that ITS have indicated that they cannot provide a written quote for 3 months, and will not be able to take on services until the end of year, so this may well contribute to Public Health's decision. However, if the Faculty is offering to subsidise for ITS services, this would also have a major impact. N Marsh to discuss at a Faculty level.

N Marsh said that this process needs to be completely transparent and a planning group should be set to create a budget and business plan. G Bussell has figures and computing assets from General Practice and Public Health, and asked J Magarey to provide the same for Nursing. Nursing is currently on an ITS contract for 1 year, all computers and equipment is leased, this also needs to be documented and discussed when the working group is established.

G Bussell will form a working party with Peter Beilby and Paul Carter to discuss and resolve these issues.

7. Employment conditions for casual tutors as specified in the University's current Enterprise Certified Agreement (John Moss)

J Moss said that there had been industrial action by casual tutors in another School over not being paid a fair wage for the work they are doing since they have been asked to undertake additional tasks such as reading draft papers, undertaking lengthy discussions with students, attending preparation lectures which are not recognised in the tutor job description. Some Disciplines are looking at having to provide up to six years of back pay. N Marsh will raise this at the Faculty level as this could have an impact on all Disciplines.

8. MBBS Review (Neville Marsh)

The MBBS review was not positive for General Practice and Public Health in that both these disciplines need more contact hours and this is not likely to occur. N Stocks said that the level of clinical exposure and of clinical skills and given patient access, the next best thing is general practice and primary care and we need to create some infrastructure of teaching in primary care settings. N Stocks is on the MBBS curriculum committee and said that the Faculty will not respond to public pressure on, for example, anatomy content, but will focus more on communication skills, aboriginal culture and public health. N Marsh to ask the Executive Dean for a release date for the review.

9. University Open Day (Judy Magarey)

F Matthews will liaise with Leanne Bragg to organise this on a School basis.

10. Tanita Body Fat Monitors (Judy Magarey)

Not discussed.

11. School Planning Day

N Marsh asked members to think about what they wanted out of a Planning Day and who should be asked to attend. Members were asked to send Felicia additional dates in July to find a date when all are available. This should be discussed further at the next meeting.

12. Reports from Disciplines

Rural Health – Jonathan Newbury

SGRHS having a "whole of Rural Health School meeting today, a powerpoint presentation showing J Newbury's discussion topics will be on SGRHS website

J Newbury and team have completed negotiations of research percentage funding on UDRH, RCS & RUSC contracts with faculty and now waiting approval from the University.

Interviews for the Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Education position will be held in Whyalla 6th June.

The meeting was running over time so other Disciplines will report at the next meeting.

13. Any other business

J Moss has forwarded on a workload model to N Marsh which will be discussed at a later date. This has been used by Public Health for many years and J Moss said that he hoped that this would be of interest to the Faculty. N Marsh will asked Psychology and Dentistry for details of their work load models.

14. Next meeting

Wednesday 7th June at 9.00 in Room 1-23 Eleanor Harauld Bld for Videoconference.