

## MINUTES

### SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH AND CLINICAL PRACTICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Wednesday 30th August at 9.00  
Room 1-23**

Present: Neville Marsh (Convenor), John Moss, Nigel Stocks, Jonathan Newbury, Judy Magarey, Greg Bussell, Anne Tonkin and Felicia Matthews (Minutes).

By invitation: Prof Sandy McFarlane, Centre for Military and Veterans Health (CMVH)

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Amy Salter

N Marsh welcomed Sandy McFarlane to the meeting and explained that he had been asked to attend to provide the Committee with a background briefing on the CMVH and its relationship to the School.

#### 2. Minutes of previous meeting (16/8/06)

Changes to the minutes:

Ian Cooper visited Jonathan Newbury in Port Lincoln (not Whyalla)

Two part time research officers were recruited (not one)

With these changes, the minutes were accepted and will be available on the School website.

#### 3. Matters arising

N Marsh had sent the draft memo to HODs for comment and then to the Executive Dean proposing funding options for the Head of School position. He is yet to receive a written response.

Draft Selection Criteria and role statement for Head of School position will be discussed under item 5.

The Draft Planning document will be discussed under item 6.

N Marsh reported that the official joining date for the MLTU was 1<sup>st</sup> January (proposed by Stuart Matthews); however it can operate within the School with immediate effect. The financial model is still to be determined but it is clear that MLTU will join the School as budget neutral.

#### 4. Centre for Military and Veterans Health – Sandy McFarlane

The CMVH is a consortium, comprising the University of Queensland, University of Adelaide and Charles Darwin University (Menzius Centre) formed to manage continuing education for the military, research into defence related issues and a “think tank” of future health issues for medical personnel in Defence and prediction of future health

trends. The University of Queensland is the primary diver. The Centre offers a Master of Public Health (Defence) and will be offering the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Defence nursing).

#### *Institute of Aviation Medicine (AVMED)*

This is now officially affiliated with the University. One of their first projects is to convert their course in Aviation Medicine for clinicians into a postgraduate certificate. Parts of the course are already accredited with University of Queensland. N Marsh said that the University process involved going through the Program Accreditation Course. The eligibility of the course completion was discussed. S McFarlane said that the course would be appropriate for the School (or Discipline of General Practice) because currently the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requires GPs to have a minimum qualification enabling them to assess personnel applying for a pilot's licence. He said that there could be opportunity to add other units specifically for GPs. J Newbury said that he has had experience with CASA and was unclear if there was the demand. Other possibilities of working with AVMED included the likelihood of Woomera being used for space travel and the absence of any education in space medicine; AVMED are currently working on a proposal. The Committee agreed that there is the opportunity to work on ARC linkage grants and identify staff with expertise in the areas of hypoxia and the challenge of high performance aircraft. Collaboration on these grants would create longer term, higher level research as currently the CMVH focuses primarily on short-term operational research. S McFarlane said that AVMED offers excellent facilities, resources and cohorts that could be beneficial for all parties but as the Commanding Officer position rotates every three years, it will be important to establish successful links initially. N Marsh said the possibilities are exciting and this School needs to be sure to activate and drive research projects. It was suggested that AVMED run a school seminar.

#### *Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO)*

DSTO is involved in a long term project looking remote control explosive devices and body protective armour. Dino Pisaniello (Public Health) is currently involved in a DUST project with DSTO looking at respiratory hazards. A Fellow from Melbourne is visiting the Faculty and wants to link up their area of interests in biomarkers and toxicology, although this is not research/education strength of this School.

#### *Occupational and Environmental Health (OEH)*

The OEH course has just been completed: this two and a half week program was delivered by Dino Pisaniello and Defence personnel, utilising the excellent training facilities at the Institute of Aviation Medicine at RAAF Base Edinburgh. The course provides Defence health professionals with an introduction to the occupational and environmental health risks faced by ADF members. Currently, attendance is poor and so military personnel need to be encouraged to participate. D Pisaniello has also been involved in a tender to examine counter bioterrorism cadetships and also a contract to provide short courses in disaster management with UQ and Charles Darwin University. The CMVH will be involved in a very large Redeployment project involving the Middle East area of operations where every deployed service person since East Timor is part of a study to address adverse health issues and to identify prospective health issues.

#### *Rural Health*

S Macfarlane is part of a program grant group which has just won a NHMRC grant looking a mental health in Aboriginals in Broken Hill. The group will be building up a research team, so collaboration in this area would be suitable. J Newbury said that there is a University of Sydney Department of Rural Health in Broken Hill as so other links could be made.

N Marsh thanked Sandy for attending the meeting and said that there are exciting opportunities provided by the links with CMVH and AVMED.

### **5. Head of School appointment**

N Marsh reported that he had sent a memo to Justin Beilby and expected a reply shortly. However, after discussions with him, the Executive Dean indicated that he wants to use the funds from N Stocks' senior lecturer position to fund the HOS, as he cannot provide increased funding from the ARI levy or from the Strategic Initiative funds provided for the Faculty restructure. This is assuming that N Stocks is successful in gaining the NHMRC PHCRED fellowship. This decision by the Executive Dean may encourage the option of an internal appointment.

N Stocks explained that he had applied for primary health care NHMRC fellowships; NHMRC were asked to run the selection process, but the funds will be provided by the Government. He applied for \$145,000 per year, and he had been short listed and these candidates will probably be funded. However, against this, Nigel will need to backfill his position as the PHCRED position would be research only. He saw this as a way of boosting the academic staff of General Practice which has lost several senior academics recently and he wants to encourage younger personnel from overseas to join the Discipline as it currently only has 2 FTE University paid academic GPs. J Newbury said the only option will be the “minimalist approach”, to appoint a part time HOS position who could be employed for the remainder of the time by a Discipline. The role of the HOS was discussed and it was suggested that this be more about networking rather than research. J Magarey said she had concerns over the HOS being involved in research across all disciplines.

In summary, the Committee felt strongly that the General Practice funds should not be used for the HOS position and needed to oppose it. The only other possibility is to employ a GP as HOS to utilise both Faculty and General Practice funding.

Regarding the Role and Duty Statement, N Marsh wanted to agree on the selection criteria, advertisement etc to ensure that the process is underway. He said that the tabled role statement was taken from the HR website and modified. It was suggested that we should include a short statement on our main research activities; however it might be preferable to refer potential applicants to the School webpage. N Marsh stressed that the School is multidisciplinary and thus networking was particularly important, however, research was also important.

**N Marsh asked for further comments on the HOS role statements from HODs to before the next meeting.**

## **6. School planning document**

N Marsh said that he has received one response to this document and asked all HODs to send comments as soon as possible. The document will need to be extensively re-worked to make it operational and it was agreed that the negative statements need to be turned into positives. J Moss said that the document was largely about growth but did not include details of how core activities would be maintained upon which growth would accrue.

## **7. Grant Writer position**

J Newbury said that this position was brought up at the last meeting with Vivienne Moore's' request for funding. N Marsh reported that Vivienne's request was sent off to the Faculty Research Committee. N Stocks said that General Practice currently employs Sue Williams part time to do the background work on applications and this has been very useful. N Marsh asked if the School should look at a shared full time grant writer position. N Stocks suggested a half time position between disciplines rather than a school position. J Moss said that grant writing is seasonal and Public Health were trying to understand the cycle of major grant due dates. Assistance in grant writing may increase the number of grant submissions and hence successful grants. G Bussell said we could use RGIB funds to fund the position, however, J Moss argued that currently the grants that come in do not cover the cost of the research, and RGIB should be used to top up these funds. This will be revisited at a later date.

## **8. Reports from Disciplines**

*Nursing – Judy Magarey*

J Magarey met with Professor Beilby, Clive Martis and Danielle Hopkins from IT and Judi Baron from CLPD regarding IT support for the virtual classroom. They have agreed that IT can provide support for desktop problems relating to use of the VC. They will be having a further meeting with users to discuss how this may be arranged.

Nursing interviewed for the Lecturer Level B position on Monday.

Open day was a success with many enquiries about the BNurs program.

The official Launch of the AgedCareCONNECT and the announcement of the 2006/7 Aged Care Clinical Fellows was held on Tuesday at Balyana conference centre. The Commonwealth Minister for ageing and Neville Marsh attended.

A small grants nursing research scheme is being launched by the CNAHS Acute Services Nursing Research Alliance.

Peter Athanasos has started work on developing the Grad Dip (Mental Health Nursing) and has already had 13 enquiries.

Nursing held a meeting with representatives from the International office and ARI and Andrew Bain is establishing a steering group. We are now aiming for a semester 2, 2008 start.

#### *General Practice – Nigel Stocks*

N Stocks said that Open Day was a great success and he would like to thank all the medical students involved. Students were taking blood pressure and suturing which was an attraction to the public. The School took up at least a third of the tent and so in future years, we need to consider our combined effort involved in the Open Day. He also thanked staff for organising and attending the event.

#### *Public Health – John Moss*

J Moss said that Public Health were located in Bonython Hall, and had many enquires about the usefulness of a Health Science degree in gaining a place to study Medicine. He said that Health Science should be seen as a degree in its own right and that the review of MBBS needs to be finalised urgently because of this. DPH had several admissions enquiries.

Janet Hiller has been reviewing the School of Public Health at Griffith University and returned with many ideas.

As mentioned, Dino Pisaniello has finished the two-week course on Occupational Environmental Health for the Defence force, but it was mainly attended by the Airforce officers and would like to recruit more military personnel in the future.

Professor Christian Gerick arrives on 1<sup>st</sup> September although the issues of his medical registration is still unresolved as the University will not support his application. N Marsh said that he will assist with this if required.

J Moss continues to work on PHERP.

#### *Rural – Jonathan Newbury*

J Newbury reported that the selection panel decided not to interview for the Associate Professor (Research) position as no applicants were deemed appointable. This is the UniSA position and will need to be re-advertised.

J Newbury continues the ongoing debate on a rural quota on entry and on conscription. N Stocks considered it extraordinary that rural bonded students were not expected to go on general practice placement.

J Newbury will be overseas for 3 weeks from 4 September attending two conferences and Dee Whitford will be acting Head of SGRHS.

#### *MLTU – Anne Tonkin*

Anne left the meeting at 10.00 but had no new news to report.

### **9. Report from Sub Committee – apologies**

### **10. Any other business**

*ROAR: Roadmap of Australian primary health care research*

N Marsh said that this was a database sponsored by PCHRIS. Currently, most DGP academics are registered.

*Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Satellite in Australia*

N Marsh asked if anyone was interested in the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Satellite in Australia: both J Moss and J Magarey had received the documentation.

**11. Next meeting ( Wednesday 13 September)**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Comments on the HOS role statement and duty statement before the next meeting	All HODs