



# minutes

## Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2019-09-19
Scheduled Start:	1300h
Scheduled End:	1500h
Location:	Building 115-1030

<b>MEETING OPENED:</b>	1300h
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### SECTION 1 – NGĀ KUPU ARATAKI | PRELIMINARIES

#### Item 1.1 Opening Karakia

KARAKIA TIMATANGA	BEGINNING PRAYER
<i>Manawa mai te mauri nuku</i>	<i>Embrace the power of the earth</i>
<i>Manawa mai te mauri rangi</i>	<i>Embrace the power of the sky</i>
<i>Ko te mauri kai au</i>	<i>The power I have</i>
<i>He mauri tipua</i>	<i>Is mystical</i>
<i>Ka pakaru mai te pō</i>	<i>And shatters all darkness</i>
<i>Tau mai te mauri</i>	<i>Cometh the light</i>
<i>Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē!</i>	<i>Join it, gather it, it is done!</i>

#### Item 1.2 Welcome from the Chair

The Chair warmly welcomed the committee members, including Dipti Vora standing in for Susan Eady and Brenda Massey, Acting Secretary.

### SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS

#### Item 2.1 Ngā Whakapāha | Attendance, Apologies & Quorate Status

##### Members Present

1. Marcus Williams **(Chair)**
2. Jonathan Leaver (via Skype)
3. Yusef Patel
4. Heather Stonyer
5. Christian Probst
6. Leon Tan

7. Roger Birchmore
8. Maryam Mirzaei
9. Iman Ardekani
10. Arun Deo
11. Lian Wu
12. Dipti Vora (for Susan Eady)

Total members represented: 12 member/s

### Apologies

1. Falaniko Tominiko
2. Kristina Naden
3. Susan Eady
4. Helen Gremillion

Total apologies: 4 member/s

### MOTION

**That the Committee accept the apologies for the meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Quorate Status

A minimum of 9 representatives was required; the meeting was quorate.

### Hunga Mahi | Staff in Attendance

1. Brenda Massey (Acting Secretary)

### Item 2.2 Pitopito Kōrero o Ngā Hui | Minutes of Previous Meeting

### MOTION

**That the Committee approve the Minutes for 2019-08-22 meeting as a true and accurate record.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Item 2.3 Mahia Atu | Matters Arising

The Chair informed the Committee of recent successes in the grants space: Prof Christian Probst won a \$1m MBIE Smart Ideas grant for his project “Assessing Reidentification Risks with Bayesian Probabilistic Programming” and Professor Jenny Lee-Morgan won a \$3.5m MBIE Research Programme grant for her project “Marae Ora, Kāinga Ora (MOKO): Marae-led housing interventions that develop kāinga”. Professor Leonie Pihama joins Unitec at the end of the month and brings with her a \$2.1m MBIE Research Programme grant for a project called “He Waka Eke Noa: Māori Cultural Frameworks for Violence Prevention and Intervention”.

Brenda Massey will be Acting Secretary for the rest of the year, relieving Asma Munir during a busy time for Tūāpapa Rangahau’s ‘post-award’ team.

Matter 4.3 from the previous meeting (2019 research KPI targets for Schools) is in progress. All other matters arising from the previous meeting were completed.

### SECTION 3 - ITEMS TO APPROVE

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#### **Section 3.1**      **Application for Research Centre - Ngā Wai a te Tūi Māori and Indigenous Research Centre**

The Committee unanimously supported the application to establish the centre noting it was a very strong application.

#### **Section 3.2**      **Draft Terms of Reference - Early Career Research Support: PhD/Doctorate for PBRF Portfolio**

The Chair clarified that:

- the support is aimed at those for whom the completion of a PhD would contribute to a standard PBRF portfolio, not just a New and Emerging portfolio;
- funds will come from the part of the research budget that seeks to support the development of more high quality PBRF portfolios (i.e. it is not professional development funding);
- all applications for support will come to the URC for review;
- the scheme is part of Tūāpapa Rangahau's commitment to increasing the range of support available to Early Career Researchers at Unitec, creating pathways that suit different disciplines for people to move from research independence into research leadership. Research leadership and succession planning is a high priority for Unitec.

Items discussed by the Committee were as follows:

- New and Emerging portfolios attract more funding, therefore applications should be encouraged from new and emerging researchers in particular.
- The completion of a PhD is a solitary pursuit; this scheme doesn't seem aligned with Unitec's drive towards the formation of new research groups.
- Once staff have a PhD their research is taken more seriously. In addition, PBRF ratings benefit the whole School (and institution), not just the individual.
- The scheme would encourage staff to obtain a PhD and submit a portfolio who otherwise might not.
- The scheme should be restricted to those who are at least a year into their PhD study already, as this demonstrates they are committed to the journey and are more likely to finish their study and submit a portfolio.
- A small contribution to an individual's PhD isn't likely to factor into their decision whether to start or continue a PhD, however the same amount of funding could be the difference between making something possible or not, e.g. funding towards a research project or research dissemination.
- Unitec expects its staff to be research active, therefore it is reasonable for staff to expect some support from the organization. For new researchers in particular, this scheme demonstrates that Unitec is here to help them grow into this part of their job, and is supportive.

The majority of the committee supported the establishment of the scheme, subject to it being restricted to those who are at least a year into their PhD study.

## SECTION 4 - WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS TO DISCUSS

### **Section 4.1**                      **Research overheads**

The Committee acknowledged that the contribution towards research and the costs associated with undertaking research is borne by many areas.

No concerns or misgivings were expressed with the proposal and the Committee was generally supportive of the solutions articulated.

### **Section 4.2**                      **School Research Plans**

The Committee were presented with the first completed School Research Plan from EAS. Discussion ensued as follows:

- Unitec is moving away from a model where individuals are resourced to present in contexts and fora one by one.
- The aim of these plans is to get staff to start forming collaborative groups that will evolve over time, and to get Schools involved in planning how they can support groups over time.
- Schools are encouraged to set goals against which they can track their performance and progress.
- Research Leaders, URC members and Heads of Schools are encouraged to initiate discussions and consultations with staff around areas of potential strength and collaboration.
- The aim is that this is an organic process, not a deadline driven one. Not all plans may be as comprehensive as EAS' plan – they already had a number of groups formed when they started drafting their plan.
- Tūāpapa Rangahau acknowledges that establishing new groups takes time.
- Plans will serve the important purpose of identifying groups and nurturing them to become more sophisticated and capable to the point they could eventually form a Centre.
- There is no cap on the number of Centres Unitec can have.
- Once groups are identified and established, Tūāpapa Rangahau will organise funding structures to support them.
- Groups should aim to include a mix of researchers from professors to new and emerging. This will help spread workloads and encourage the development of new research leaders.
- Some members of the Committee expressed reservations about multi-authored publications. If multiple authors submit PBRF portfolios to the same panel then the impact for the authors is diluted and Unitec's PBRF income could potentially decrease. The contribution of separate individuals will need to be carefully identified and articulated.
- The establishment of groups was seen as having the potential to benefit the research productivity traffic light, especially if groups include red lit staff. It is unlikely that red lit staff would submit a PBRF portfolio, thereby allaying the concern expressed above.
- Group membership will develop researchers' capability and networking opportunities and will enable busier researchers to utilise the capacity of the groups to which they are contributing members.

Jonathan Leaver volunteered Engineering as the next school after Construction to start a plan.

## SECTION 5 - ĒTAHI KAUPAPA ANŌ | OTHER BUSINESS

More abstracts are required for the 2019 Unitec Research Symposium. There are excellent prizes on offer this year. The symposium includes the popular 3MT and undergraduate research competitions. The Committee are requested to contact people in their areas personally to encourage and support their participation.

### Closing Karakia

TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA	ENDING PRAYER
<i>Ka wehe atu tātou</i>	<i>We are departing</i>
<i>I raro i te rangimārie</i>	<i>Peacefully</i>
<i>Te harikoa</i>	<i>Joyfully</i>
<i>Me te manawanui</i>	<i>And resolute</i>
<i>Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē!</i>	<i>We are united, progressing forward!</i>

<b>MEETING CLOSED:</b> 1415h
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## MATTERS ARISING FROM 20 SEPTEMBER 2019 MEETING

Agenda Item	Matter Arising	Responsible	Outcome
2.3	<b>2019 Research KPI Targets for Schools</b>  <b>Action:</b> Circulate 2019 Research KPI Targets to relevant stakeholders.	Marcus Williams	
3.1	<b>Application for Research Centre - Ngā Wai a te Tūī</b>  <b>Action:</b> Communicate the Committee's decision to Prof Jenny Lee-Morgan.	Marcus Williams	
3.2	<b>Draft Terms of Reference - Early Career Research Support: PhD/Doctorate for PBRF Portfolio</b>  <b>Action:</b> Establish the scheme, subject to it being restricted to those who are at least a year into their PhD study.	Marcus Williams	
4.2	<b>School Research Plans</b>  <b>Action:</b> Start drafting a plan for Engineering.	Jonathan Leaver	
5	<b>2019 Unitec Research Symposium</b>  <b>Action:</b> Encourage staff to submit an abstract and students to enter the 3MT and undergraduate competitions.	All	