



# minutes

## Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2021-07-08
Scheduled Start:	1300h
Scheduled End:	1500h
Location:	Microsoft Teams

MEETING OPENED:	1300h
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### SECTION 1 – NGĀ KUPU ARATAKI | PRELIMINARIES

#### Item 1.1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

#### Item 1.2 Mihi Whakatau | Welcome from the Chair

The Chair warmly welcomed members of the committee to the meeting.

### SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS

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

##### Members Present

1. Marcus Williams (Chair)
2. Daisy Bentley-Gray
3. Hamid Sharifzadeh
4. Helen Gremillion
5. Roger Birchmore
6. Leon Tan
7. Lian Wu
8. Maryam Mirzaei
9. Susan Eady
10. Kristie Cameron

Total members represented:	10 members
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##### Apologies

1. Jenny Lee-Morgan
2. Arun Deo
3. Yusef Patel

Total apologies: 3 member/s

**Absent**

1. Tui Matelau (proxy for Robyn Gandell)

Total absences: 1 member

**MOTION**

**That the committee accepts the apologies for today's meeting.**

**Moved: Daisy Bentley-Gray**

**Seconded: Susan Eady**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Quorate Status**

A minimum of 9 representatives is 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 approves the minutes of the 2021-05-13 and 2021-06-10 meetings as a true and accurate record.**

**Moved: Susan Eady**

**Seconded: Hamid Sharifzadeh**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 2.3 Mahia Atū | Matters Arising**

Committee member Arun Deo is busy running an R workshop to ensure staff and students are well prepared as we move away from SPSS, which had been our quantitative research software.

Agenda Item	Action	Responsible	Outcome
4.1	Discuss with the research partners the possibility of creating a new product dedicated to supporting student integrated research.	Marcus Williams	Complete. Agenda item 5.1 refers.
4.1	Table the application forms and guidelines for all the internal funding products for the committee's review (to ensure there is a relationship between the new Research Strategy and the products that have been made available to help to achieve the strategy, particularly with reference to research by, with and for Māori and student integrated research).	Marcus Williams	In progress. The guidelines and templates are currently being standardised in terms of formatting, nomenclature etc, and will be presented to the committee once this exercise has been completed.

4.2	Interrogate the internal PBRF review timeline to see if the deadline for staff to submit their portfolios could be extended in order to accommodate staff in the School of Construction who have teaching commitments during the mid-semester break.	Marcus Williams	Complete. The deadline for staff to submit their portfolios has been extended by two weeks. Agenda item 4.1 refers.
6.1	Ask Rangahau Research Forum Research Directors for information on the numbers of research active staff at their institutions, then report back to this committee.	Marcus Williams	Complete. This is on the agenda of tomorrow's Rangahau Research Forum hui.

### SECTION 3 – MEA HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

There were no items to approve this month.

### SECTION 4 - WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### **Section 4.1**      **PBRF Update**

The Chair provided an overview of the key changes to the PBRF being proposed by the Minister of Education including:

- A more capacious definition of research.
- Increasing the Māori Knowledge and Development subject area weighting to 3 and applying a funding weighting of 2.5 for Evidence Portfolios submitted by Māori staff.
- Increasing the Pacific Research subject area weighting to 2.5 and applying a funding weighting of 2 for Evidence Portfolios submitted by Pacific staff.
- Making amendments to the External Research Income component to better recognise overseas and non-government research income.

The internal PBRF review process is well underway. Staff in Tūāpapa Rangahau have shortlisted and contacted approximately 200 staff who could, according to ROMS, in the opinion of the Research Advisor, Research Partners and Director Research and Enterprise, and under the right circumstances, produce a portfolio that could rank in the PBRF. These staff, and all other PBRF eligible staff, will soon receive an email inviting them to participate in the internal PBRF review process.

A review panel and structure is in place. Our internal review teams will cross-moderate with each other and EIT/Unitec will peer review the healthcare portfolios. Portfolios will be assessed as 'not rate', 'rate', or 'rate highly', and all participants will receive detailed feedback on how they could improve their performance ahead of the Quality Evaluation. This latter speaks to the purpose of the internal review exercise.

A summary of the committee's discussions is as follows:

- Research Leaders can contact Marcus Williams if they require the list of staff in their Schools who have been identified by Tūāpapa Rangahau as being likely to produce a rated portfolio.

- The final design of the PBRF will be made by the TEC on consideration of Sector Research Group (SRG) advice and public consultation.
- The most significant issue for those supporting staff to submit portfolios is how research excellence will be defined and how this might change the way portfolios are framed.
- There are many uncertainties and Marcus Williams is working on how to navigate these, while providing staff and Research Leaders with useful guidelines that will keep our PBRF preparation moving forwards.
- The PBRF review panel has advocated for greater recognition of non-traditional means of communicating and disseminating research. Portfolios might now include narratives about how iwi/communities/industries were engaged and the intersection between the development and consumption of new knowledge.
- Traditional measures like journal impact factors will still be valued.
- The proposed changes will benefit Unitec's Pacific researchers who are not necessarily intending to publish in journals but are showcasing their work in other valid ways and fora.
- Tūāpapa Rangahau is seeking to engage with researchers from Ngā Wai a Te Tūi, Maia and the Pacific Centre to support and encourage them to consider how the changes to the PBRF will benefit them and to determine what support they will need in order to fully participate.
- Members of the Unitec Research Committee, Research Leaders and other research active staff at Unitec are encouraged to engage with the SRG's consultation process. It is through this engagement that the spirit of the more capacious definition of research will be either enhanced, maintained or diluted.
- The shadow version of ROMS will be pre-populated and researchers will soon be able to start writing their narratives and gathering their ideas ready for 2025.
- It was queried how research quality might be measured when research is now going to manifest in many different forms. The SRG will provide a response to this.
- It is likely that strong portfolios will comprise traditional outputs, such as publications in high impact journals, as well as narratives around partnership, talanoa, kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori. E.g. such a portfolio might include peer-reviewed publications on waste minimisation and tangible examples of initiatives that have been implemented by iwi/communities/industries to reduce waste as a result of the research.
- Our internal PBRF review process, timelines and documentation is being shared with the Rangahau Research Forum, as every portfolio submitted by an ITP and rated will end up benefitting all the ITPs as Te Pūkenga.

The committee discussed whether or not to increase the budget for research dissemination funding after the internal PBRF review, possibly via the creation of a dedicated collaborative research dissemination fund. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- Researchers have three more years to develop their Evidence Portfolios and it seems logical to provide them with a little more support and resource during this time.
- While travel has been curtailed due to the pandemic, publication in open source journals has increased, and this is costly.
- The new research strategy aims to increase collaborative research and research dissemination, and the action plan references funding collaborative activities.
- A Co-Lab Research Dissemination Fund would prioritise funding for research that would be partnered with others and result in multiple outputs for multiple staff.

- The additional funding could create agency for groups within Schools to develop new initiatives. If the committee seeks to drive new behaviour, a specific fund with a specific budget would motivate this.
- Dissemination funding as it currently stands is already incentivising output production.
- A budget for collaborative research funding could either be divided between Schools, or operate centrally. The disadvantage of apportioning the funds between Schools is that recipients of funding from previous rounds received significant money, and if the budget was divided across Schools, there would be a much smaller pool of money that any one group could access.
- The bulk of research dissemination funding would still be available to Schools to utilise as needed.

Tūāpapa Rangahau will consider the committee's feedback and decide on a course of action. For example, a School-based fund could be trialled in combination with the continued operation of a central fund, and the efficacy of this could be reviewed and reconsidered if necessary in 12 months' time.

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## SECTION 5 - NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

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### **Section 5.1                  Student Integrated Research Output Fund**

A new Student Integrated Research Output Fund has been developed. A key point is that applications must be made by Unitec research eligible staff members, who apply in collaboration with a student/s or recent graduate/s. I.e. we are not directly funding student research.

Support of student research has been trialled, unsuccessfully, by the Unitec Research Committee previously. Support of postgraduate research is a function of the Postgraduate Research and Scholarships Committee.

It was clarified that the funding will go towards research dissemination only, it will not go towards the expenses of undertaking research, e.g. data collection. The application materials as they are presented in this agenda appear to be a little unclear on this point. The application materials have since been updated by Research Partner Penny Thomson to provide this clarity.

The committee's feedback included that this is an excellent, well framed initiative. The brevity of the application documentation was applauded, as well as how applications are open, and grants will be paid, at any time. It is important that there are minimal barriers for people applying and getting support for these important activities.

The fund has an initial budget of \$10,000. The scheme will be trialled and reviewed in 12 months' time with a view to expanding and improving it if necessary.

An application has already been received from a staff member who is presenting research on which they collaborated with a student at an online hui. The grant from this fund will enable the student to attend and present also. The staff member and student will then produce a publication together.

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## SECTION 6 - KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

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### **Section 6.1                  Ētahi Kaupapa Anō | Any Other Business**

The Secretary communicated an update from Arun Deo to the committee on the School Research Plan review process. All Schools have either successfully completed their review or their reviews are almost complete, except for the School of Building Construction.

### **Section 6.2**                      **Komiti Self-Assessment**

An opportunity was given for the committee to reflect on their self-assessment provocations. The committee was reminded that feedback can be emailed to the Chair or the Secretary following the meeting (in confidence if requested).

### **Section 6.3**                      **Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Karakia**

<b>MEETING CLOSED:</b> 1410 h
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### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

Agenda Item	Action	Responsible	Outcome
2.3	Table the application forms and guidelines for all the internal funding products for the committee's review (to ensure there is a relationship between the new Research Strategy and the products that have been made available to help to achieve the strategy, particularly with reference to research by, with and for Māori and student integrated research).	Marcus Williams	
2.3	Report back to the committee on the request of Rangahau Research Forum Research Directors for information for the numbers of research active staff at their institutions.	Marcus Williams	