



minutes

Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2021-08-12
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 Tīmatanga | Opening Prayer

Item 1.2 Mihi Whakatau | Welcome from the Chair

The Chair warmly welcomed members of the committee to the meeting, including proxy member Geoff Bridgman and special guests Gregor Steinhorn and Denis Lavrov.

SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS

Item 2.1 Ngā Whakapāha | Attendance, Apologies & Quorate Status

Members Present

1. Marcus Williams (Chair)
2. Arun Deo
3. Roger Birchmore
4. Daisy Bentley-Gray
5. Geoff Bridgman (proxy for Helen Gremillion)
6. Maryam Mirzaei
7. Tui Matelau
8. Kristie Cameron
9. Lian Wu
10. Yusef Patel
11. Susan Eady
12. Hamid Sharifzadeh
13. Leon Tan

Total members represented:	13 members
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Apologies

1. Jenny Lee-Morgan
2. Helen Gremillion
3. Susan Eady (for early departure, 1.50pm)

Total apologies: 3 member/s

Absent

N/A

MOTION

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

Moved: Lian Wu

Seconded: Roger Birchmore

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
2. Gregor Steinhorn, Research Partner Enterprise (item 4.1)
3. Denis Lavrov, Cybersecurity Research Associate (item 4.1)

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

MOTION

That the committee approves the minutes of the 2021-07-08 meetings as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Daisy Bentley-Gray

Seconded: Kristie Cameron

MOTION CARRIED

Item 2.3 Mahia Atū | Matters Arising

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	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.
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	Complete. There was no interest in the forum to respond to this as there are higher priority matters. PBRF

			statistics are available on the TEC website.
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SECTION 3 – MEA HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

Section 3.1 **Nomination for appointment of an Honorary Research Fellow – Dr Lynn Miller**

This item was considered after item 4.1. The Chair spoke to the opportunities Honorary Research Fellowships can afford and encouraged staff in all areas, including in our Māori and Pacific centres, to utilise this framework to grow networks of connections.

The committee recognised the value the nominee will bring to the School of Environmental and Animal Science and were supportive of the application.

MOTION

That the committee approves the appointment of Dr Lynn Miller as a Unitec Honorary Research Fellow.

Moved: Kristie Cameron

Seconded: Roger Birchmore

MOTION CARRIED

SECTION 4 - WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Section 4.1 **Cybersecurity R&D as a Service**

This item was discussed before item 3.1. The Chair introduced Gregor Steinhorn and Denis Lavrov to the committee who spoke to the opportunities emerging from the Cybersecurity Research Centre and in particular the MBIE-funded projects 'STRATUS' and 'Assessing reidentification risks of anonymised data sets with Bayesian probabilistic programming'.

The MBIE projects have developed new technologies which are attracting interest from industry. As a result, the team are piloting the concept of cybersecurity R&D as a service (CybeR&DaaS) for industry, with two companies engaged so far: SafeStack and GeneCrypt. The latter has signed an IP agreement with Unitec and is accessing the research voucher scheme. The collaboration has attracted some [media attention](#). CybeR&DaaS is also providing real world opportunities for Diploma of Cybersecurity and Bachelor of Computing students through internships and Capstone projects.

Learnings from STRATUS were that industries' needs vary slightly from our understanding of what their needs are. NZ industries want something that is practical, innovative and that will give them a competitive advantage. They have unique problems and have their own ideas about how these problems should be solved. Instead of pushing ideas onto them, we need to listen to them to see how they think we could add value to their business.

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

- The committee were impressed that such strong connections with industry are being made, and with the opportunities being afforded to students.
- Having industry drive the things we are doing speaks to the kind of research we want Unitec staff to engage in, especially in light of the PBRF's increased focus on stakeholder relationships.
- The committee queried how partnerships like this are built and how staff could be better supported to engage with industry. Engagement takes time, usually involving multiple meetings and the development of a number of possible solutions. Unitec staff have many demands on their time, thus a commitment like this can be challenging.
- The committee queried whether there is a conflict between this research, which is deeply partnered with commercial enterprises, and notions of academic freedom and academic independence. The team responded with the following points:
 - They explore the ideas brought to them and then they propose a solution that they think fits best, they are not constrained in the solution they can offer.
 - If Unitec decided to only support industry-partnered research, then that could jeopardise the freedom of staff to undertake other types of research.
 - We can be selective about what kind of research we do as a values based organisation.

The Chair thanked Denis and Gregor for their presentation and wished them all the best with this endeavour.

Section 4.2 2021 Unitec/MIT Research Symposium

The Chair updated the committee on the recent 2021 Unitec/MIT Research Symposium Steering Committee hui.

The symposium will be held on 6 and 7 December at Unitec and will be open to the whole ITP sector. The committee discussed a number of ideas around the peer review of abstracts, awards, entertainment, keynotes and streams.

Organisation of the symposium has begun, with peer review chairs for abstracts in place. Chairs include staff from Ngā Wai a te Tūi and the Pacific Centre. The development of the framework for registration and submission of presentations is well underway.

A paper presented at the symposium will be a non-quality assured output which can be entered into ROMS and does count towards the RPTL. Peer reviewers will be called for and their service will count as a contribution towards the research environment. In addition, the opportunity to develop presentations or posters into full papers is being offered. Papers will be double-blind peer reviewed by ePress. ePress will have published 12 papers from the 2020 symposium by the end of the year.

Section 4.3 2021 Unitec Internal PBRF Quality Evaluation

The Chair updated the committee on progress towards the Internal PBRF Quality Evaluation (QE). Four online information sessions will be held in the next two weeks to explain how staff can engage with the process. The committee should encourage staff to attend one of these sessions.

Staff will complete an interim portfolio for internal assessment; this will be done inside the ROMS platform. Arun Deo is leading a piece of work to update ROMS so the changes to the PBRF following

the TEC's 2019 review are incorporated into the internal QE. Three new fields will be created for staff to articulate and evidence:

1. Partnerships.
2. Stakeholder responsiveness.
3. Research.

Portfolios will be grouped based on research subject and sent to an assessment panel of Unitec colleagues. Reviewers will act as 'critical friends' with the aim of supporting staff to improve their capacity and performance in the 2025 PBRF QE.

The committee felt that the 2021 Unitec Internal Interim PBRF Quality Evaluation Guidelines for Participants that Tūāpapa Rangahau has produced, and which contain screenshots of how to update the various fields in ROMS, will be very helpful for staff participating in the internal review.

Section 4.4 2021 Joint EIT/Unitec Early Career and Emerging Researcher Seminar

EIT has proposed a joint EIT/Unitec Early Career and Emerging Researcher Seminar which will be held on 10 November as a mixture of online and face to face sessions. The seminar will provide an opportunity for Unitec researchers to come together as a group and to network with people from EIT with similar research interests who they could potentially collaborate with. It will include a panel from Tūāpapa Rangahau discussing external research funding. A very successful grant winner from The University of Auckland will present some practical strategies for how to write a grant. A representative from the Science Media Centre, facilitated by the Royal Society, will discuss how to communicate research in a concise manner. Registrations will open soon.

SECTION 5 - NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

Section 5.1 2021 Research Productivity Traffic Light (RPTL) Report

The committee received the 2021 Research Productivity Traffic Light (RPTL) Report. The highlight of the report is that Unitec achieved 100% green lit status across all its degree programmes in 2020, as per the goal originally set in 2014. This was achieved through the joint effort of Research Leaders, the Unitec Research Committee, Heads of Schools, individual staff members and staff in Tūāpapa Rangahau.

Section 5.2 2020 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Funding Final Reports

The committee received final reports from recipients of 2020 Early Career Researcher Funding:

- a) Dr Samantha Heath
- b) Paul Woodruffe
- c) Morgan Look
- d) Dr Renata Jadresin-Milic

Most of the projects were extremely successful, despite the challenges that the 2020 Covid-19 lockdowns presented.

Morgan Look undertook to produce two quality assured outputs from his research, however, to date, he has only achieved one non-quality assured output (by presenting at the 2020 Unitec Research Symposium). **Action:** The committee requested that Morgan informs them when he achieves a second output, and that he ensures that it is quality assured.

Brenda Massey provided some commentary on the reports as follows:

- Samantha Heath didn't spend any of her grant, as Covid meant she couldn't engage the professional services for which funding was allocated, but that didn't stop the project proceeding and some very successful outcomes were achieved.
- Three of the PIs went on the win external grants. Samantha Heath recently won a prestigious Whitinga Fellowship, while Paul Woodruffe and Renata Jadresin-Milic both secured grants from Auckland Council to progress their projects. This speaks to the purpose of the fund which is to develop PIs' capability and capacity in respect of leading and managing teams, managing funds, and identifying other sources of support for their projects.

Action: That the PIs are thanked for their final reports. The ERI successes should be noted in the letters, and recognition should be given that the priorities of the fund were achieved this round with regards to the development of ECRs' capacity and capability.

The 2022 round closed for Registrations of Interest on 2 August. Nine ROIs were received from ECRs in five different schools. Full applications will be invited from eligible applicants. These will be assessed by a Grants Advisory Committee, a sub-committee of the Unitec Research Committee, in due course, with outcomes reported to the committee early next year.

SECTION 6 - KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

Section 6.1 Ētahi Kaupapa Anō | Any Other Business

Item 1

The Chair presented a tabled memo "Amendment to the Student Integrated Research Output Fund" for the committee to discuss.

The committee previously passed a motion to support the Student Integrated Research Fund, which funds research dissemination costs for student integrated research projects. It has become apparent that in some cases, to reach a point where research can be disseminated, student integrated research projects sometimes need support for minor research related costs (e.g. lab consumables, software licences, koha for hui, travel costs for undertaking the research etc). It is proposed to expand the costs that are eligible for funding through the student integrated research fund to include not just research dissemination funds, but also research related costs up to \$500 that lead to a clearly defined student integrated research output co-authored with a staff member.

The committee were supportive of the proposed amendments. **Action:** the application form and guidelines for the funding should be amended as proposed and presented to the committee for approval at the next meeting.

Item 2

Daisy Bentley-Gray advised the committee that on 15 October 2021 Unitec will be hosting the PATLAANZ (Pacific Association of Tertiary Learning Advisors Aotearoa New Zealand) Fono in

conjunction with MATLAANZ (Māori Association of Tertiary Learning Advisors Aotearoa New Zealand). A call for abstracts has gone out to colleagues around New Zealand.



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**

MEETING CLOSED:	1415 h
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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Agenda Item	Action	Responsible	Outcome
3.1	Inform the Head of Environmental and Animal Sciences that the nomination for a Unitec Honorary Research Fellow was approved.	Marcus Williams/ Brenda Massey	
5.2	<p>Communicate to Morgan Look that he is to inform the committee when he achieves a second output, and ensure it is quality assured.</p> <p>Thank PIs for their final ECR reports. The ERI successes should be noted in the letters, and recognition should be given that the priorities of the fund were achieved this round with regards to the development of ECRs' capacity and capability.</p>	<p>Marcus Williams/ Brenda Massey</p> <p>Marcus Williams/ Brenda Massey</p>	

6.1	The application form and guidelines for the Student Integrated Research Output Fund should be amended to allow for the funding of minor research related costs (up to \$500) and presented to the committee for approval at the next meeting.	Marcus Williams	
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