



# minutes

## Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2023-05-11
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.

### SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS

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

##### Members Present

1. Marcus Williams (Chair)
2. Kristie Cameron
3. Nora Md Amin
4. Helen Gremillion
5. Leon Tan
6. Hamid Sharifzadeh
7. Tanya White
8. Falaniko Tominiko (proxy for Daisy Bentley-Gray)
9. Lian Wu

Total members represented: 9 members

##### Apologies

1. Daisy Bentley-Gray
2. Robyn Gandell
3. Duaa Alshadli
4. Arun Deo

5. Yusef Patel

Total apologies: 5 members

**Absent**

1. Mitra Etemaddar

Total absent: 1 member

**MOTION**

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

**Moved: Kristie Cameron**

**Seconded: Lian Wu**

**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 2023-04-13 meeting as a true and accurate record.**

**Moved: Helen Gremillion**

**Seconded: Hamid Sharifzadeh**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 2.3 Mahia Atu | Matters Arising**

The Chair warmly welcomed new committee member Tanya White to the meeting. Tanya replaces Dr Cat Mitchell on the committee and is the nominee of the Director, Māori Success.

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
3.1	Advise Dr Hinekura Smith of the approval of the appointment of Dr Cat Mitchell as an Honorary Research Fellow within Ngā Wai a Te Tūi.	Marcus Williams / Brenda Massey	Complete
3.2	Advise Prof Peter de Lange of the approval of the appointment of A/P Dan Blanchon as an Honorary Research Fellow within the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences.	Marcus Williams / Brenda Massey	Complete
4.1	Update the Research Strategy Action Plan by deleting the Action under Priority Two: "Structure the Unitec symposium around Groups" and adding an Action under Priority Two's Action Summary titled "Support and resource postgraduate student research" along the lines of "high quality resources are available through the library that support postgraduate students".	Marcus Williams	Complete
4.2	Present the committee's position on the consultation to the external PBRF SRG discussion forum.	Marcus Williams	Complete

4.3	Communicate the committee's decision to suspend the 2023 Research Symposium to research staff.	Marcus Williams	Complete
5.2	Write to the four 2022 ECR Funding recipients thanking and acknowledging them for their final reports.	Brenda Massey	Complete
6.1	Request that Schools report against their Research Plans, as per the committee's 2023 Work Plan.	Arun Deo	In Progress – see below for update.

Regarding matter 6.1, the timelines for the school research plan review for 2023 are very similar to that of last year:

- » 16th May - Plans and guidelines sent to schools.
- » 14th June - First draft of the plan due
- » 21st June - Arun to provide feedback on first draft
- » 28th June - Second working version due
- » 5th July- Arun to provide feedback on second draft
- » 12th July - Final version due
- » 13th July -28th July - Arun to finalise all the plans and get them ready for URC
- » 28th July - URC agenda items due
- » 10th August - Plans presented to URC

Given that plans will not be presented until two thirds through the year, they will be called 2023-2024 plans.

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

#### **Section 3.1                      Nomination for Appointment of an Honorary Research Fellow – Ms Gillian Crowcroft**

The nomination for the appointment of an Honorary Research Fellow within Environmental and Animal Sciences was approved.

#### **MOTION**

**That the committee approves the appointment of Ms Gillian Crowcroft as an Honorary Research Fellow within the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences.**

**Moved: Kristie Cameron**

**Seconded: Hamid Sharifzadeh**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Action:** Marcus Williams to advise the nominator, Prof Peter de Lange, of this outcome.

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

#### **Section 4.1                      PBRF Sector Reference Group – Consultation Paper 11**

Marcus Williams and Arun Deo are part of a university-led forum that will shortly meet to discuss this latest PBRF consultation paper. The committee agreed that once the forum has met, Marcus will circulate the forum's position on the matters raised in the consultation paper to the committee. If members have any feedback, it will be conveyed to the Rangahau Research Forum (RRF) for

review/discussion, along with any other feedback received from within Te Pūkenga. The RRF will then collate a response on behalf of Te Pūkenga for submission to the TEC.

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## SECTION 5 - NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

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### **Section 5.1**                      **2022 Research Centre Reports**

The committee received annual reports from the Centre for Research in Education for Healthcare Practitioners (CREHP), the Environmental Solutions Research Centre (ESRC), the Digital Heritage Research Centre (DHRC) and Ngā Wai a Te Tūi Māori and Indigenous Research Centre (NWT).

A summary of the committee's reflections on the reports is as follows:

NWT's report demonstrates remarkable resilience in the face of adversity, following the resignation of its founding Director, Prof Jenny Lee-Morgan, in 2022 and the novation of over \$5m of externally funded research contracts. Hinekura Smith is doing a remarkable job as the new Director. She has won a number of externally funded research grants, has appointed a research administrator to her team, and has secured a proportion of Byron Rangiwai's time as a kaupapa Māori researcher.

ESRC has successfully secured a number of industry funded contracts, a tremendous achievement, as private sector investment in research in the tertiary sector environment is often difficult to secure. The centre is currently awaiting the outcome of a \$10.6m application for MBIE Endeavour Fund Research Programme funding.

CREHP and DHRC are Unitec's newest research centres. CREHP is currently collaborating with ESRC on an externally funded contract with an aged care provider looking at plastic recycling. DHRC is currently awaiting the outcome of a large application for MBIE Endeavour Funding.

Reports from the Applied Molecular Solutions Research Centre (AMS) and the Cybersecurity Research Centre (CRC) will be submitted at the next committee meeting. AMS's report was delayed due to the departure of its Director, A/P Dan Blanchon, while CRC's report has been delayed as the Director, Denis Lavrov, is preparing for a trip to the US to pitch for funding for Phase 3 of a project being undertaken in collaboration with industry partner GeneCrypt.

The Chair reminded the committee that all schools are required to identify research groups in their School Research Plans. Research groups often form the genesis of new research centres, as was the case with the CREHP and DHRC.

The committee acknowledged Marcus' leadership in supporting the establishment and continued operation of Unitec's research centres, which each offer a unique value proposition within Te Pūkenga.

**Action:** Brenda Massey to draft letters to the centre directors thanking and acknowledging them for their reports and mahi.

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## SECTION 6 - KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

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

- a. Unitec will be launching a digital book on karanga, published by ePress, on 11 June at Te Noho Kotahitanga marae. The launch clashes with the June committee meeting, and the Chair asked if the committee would be amenable to forgoing the June meeting and attending the book launch instead. The committee were supportive of this idea.

**Action:** Brenda Massey to procure a copy of the book launch invitation and seek the organisers' approval for the committee to attend. If it is confirmed that the committee can attend, the June committee meeting will be cancelled.

- b. Marcus Williams drew the committee's attention to the TLRI's (Teaching and Learning Research Initiative) website which is currently showcasing Dr Hinekura Smith's TLRI funded research project "Toi ora, reo ora, Whatuora – Developing Toi Māori pedagogy to support Māori whanau aspirations for reo and tikanga". The research involves three rumaki reo (te reo Māori immersion units) within the Waitemata Kāhui Ako – Te Uru Karaka (Newton Central Primary), Te Waititiko (Pasadena Intermediate) and Nga Puna o Waiorea (Western Springs College). [http://www.tlri.org.nz/tlri-research/research-progress/whatua-tū-aka/toi-ora-reo-ora-whatuora?mc\\_cid=5514354418&mc\\_eid=dbb268d080](http://www.tlri.org.nz/tlri-research/research-progress/whatua-tū-aka/toi-ora-reo-ora-whatuora?mc_cid=5514354418&mc_eid=dbb268d080)

**Action:** Brenda Massey to send a copy of the minutes of today's meeting to Hinekura, offering her the committee's congratulations on securing the TLRI grant.

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

An opportunity was given for the committee to reflect on their self-assessment provocations. The committee is reminded that feedback on any aspect of the committee's operation can be emailed to the Chair or the Secretary at any time (in confidence if requested).

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

**MEETING CLOSED:** 1350 h

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

<b>Agenda Item(s)</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
3.1	Advise Prof Peter de Lange of the approval of the appointment of Ms Gillian Crowcroft as an Honorary Research Fellow within Environmental and Animal Sciences.	Marcus Williams / Brenda Massey	
5.1	Thank and congratulate centre directors for their annual research centre reports.	Marcus Williams / Brenda Massey	
6.1.a	Procure a copy of the ePress karanga book launch invitation and seek the organisers' approval for the committee to attend. If it is confirmed that the committee can attend, cancel the June committee meeting.	Brenda Massey	
6.1.b	Send a copy of the minutes of today's meeting to Dr Hinekura Smith, offering her the committee's congratulations on securing the grant from TLRI.	Brenda Massey	