

RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held 23 November 2016		
Present:	Ms J. Broadhurst, Mr C. Daisley, Dr L. Gray (Chair), Professor J. Harris, Professor D. Harrison, Mr A. Mandal, Dr B. Stansfield, Professor B. Steves	
In attendance:	Ms D. Dickie, Dr K. Halcro, Mr P. Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Professor B. Kumar, Dr N.Lombard, Dr V. Long, Mr B. Oyemomi, Professor O. Pahl, Professor J. Woodburn	
MINUTES		
016.049	Considered	Minutes of the meeting of the Research Degrees Committee 19 October on 2016 (RDC16/10/01).
016.034	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
An academic case for Doctor of Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) (Arising on RDCM016.018)		
016.035	Reported	By Professor Steves that the feedback would simply be that the programme development team would be welcome to meet with the ProfD/MREs Management Group to discuss any potential collaboration or resource sharing.
IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PG RESEARCH STUDENTS AT GCU		
016.036	Considered	Establishment of an implementation group composed of selected members of RDC (REC16/15/01).
016.037	Reported	By the Chair that the matter had been discussed at University Research Committee and the Chair of RDC was tasked with taking the matter forward with an Implementation Group. The Group was tasked with developing a process that would ensure: (1) that students are aware that they do not have to teach; (2) students are aware of the requirement to undertake the Academic Development in Learning and Teaching programme GTA Introduction to Teaching Skills before undertaking teaching duties as GTAs;

		(3) there is a fair allocation of opportunities amongst PGRS (e.g. through creation of a pool), and (4) research supervisors are involved in the process.
016.038	Discussion	<p>Members discussed the appropriateness of the student representation. It was proposed that the PGR leads should all be involved.</p> <p>The nature of the issue also led to a discussion about whether the AHoDs should be involved rather than, or as well as, the SPGRs. It was agreed that the co-operation of AHoDs (and potentially HoDs) would be required in implementing any system that ensured point 3 was realised but it was agreed that the Implementation Group should be as listed with co-options as required. Members agreed that assuring the academic best interests of the students was a priority in any process.</p> <p>Members also discussed the sufficiency of the training requirements ahead of PGRS taking on teaching duties. Generic teaching skills training was provided but members felt there was more staff development required in areas such as module management and subject specific content. Members thought that the key to this was appropriate briefing by the module leader or module team and there may be more that could be done at a departmental level with regard to directing the students to the relevant module staff.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Work Experience Hub could potentially provide a useful partner in creating a central source for opportunities for PGR students.</p>
016.039	Resolved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the ADRs, PGRS Leads and Director of the Graduate School and a People Services representative are co-opted to the Implementation Group. 2. That a process for implementing points 3 and 4 (acknowledging 1 and 2) is developed. <p>(Action: Chair RDC/Director Graduate School)</p>
UNSATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS OF RESEARCH STUDENTS: POLICY AND PROCEDURE		
016.040	Considered	A revised policy document approved by University Research Committee (RDC16/04/03) .
016.041	Discussion	<p>It was pointed out that there was an RDC13 form already.</p> <p>One member noted that an amendment/addition was required to signal that the process would be used after the RDC2 stage (i.e. the RDC2 review would perform this function for pre RDC2 students).</p>
016.042	Resolved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the form number is changed to RDC14. 2. A statement is added to signal that the process is to be instigated only for students who have completed the RDC2 stage. <p>(Action: Secretary RDC)</p>
ANNUAL REPORTS		
016.043	Considered:	A revised template for RPAB annual reporting to RDC (RDC16/07/02) .
016.044	Discussion:	Members were happy with the revised form. The timing of reporting was also discussed and it was agreed that, generally, it should be the first meeting of the session (i.e. post July).

		As last session had not been reported on, the first report should be done mid-session 2016-17 and reported on for the next meeting of RDC.
016.045	Resolved:	That the Chairs of RPABs are asked to report on the previous session (2015-16). (Action: RPAB Chairs)
RESEARCH DEGREE EXAMINATION ARRANGMENTS		
016.046	Received	A record of Examination Arrangements approved by RPABs/Chair's Actions (RDC16/11/01).
RESEARCH PROGRESSION AND AWARDS BOARDS		
016.047	Received:	The confirmed minutes of the SEBE RPAB 13th September 2016 (RPAB/SEBE/16/32).
DOCTORAL FRAMEWORK IN PSYCHOLOGY ACADEMIC CASE		
016.048	Received:	Academic case for a Doctoral Framework in Applied Health and Wellbeing Psychology (APC16/24/1).

AG/RDC/minutes/23 November 2016