Present: Professor Ross McAree (Chair), Professor David Mee, Professor David St John, Professor Han Huang, Dr Saeid Aminossadati, Dr Vince Wheatley, Dr Howard Leemon (UniQuest), Mr Wouter Mostert, Mr Mitchell Dunn, Mrs Kim Lamb, Ms Brianne Mackinnon.

Apologies: Associate Professor Rowan Truss

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2013, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

1. Emerging Research Strengths at UQ
The 30 Research Strengths of UQ have been identified by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)’s office using ERA criteria and the size of groups to assess research power. It has been acknowledged that a number of research areas have not been included on this list despite performing well and so a decision has been made to add list of emerging research strengths. Each Faculty has been asked to suggest two or three areas to put forward.

The 30 UQ Research Strengths (alphabetical order) are:
1. Agriculture and Food Sciences
2. Applied and Theoretical Economics
3. Biological Sciences
4. Business, Management and Finance
5. Cancer Studies
6. Chemical Engineering
7. Clinical Sciences and Experimental Medicine
8. Communication, Media and Cultural Studies
9. Ecology and Environmental Science
10. Education
11. Environmental Engineering and Water Management
12. Genetics and Genomics
13. Human Movement and Sports Science
14. Immunology and Infectious Diseases
15. Information Systems and Computational Science
16. Law
17. Literary Studies
18. Materials Science and Engineering
19. Mathematics and Statistics
20. Mechanical Engineering
21. Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences
22. Mining, Mineral Resources and Processing
23. Molecular and Cellular Biosciences
24. Nanotechnology and Biotechnology
25. Neurosciences
26. Performing Arts and Creative Writing
27. Physics
28. Phycology and Cognitive Science
29. Public Health and Health Services
30. Social and Political Sciences

2. Australian Strategic Research Priorities
The Australian Government released updated Strategic Research Priorities on 21 June 2013. It is expected these priorities will be adopted by funding schemes in the future and they will set the broad categories that proposals will need to relate to in order to justify funding. An information sheet can be downloaded at: [www.innovation.gov.au/Research/Documents/SRP_QandA_WEB.docx](http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/Documents/SRP_QandA_WEB.docx)

Attachment: Strategic Research Priorities Fact Sheet

3. UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards.
The Faculty nominated three recipients for the UQ Foundation Excellence Awards. Outcomes are expected to be announced in August with the award to be presented during UQ Research Week (16 – 20 September).

4. UQ Postdoctoral Research Fellowship applications
The Faculty received 19 applications for the UQ PDRF scheme and 4 for the UQ PDRF for Women scheme. The high quality of applicants was noted by the EAIT ranking committee. Results were released yesterday with one School application making it onto the reserve list. It was noted that the quality of School applicants was lower than previous years and resulted in poor outcomes on this occasion.

5. ARC Centres of Excellence
The Faculty put forward 14 applications for ARC Centres of Excellence in the recent round, three to be led by UQ. Three were successful in progressing to the next round and have been asked to submit full proposals:
1. **ARC Centre of Excellence for Big Data Research** - led by UTS, UQ staff include Professor Xiaofang Zhou, Professor David Abramson and Professor Jane Hunter.

2. **ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language** – led by ANU, UQ staff include Professor Janet Wiles and Professor Helen Chenery.

3. **ARC Centre of Excellence in Ground water (Groundwater Australia)** – led by Flinders University, UQ staff include Professor Neil McIntyre, Professor David Lockington and Professor Ling Li.

UQ had supported 48 CoE applications in total where UQ was the lead university on 11 of these. Only one UQ led application had been invited to submit a full proposal (in the area of Sociology). 12 of the 37 applications where UQ was supporting have been asked to the next round (three of which involved EAIT staff).

**6. Science Without Borders**

Science Without Borders (SWB) is a large-scale nationwide scholarship program primarily funded by the Brazilian federal government. Under this scheme, students on Study Abroad are required to undertake a research project or an internship as part of their study program here. The EAIT Faculty has imposed a minimum GPA of 5.5 to participate in the research program, with researchers able to propose suitable projects and out these forward in a process similar to the Summer Research Project. The Office of Undergraduate Education is coordinating this scheme and they would be advised of these recommendations.

This item should be referred to the School’s Teaching and Learning committee.

**7. Report from Deputy Postgraduate Coordinator**

Dr Saiied Aminossadati (Deputy Postgraduate Coordinator) attended the Go8 Postgraduate Coordinators workshop in Melbourne as one of five UQ representatives. The GO8 workshop aimed to discuss issues around management: managing supervisors and student-supervisor relationships, managing underperforming students, and key considerations in admissions and examinations that would assist all universities in attendance.

Overall, discussions focused on resources, funding and milestone with the School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering showing strength in some areas. Other universities provide incentives for students to publish and have greater emphasis on development activities through compulsory courses.

**8. Report from RHD-SSL C Chair**

An RHD-SSL C meeting was held on 23 August. Student’s raised concerns around available development activities, particularly the standard of presentation skills that has come to light in the RHD Final Seminar Program. Due to this, a subcommittee has been established to discuss this issue and propose future activities to address this. Mr Wouter Mostert will Chair the subcommittee and report back to the RHD-SSL C at the next meeting.

Attachment: RHD SSLC 3/13 Minutes

**9. Innovation and Commercial Development**

Dr Howard Leemon attended the School Research committee and reported on the structural changes to the Innovation and Commercial Development team located in the EAIT Faculty.

UniQuest has undergone significant changes and now has four discipline teams with one in Engineering, Materials and ICT. Dr Howard Leemon (Senior Director) and his team of two Directors of Commercial Engagement, Dr Tony Keating and Phil Nelson, will reside in the EAIT Faculty offices.

A key change is that the Innovation and Commercial Development team will no longer be responsible for research contracts in the Faculty. These duties will be taken on in a new Research Partnerships Manager position that is currently being advertised. This position will work closely with Dr Howard Leemon and his team to ensure support is available if required.

To facilitate better communication between the team and School staff, Dr Tony Keating is now a member of the Faculty Research Committee and Dr Howard Leemon will attend every second FLAG meeting. In practice, School involvement will continue in a similar fashion, however over time research agreements...
will go directly to the new Research Partnerships Manager with the Director positions to focus on commercialisation. These has also been a recent push to streamline processing for standard UQ agreements, including student scholarship contracts, with signatory rights delegated from R&ID.

It was recommended that Dr Howard Leemon provide an update to all School staff on recent changes or activities at the Whole of School Meeting twice per year.

10. Research Planning
Members discussed research strategies within the context of the School Review report (commendations and recommendations) and Operational Plan 2013-2016. There are tight deadlines for the submission of the School’s Response to the School Review report and a School Meeting will be held to brief all staff on Wednesday 11 September.

Background

a. School Review Report
The School received 19 commendations. Those related specifically to research are:

Commendations
- C10 Achieving an outstanding performance in the ERA, with the highest rating of all schools in UQ in the weighted index.
- C11 The research in Hypersonics, confirming its unique, world-class position in ultra-high-speed flow.
- C12 The small and productive group of materials engineers who contributed 48% to the overall score of 5 in the University’s ERA rankings.
- C13 The high profile of the Materials Engineering Division and its links with industry and government providing the seed funding enabling the Advanced Engineering Building to be built.
- C14 The Mechanical and Mining Divisions’ strong engagement with the mining and energy sectors leading to extensive support of their activities and to the uptake of research outputs, with valuable national and international impacts.

The School received 22 recommendations. Members discussed those related specifically to research and provided feedback and strategies below to address the recommendations.

Recommendations
- R9 While recognising the constraints imposed by industry and DSTO partnerships, and acknowledging its excellent ERA rankings, the School needs to increase its efforts to publish in high impact journals.

Members discussed the publishing culture across the RHD, ECR and academic staff in the School. Archival journals are peer reviewed and it is important that the School engages in the rigor of this review process. In many cases, conference presentations should be used as preliminaries for development of high quality journal papers.

This recommendation must be interpreted within research areas to focus on high impact publishing in their field, and members stressed that a balance of conference and journal publishing is important for development of skills and networking, especially for RHD students.

It was noted that there are some research areas within the School where publication is prevalent in conferences and lacking output in high impact journals. It is recommended that a report is developed to show the breakdown of School publication output in ranked journals. This will help to identify research areas where high impact journal publishing is low and the School will target education around this issue to staff members.
R10 The School should introduce internal mechanisms to encourage and support all academic staff, particularly early- and mid-career academics, to apply for more Category 1 funding.

Members discussed the value of the ECR workshops run by Dr Vince Wheatley and presentation by Prof Jin Zou on grant applications. The Australian Coal Association Research Program (ACARP) funding was also highlighted as a valuable opportunity for Category 1 funding. It was recommended that all opportunities are advertised to School staff. Support and mentorship should also be provided to ECR staff that are eligible to apply for grants as valuable training.

The Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR) lists the Australian granting bodies that provide competitive research grants to Higher Education Providers. These grants are referred to as ‘Category 1 grants’. A list of Category 1 funding can be accessed online at the Australian Government website: http://www.innovation.gov.au/RESEARCH/RESEARCHBLOCKGRANTS/Pages/AustralianCompetitiveGrantsRegister.aspx

R12 The School should encourage RO staff to supervise RHD students and projects within the BE/ME program.

A profile of School RO staff and their supervising activities is being developed to identify research areas where significant improvements can be made. Members noted that appointment length can affect a RO member’s ability to supervise an RHD candidate, however, in these situations shorter BE/ME or ME supervising opportunities should be encouraged. It was recommended that activities in this area be focused toward supervisors to encourage their RO staff to mentor students.

This report will also provide an opportunity to review advisor training completed by RO staff engaging in supervisor duties and target staff members that need to attend sessions provided through the Graduate School.

R15 Because the initiative in Deep Mining proposed in the Mining Division’s strategic plan will only be successful through collaborative effort with CRC Mining and SMI, such collaborative engagement should begin forthwith.

Members discussed Recommendation 15 and suggested that this should be interpreted more broadly to look at collaboration within and external to the university.

Other recommendations related to research include:

- R11 The School should monitor the effects of the milestone process on RHD completion rates. Refer to Item 8c

- R13 Steps should be taken to increase the currently modest level of research in low-speed flow and associated convective heat transfer which offer numerous, diverse areas of industrial application.

- R14 The School should actively engage with the different components of the Hypersonics group to identify strategies best suited to maintain the group’s position as the leading university-based research group in the world.


A new Operational Plan has been created for 2013 – 2016.

c. RHD Performance Report 2010-2012

At previous meetings RHD benchmarks have been included as a discussion item. These benchmarks will be reported annually through a performance report.

Attachments:
School Review Report to Academic Board
School Operational Plan 2013 – 2016
RHD Performance Report 2010-2012
11. 2014 Research Budget
An overview of 2013 spending to date and the proposed 2014 research budget was tabled for review. If members have any concerns or comments on this item please email Professor Ross McAree.

Attachment: 2014 Research Budget