2012 AGM UWA Researchers’ Association

Tuesday 20th November 2011, 4pm
Love House, UWA

Attendance: Debbie Trinder, Kay Cox, Jean-Michel Le Floch, Peter Munro, Kevin Pfleger, Gina Ravenscroft, Kate Howell, Peter Franklin, Deirdre Gleeson, Livia Hool, Anne Barden, Amanda Cleaver, Vera Morgan, Sarah Dunlop, Peter Mark, Duc Dau, Trevor Mori, Syed Islam, Liz Barbour

Apologies: Kristen Nowak, Nigel Laing, Lin Fritschi, Natalie Ward, George Yeoh, Louise Barton

AGM was opened at 4:10pm.

1. Minutes of AGM 2011
   Accepted: Trevor Mori/Seconded: Kate Howell  Carried

2. Consideration of reports (summaries below)
   President’s Report: Kevin Pfleger
   Accepted: Sarah Dunlop/Seconded: Vera Morgan  Carried
   Treasurers Report: Stuart Hodgetts
   Accepted: Kevin Pfleger/Seconded: Syed Islam  Carried
   Secretary’s Report: Gina Ravenscroft
   Accepted: Stuart Hodgetts/Seconded: Sarah Dunlop  Carried

3. Election of Office Bearers
   Kevin thanked Louise Barton and Suman George, who are stepping down from the Committee. Particular thanks to Louise for her work as President and Past-President.

   Elected Committee for 2013:
   President – Assoc/Prof Kevin Pfleger (Centre for Medical Research)
   President Elect – Not nominated (to be addressed at next committee meeting)
   Past President –
   Treasurer – Assoc/Prof Stuart Hodgetts (Anatomy)
   Secretary – Assist/Prof Gina Ravenscroft (Centre for Medical Research)

   General Committee Members (* to be confirmed at next Committee Meeting):
   - Dr Duc Dau (English and Cultural Studies)
   - W/Prof Lin Fritschi (Centre for Medical Research)
   - Assoc/Prof Deirdre Gleeson (Earth and Environment)
   - Assist/Prof Kate Howell (Plant Energy Biology)
   - Assist/Prof Syed Islam (Dentistry)
   - Assist/Prof Peter Munro (Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering) *
   - Assoc/Prof Kristen Nowak (Centre for Medical Research)
   - E/Prof Charles Oxnard (Anatomy) *
   - Prof Debbie Trinder (Centre for Medical Research)
4. General Business

- **Need for President Elect:**
  - Suggestions: Moira Clay, Peter Eastwood (both have ASMR experience), Ryan Lister
- **Communication:**
  - Vera Morgan suggested all UWARA material be circulated to members and put on website
    - We will try to ensure this does happen in 2013 and will also include all materials from 2012 in the mail-out of the 2012 AGM minutes
    - UWARA cannot have attachments on UWA websites, but will try to revisit this issue in 2013.
- **RDA’s suggested that any issues or concerns the UWA Research community have could go through them to DVCR**
  - RDA’s meet with DVCR on a weekly basis
  - UWARA Committee to meet with RDA’s to discuss better connectivity between UWARA and RDA’s.
- **Broader representation across the University**
  - UWARA is sometimes criticised for being too medical. However that is largely due to a high level of representation on the UWARA committee and also of UWARA members from the medical research community
  - With Peter Munro, Duc Dau and Charles Oxnard joining the UWARA Committee from Engineering, English & Cultural Studies and Anatomy respectively, we will have broader representation
- **Stuart Hodgetts suggested to partner with similar bodies in other WA universities**
  - Curtin University keen to set up a Researchers’ Association
- **RDA’s (Liz Barbour and Amanda Cleaver) had some good suggestions regarding networking and visibility**
  - Offered to advertise UWARA at all staff inductions (need to agree on relevant info/slides and provide to RDA’s)
  - Matariki network of Universities (Judy Berman) to partner with Research groups at interstate and oversees universities
  - Bristol University part of WUN (E-networking)
- **Website**
  - Suggested that we advertise the depth of experience and caliber of UWARA Committee Members (Action this in 2013)
- **Suggested that we try to engage with other groups around the university that are championing similar issues (e.g. Steven Smith and other senior researchers also talking to VC about similar issues).**
  - Need to ensure unified messages and try to engage better with these other parties (Action: Ask one of these researchers to come and meet with UWARA members at a meeting in 2013)
- **Outreach**
  - Kevin Pfleger would like to see the Association play more of a role in facilitating outreach to the community in 2013. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Kevin.

5. **Next AGM:** November 2013, Date to be confirmed closer to the time

6. **The AGM was closed at 4:57pm.**
Attachments:

1. Summary of Reports from President, Treasurer and Secretary
2. Minutes of Committee Meeting, 19th March 2012
3. Minutes of Committee Meeting, 13th November 2012
4. Cover Letter to Vice-Chancellor for contribution to UWA Futures
5. Discussion Paper: Developing, Retaining and Attracting Quality Research Staff
6. Submission to Review of the University’s Estimate’s and Distribution of Income
7. Submission to the Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research
Summary of President’s Report

• Discussion Paper on research at UWA
  – Draft drawn up by Lin Fritschi, Kevin Pfleger, Sarah Dunlop, Hugh Barrett and Nigel Laing, with further input from Moira Clay
  – Discussed and amended by UWARA Committee
  – Sent out to UWARA membership for comment on 1st May
  – Comments incorporated
  – Final discussion paper submitted to VC and DVCR at start of August
  – Kevin Pfleger, Sarah Dunlop and Lin Fritschi met with VC and DVCR on 7th Aug
  – Discussion paper formally submitted to VC as part of UWA Futures
• Submission for the Review of the University’s Estimate’s and Distribution of Income
• Submission to Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research (McKeon Review)
• Other matters

Kevin Pfleger
President

Summary of Treasurer’s Report

As the Association still does not charge fees for membership, or generate funds, and fortunately does not spend anything, the annual report for the expenditure of the Association is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
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Stuart Hodgetts
Treasurer

Summary of Secretary’s Report

• Current membership of 103 researchers, up from 83 in 2011
• Survey of members regarding HDR Funding
• Drafted a letter to the UWA Executive regarding main findings and calling for internal audit of policies related to HDR funding across the University (draft letter to be circulated to membership)
• Survey of HDR funding
  – We received feedback from members within the
  – Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences (FLAPS),
  – Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (FNAS),
  – Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (FMDHS) and the
  – Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics (FECM).
  – Representation came from 11 Schools, Disciplines and Centres.
With regards to funding received during the period of HDR candidature, the amount of monies received by the supervising researcher ranged between $0 and $4,270 per annum; with 29% receiving $0 per annum or no support of any kind.

With regards to completion monies, only 6% of supervising researchers received any form of completion money (~$11,900 pa for 3 years/HDR candidate).

Widely acknowledged that there are no clear policies related to HDR funding and in particular payment of completion monies between the Faculties, Schools and Centres.

Gina Ravenscroft
Secretary