

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

RESEARCH BULLETIN #1

UNSW



PROFESSOR LES FIELD

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
(RESEARCH)

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first of what will be a regular email update from me on important changes and issues affecting researchers at UNSW. This provides a more direct method for me to provide information to the research coal-face and also provides our researchers with updates on issues which are important to research at UNSW.

1. Changes to Research Services

Following a review of our needs for Research support at UNSW we have established a new Research Strategy Office and re-organised the way Research Services will operate. This will direct more resources to the front-end of the grant-application process (assistance with pulling together grant applications, identifying new opportunities for research support). For more information see <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter/rsrestructure0707.pdf>.

2. Ethics Online

We are currently building a new system to streamline the process of applying for ethics approvals. This will be an on-line process which will do away with paper-based applications. The aim is to make the application process less cumbersome, allow researchers to track where applications are at and facilitate the process of reviewing and approving applications. The project is well underway now and will be progressively rolled out from late August 2007. For more information see <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter/ethicsproject0707.pdf>.

3. Allocation of \$5M towards Strategic Priorities

At the beginning of the year, the Vice-Chancellor set aside \$20M in the 2007 UNSW budget for Strategic Research Priorities. \$5M was allocated to Faculties on the basis of research performance to be used strategically to support research with a view to strengthening the University's research position on a 5-year horizon. \$15M is being invested through the DVC(R) in research initiatives across UNSW which will make a significant difference to our research performance. For additional information see <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter/VCSPPF0707.pdf>.

4. Contract Research

This is a reminder about UNSW's requirements for undertaking contract research. All Contract Research must include a minimum of 30% of the research contract to cover infrastructure support. This is a requirement of the Trade Practices Act (we cannot use public money to offset our costs for undertaking contract research) but more importantly is an essential element of UNSW budgeting so that the University can recover indirect costs associated with: (i) provision and maintenance of buildings and physical infrastructure; (ii) university-wide IT, library and other supporting infrastructure; (iii) basic telecommunications; (iv) our insurance and legal services; (v) financial management services; (vi) security; (vii) our non-faculty administrative services. For additional information see <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter/infrasupport0707.pdf>.

5. Next round of CRCs

This is an early alert that submissions for the next round of CRC applications will be in 2008. The guidelines are not available yet, but we expect this to be a 2- or 3-stage application process similar to the last round. CRCs require significant planning and UNSW will not enter into these lightly – if you are interested in driving a CRC application or being part of a CRC application please contact Leigh Schwartzkoff (L.Schwartzkoff@unsw.edu.au, ext 54465) for additional information.

6. Strategic Research Fellowships

To remind staff of the Strategic Research Fellowship Support Schemes for 2008 and beyond. The University has two "safety net" schemes (i) Bridging Support Fellowships – for those researchers who have been awarded an ARC/NHMRC research grant but do not have salary support; (ii) Safety Net Support Fellowships – to provide support for researchers who are coming off the end of an ARC/NHMRC research fellowship. Support is limited to 1 year (beyond the term of a 3-year Fellowship) or 2 years (beyond the term of a 5 year Fellowship). This effectively guarantees up to 2 extra years of fellowship support for those who take up their fellowships at UNSW. For additional information see <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter/safetynetsupport0707.pdf>.

If you have any questions or require further information on any of the above please email enquiries.research@unsw.edu.au.

Regards,

Les Field
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)