

# DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

## RESEARCH BULLETIN #9 September 2008

# UNSW



PROFESSOR LES FIELD

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR  
(RESEARCH)

Dear Colleagues,

This is DVC(R) Bulletin #9 to provide an update on important issues affecting researchers at UNSW. If you missed the previous bulletins – the contents are available at <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter.html>

### 1. NEW LOCATION OF GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

The Graduate Research School will be moving offices to level 2, Rupert Myers Building from Monday 15th to Friday 19th September. During this week, the School will be maintaining essential services only. Students and staff may experience some delays in response times to emails and voicemail. Please see [www.grs.unsw.edu.au](http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au) for latest details.

### 2. MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE (MREII) FOR 2009

We will run a Major Equipment and Infrastructure Scheme for 2009 along very similar lines to that which ran this year. The guidelines are now available at [http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/MREII\\_2009.doc](http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/MREII_2009.doc). Note that proposals need to be prioritised by your Faculty and Faculty lists need to be with my office (to Andrea Burns, [A.Burns@unsw.edu.au](mailto:A.Burns@unsw.edu.au)) by 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Each Faculty will have its own internal deadline. Successful proposals will be announced mid November.

### 3. RELEASE OF THE NATIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS REVIEW REPORT (CUTLER GREEN PAPER)

- a. The Report of the Review of the National Innovation System, (Chaired by Dr Terry Cutler) has now been released. The Government is expected to respond to the recommendations made in this “Green Paper” with a “White Paper” before the end of the year. Full details of the Report, including the media releases, can be found at: <http://www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview/Pages/home.aspx>. A summary of recommendation related to research, research training and commercialisation is available from [http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/CUTLER\\_REVIEW.pdf](http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/CUTLER_REVIEW.pdf).
- b. This is a very broad Report with some 230 pages, and 72 recommendations, covering all aspects of the innovation system.
- c. While the devil is in the detail, and the Government is yet to formally accept the recommendations, one thing that is clear: the recommendations related to the ERA (if accepted) will ensure that the ERA will become a critically important driver for the distribution of what is now known as the RTS and IGS.

- d. It will be difficult for the Government to pick up all of the recommendations in a short period of time.
- e. The Go8 have come out in strong support of the recommendations made in the Green Paper. See [http://www.go8.edu.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=178&Itemid=180](http://www.go8.edu.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178&Itemid=180) for further information.

#### 4. ERA

There has been quite a lot of activity on the ERA front, including:

- a. **The Indicators Development Group** - has been announced – to consider, test and recommend appropriate discipline-specific indicators, including metrics and other proxies of quality and activity. This Committee appears to be very Melbourne-centric. Congratulations to Denis Del Favero (COFA) who has been selected for the Creative Arts Sub-Committee. See <http://www.arc.gov.au/era/IDG.htm> for further information including membership.
- b. **UNSW's submission to the ERA Outlet Ranking has been completed** – the research outlet rankings will set the “quality” indicator for publications and other forms of research outputs for the ERA.
- c. **ERA Pilot Submission Guidelines and Draft Technical Specifications** – a Pilot of the ERA system has been announced with a focus on testing the IT system to capture a subset of ERA information (in particular, the four major research publication categories and Australian competitive grant income). UNSW will volunteer to undertake the pilot. See <http://www.arc.gov.au/era/SEER.htm> for further information on the Pilot.

There are a number of key policy statements which have been clarified recently including: the inclusion of non-salaried staff in the ERA, and that publications census date. The ERA exercise will now pick up the outputs FOR ALL STAFF. We will not be asked to select staff to put them into groups. Further information is available at [http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/ERA\\_UPDATE.pdf](http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/ERA_UPDATE.pdf).

- d. **ARC Request for Publication Data** - ARC has invited institutions to provide research publication data to assist with testing and development of possible indicators for ERA. This will raise the stakes on getting our HERDC publication collection correct and complete.

#### 5. CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

We are anticipating a call for CoEs in 2009 for funding from 2010. We would like to start the process of identifying potential Centres of Excellence which could be led by researchers at UNSW. Over the period of the next month we want to get a list of potential Centres of Excellence together with an identified lead contact person. If you are contemplating developing a CoE proposal, please forward a 1-page description of the proposed Centre, the staff involved, the partner institutions to Dr Leigh Schwartzkoff ([l.schwartzkoff@unsw.edu.au](mailto:l.schwartzkoff@unsw.edu.au)) in the Research Strategy Office **by 30 September 2008**.

## **6. ARC FUTURE FELLOWS**

The release of final guidelines for Future Fellowships has been delayed from mid-August to mid-September with an expected closing date of mid-November. Heads of School should continue to identify outstanding mid-career researchers, and in particular international, ex-pat Australian and external applicants, as potential fellowship applicants. Please forward details to your Associate Dean (Research) with a copy to Lee Williamson in the Research Strategy Office ([lee.williamson@unsw.edu.au](mailto:lee.williamson@unsw.edu.au)).

## **7. LAUREATE FELLOWS / FEDERATION FELLOWS**

Minister Carr has recently announced a new class of Fellowships (Laureate Fellows) which will replace the Federation Fellows – effective immediately. There will be 15 Fellowships per year; they will be funded at a level of \$3M over 5 years and will be expected to be senior staff who can mentor and provide a training environment for junior staff (post docs) and graduate students. Guidelines are expected to be released in October and a limited amount of further information is available from the ARC website at:

[http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/media\\_030908.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/media_030908.htm). Paul Ashworth

([p.ashworth@unsw.edu.au](mailto:p.ashworth@unsw.edu.au)) is the contact person for this Scheme in the Research Strategy Office.

## **8. SEEKING ANIMAL ETHICS CHAIR**

Following the retirement of Michel Beal, I am still seeking a replacement for the Senior Presiding Member of the UNSW Animal Care & Ethics Committee. To be eligible for this position, you need to be a senior academic staff member (Level D or E), have a background in animal research, & have an interest in animal ethics.

This is a critical role for UNSW and as such, carries with it a responsibility loading. If you are interested in undertaking this very important role please indicate your interest directly to me ([L.Field@unsw.edu.au](mailto:L.Field@unsw.edu.au)) with a copy of your CV.

## **9. REVIEW OF UNSW CENTRES POLICY**

We are in the process of revising the UNSW Centres Policy as part of a regular review and updating of UNSW policies. Over the past few years, UNSW Centres have evolved to be very important parts of the research and the community engagement landscape for UNSW. In 2005 we introduced a Centres Policy to put appropriate rigour and governance around our Centres. With experience, there are now a number of areas where the policy is in need of revision. We would value feedback on the proposed revisions to this policy before the final documents are prepared for consideration by the Academic Board. The summary of changes is available at

[http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/CENTRES\\_POLICY\\_SUMMARY.pdf](http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/CENTRES_POLICY_SUMMARY.pdf) and the proposed revised policy is available at:

[http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/CENTRES\\_POLICY\\_REVISIED.doc](http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/CENTRES_POLICY_REVISIED.doc). Feedback (using track changes) should be sent to Bronwyn Greene ([b.greene@unsw.edu.au](mailto:b.greene@unsw.edu.au)) in my Office by **Friday 19 September 2008**.

**Professor Les Field**  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**