

RESEARCH AND HIGHER DEGREES COMMITTEE (Sub-committee of Academic Board)

Purpose

To provide leadership, strategic advice and quality assurance in research and research training for students and staff to achieve quality research outcomes.

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and promote research quality and research training within the University, in its local and international context.
2. Receive recommendations within its terms of reference from the Graduate Research School Committee, for consideration and referral to Academic Board for approval, where required, or referral to other Academic Board sub-committees as appropriate.
3. To make recommendations to Academic Board on policies and procedures relating to:
 - a) Research conduct, research development, and research integrity within the University, in its local and international context;
 - b) Internal and external research funding, contract research, research institutions and centres, research consultancies and other commercial activities relating to research and development;
 - c) The procedures and quality of research training for graduate students and staff who supervise them;
 - d) The legal requirements for ethical conduct in research involving human and animal subjects; occupational health and safety; bio-safety; hazardous substances; and the use of radio-active materials; and
 - e) Data reporting systems and research data storage.
4. To review the outcomes of all Research Centre and Institute internal and/or external reviews.
5. To develop and review the Strategic Research Plan for the University.
6. To monitor, and where relevant, refer to Council, via Academic Board, all research performance against the objectives in alignment with the University's Strategic Priorities.
7. To monitor, and when required, refer to the appropriate area the relevant policies and procedures due for review.
8. To establish associated task orientated working groups as and when the need arises.
9. Such other matters that are referred to it by the Academic Board, its Chairperson, or the Vice-Chancellor.

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(Sub-committee of Academic Board)

Voting Membership

1. Vice-Chancellor;
2. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (Chair);
3. Chair or Deputy Chair of Academic Board;
4. One member of the Academic Board elected by the Academic Board;
5. Associate Dean (Research) from the following Schools (8):
 - i) Arts and Humanities
 - ii) Business and Law
 - iii) Education
 - iv) Engineering
 - v) Medical and Health Sciences
 - vi) Nursing and Midwifery
 - vii) Science; and
 - viii) Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts
6. Dean, Graduate Research;
7. Director, Research Services;
8. Director, Aboriginal Research;
9. Guild President or nominee;
10. Postgraduate student nominated by the Guild;
11. Member nominated by the Academic Staff Association.

Total voting membership = 18

Observer-Participants (non-voting members)

1. Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
2. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International);
3. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Regional Futures);
4. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education);
5. Dean, International Relations, International Office;
6. Managing Director, South West Campus;
7. University Librarian;
8. Information Technology Service Centre representative;
9. Chair of ECU Research Professoriate;
10. Early and Mid-Career Researcher Network representative; and
11. Manager, Research Strategy and Policy.

Observers

Observers may be admitted to meetings, in accordance with the [Academic Board Standing Orders](#).

RHDC Executive

The Research and Higher Degrees Committee Executive composition and rules are as follows:

1. Chair of RHDC.
2. Deputy Chair of RHDC.
3. Two members from different Schools elected at the first ordinary meeting of each year, where one of these two is a reserve Executive member.
4. Where an item of business to be determined by the Executive relates to the School of any member on the Executive, that member will be replaced, for the purposes of determining that item, by the reserve member.
5. Where an item of business relates to a School or Service Centre, a representative of the School or Service Centre proposing the matter, is invited to attend to respond to questions members of the Executive may have. This or these representative/s are not voting members of the Executive.
6. The powers of the RHDC Executive will be those of the full RHDC Committee.
7. The exercise of those powers by the Executive will be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the full Committee.

Research and Higher Degrees Committee Working Groups

The Research and Higher Degrees Committee will convene working groups as required to facilitate in-depth review and consideration of key matters. These working groups will meet as required and will report to the Chair, RHDC. A summary of key discussion points and any agreed actions arising from the meetings will be provided to the Research and Higher Degrees Committee.

Approved by Academic Board 8 November 2001, Resolution AB 87/01, minute 45.4.

Amended by Academic Board

29 May 2008, Resolution AB20/08, minute 981

2 April 2009, Resolution AB9/09, minute 1098

22 July 2010, Resolution AB52/10, minute 2220

23 February 2012, Resolution AB6/12, minute 2506

12 April 2012, Resolution AB32/12, minute 2559

20 February 2014, Resolution AB16/14, minute 2898

16 August 2018, Resolution AB107/18, minute 20

5 December 2019, Resolution AB205/19

6 August 2020, Resolution AB121/20

10 June 2021, Resolution AB119/21

18 November 2021, Resolution AB217/21