

ITP Research Forum Meeting

18 June 2010, 10am, Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland.

Present

Simon Peel, Unitec (Chair)	James Chal, Wairiki	Steven Perda, Wintec
Healthier Hamerton, BOP	Amanda Torr, Weltec	Merran Davis, Wintec
Gary Mersham, Open Poly	Thilani Nissanga, WITT	Jane Gregg, CPIT
Nick Nicol, UCOL	Katie Jones, Unitec	Brenda Massey, Unitec

1. Apologies

Robin Day, Otago	Helen Anderson, MIT	Christine Fenton, WITT
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2. Review of notes from previous meeting

PBRF Workshops/Roadshows

The planning for these are on hold until the 2012 guidelines are released.

Innovating NZ

This has become a Metro Polytechnic project, with the Metro CEO's now acting as the governance group. CPIT is leading the project, and the launch will occur on 7th July 2010. Philip Ridge is the contact at Innovating NZ (ridgep@cpit.ac.nz).

Todd Foundation

There were six application submitted to the Todd Foundation for consideration for funding. The group was reminded to start thinking about projects as soon as possible for submission at the end of the year. See the wikieducator site for more information on the guidelines.

3. Round Table

UCOL

- Currently focusing on narrowing the focus of their research. Focus areas include the government priority areas, particularly in regards to health research.
- Partnerships between young/inexperienced and experienced researchers are being developed.
- Developing partnerships with overseas universities and institutes. Particularly Leeds Metropolitan University, Pretoria Institute and Queensland Institute of Technology.
- Several collaborative nursing projects have been established between the DHB and Massey University in the areas of elderly care, immunisation and public health. Also part of the SPARK project which looks at rehabilitation and injury prevention.
- UCOL does not participate in the PBRF.

BOP Polytechnic

- Have formed close partnerships with University of Waikato. The Tauranga campus of the University is now part of BOP Polytechnic. The Polytechnic will now only tech Waikato University degrees, and a lot of their research is now linked to Waikato University projects.
- Have opened an Aqua Culture centre and will be growing this area of research.
- Are using research associates who are not employed to help build capacity
- Holding writers retreat later in year (open to other ITPs)

WelTec

- Have instituted a weighting system which requires all academic staff to engage in research. The system is based on their level of expertise, with more experienced researchers required to produce research outputs of a higher weighting. All academic staff are required to participate in this scheme, regardless of their PBRF eligibility. This has resulted in a significant increase in research outputs – particularly MA/PhD completions. The system was introduced in 2009. In 2010 it became compulsory.
- e.g. 1 point = presentation to peers. 5 points = international journal article.
- All staff have to produce outputs to the value of at least 1 point. Staff with a 0.2FTE research requirement have to produce outputs to the value of 6 points.
- An increasing number of funding requests are being submitted.
- WelTec will participate in the 2012 PBRF for the first time.
- A research week will be held at the end of June with a focus on building capability.
- WelTec has a Centre for Smart Product, which has an industry in residence programme. Currently have three companies in residence, as well as numerous staff and student projects focused on industry problems.
- They are focusing on research sharing, and inclusive scholarship view to include all staff.
- All degree programmes have a 0.25FTE research coordinator position attached to them.

Wintec

- Surya Pandey has moved out of the Research Manager position and now focuses on international student recruitment and developing international research relationships. Wintec are advertising for a Research and Development Manager currently.
- The focus is on implementing their Research, Development and Transfer Strategy (RDT Strategy). This strategy includes a focus on knowledge and tech transfer.
- Accountability for achieving research outputs has been devolved to the academic faculty.
- Reporting systems have been developed to measure performance against targets.
- Industry engagement has been increased through the roll out of the voucher system.
- Wintec is looking at ways to increase revenue from research activity.
- Future developments:
 - o A new R and D Manager will be appointed.
 - o New facilities will be developed. In particular a facility is under development which will locate the local commerce institute within Wintec. There are plans to locate the research office within this facility.
 - o The voucher scheme will be rolled out in full.
 - o Tech transfer facilities will be linked into research planning. E.g. Agritec Centre, SODA, Ecovillage.

Open Polytechnic

- The research policy has recently been approved, which is the first step to developing a more robust research culture. The policy focuses on both new and established researchers; open/flexible/ distance learning research; sharing expertise; research to support degree programme teaching; increasing the number of staff with research qualifications (Masters/PhD); and it focuses on industry partnerships.
- Next focus is going to be on implementation. Mike Jones has been appointed as Research Manager.
- A Head of Faculty has been appointed who will help develop research.
- As with other institutes the Open Poly has had issues with discretionary leave and the impact this has on research.

Wairiki

- Currently focusing on building capacity through developing research leaders. Several staffing changes have resulted in a loss of people in these positions.
- A MOU has been developed with SION, focusing on collaborations and teaching.
- Also working with local DHB/Maori health providers on funding applications to the HRC.
- Institute of Health Management has been established – supporting managers in the local health sector.
- A Centre of excellence in conservation and sustainability is under development. A manager and academic leader has been appointed.
- The Research Strategy and Business Plan has been approved.

- Research retreats, called Research Advances, are being run which focus on collaboration and research outputs. Staff apply and if accepted they are rewarded with a week long retreat.
- Focusing on 10 research champions and 50 other staff, rather than focusing on developing research in the whole organisation.

CPIT

- Have a well established research culture. Most staff are part of CPIT institutional collective agreement which has removed some of the problems associated with discretionary leave.
- Achieved good ratings in the last PBRF. Is looking to improve these in 2012 and increase numbers of A s and Bs.
- Focusing on practice based research.
- Each school/degree has a research chair. They meet as a group and fund projects internally and recommend projects for external funding.
- A percent of the research budget has now been allocated to focus on pedagogy research.
- Sabbaticals are offered (6-12 months). These are project based and are approved through panels.
- There is a focus on knowledge transfer rather than technology transfer.
- A research value statement is under development.
- Focus moving forward is on research performance
- New research manager replacing Keith is being appointed

WITT

- Research has been significantly affected by TEU negotiations.
- Not part of the PBRF. Degrees are only taught as part of courses offered by other ITPs. Due to this they have some staff with a requirement to be research active.
- Currently restructuring, therefore the research manager time has been taken up with other activities.
- Need to build a research culture from the beginning. Research is considered an activity of the few, not part of normal practice.

Unitec

- Unitec's research strategy for 2010-2015 has just been released. It states Unitec's contribution to the research sector, and has a focus on applied research and research with impact.
- Currently looking at how to measure impact.
- Have a very broad and inclusive view of research – involve as many staff as possible.
- Looking at ways to align research funding with the research strategy.
- Undertaking trial PBRF to prepare staff for 2012.
- Implemented a new electronic system to record research outputs, as well as a new institutional research repository.
- Looking at ways to better communicate research successes, both internally and externally.
- Research themes and clusters are being developed in order to better group research resources and aid professional development.
- All academic research policies are under review, particularly Intellectual Property. This also includes student research policies.

<p>Action: Unitec to share the Code of Student Practice Policy and Guidelines.</p>

4. Review of ITP Research Publications

Wintec no longer produces a research report. Everything is recorded online in a searchable research repository.

Wairiki produces no specific research reports. The annual report includes the research report and outputs. Also produce Wairiki today, a whole institute news bulletin.

Open Poly produces a research output report.

UCOL has an e-book which goes out every 4-6 weeks which is driven by the strategy department. This includes research stories.

BOP Poly produces two internal publications a year which focus on what staff are doing. There is no external distribution.

CPIT produces a student and staff research publication for each faculty. There are huge distribution lists for these and they are magazine style.

WITT has the staff write articles for publication. The style is based on an academic journal and the purpose is to encourage staff to write and get published.

Unitec produces Advance magazine 2-3 times a year. This includes both staff and student research and is distributed to a wide audience, both in hard copy and electronic. A magazine style publication.

WelTec has e-journal SmartNZ that contains some research stories. Also publishes list of research outputs annually.

5. Quality Assured Research Outputs

Those present discussed how they record research outputs and the percentage of outputs which have been quality assured. This was to provide an informal benchmark for the sector.

Action: Quality Assured percentages are to be sent to Unitec for distribution.

6. External Research Funding

Unitec has experienced a major dip in external research funding won last year. It was suggested that this was because of problems accessing funding as well as getting staff to engage in opportunities.

Wairiki commented that they were lacking capacity to attract funding, however when proposals were submitted there were problems freeing staff time in order to engage with the research.

UCOL employ two full time staff members to write applications for staff, due to the time consuming nature of the process. However, even with this resource funding was tight.

CPIT pay an incentive to staff for submitting external applications, even if the application is unsuccessful. There is a high level of collaboration with University colleagues which increases their success rates.

BOP Poly noted that the GETS system appeared to have less tenders available than in previous years.

The group identified several key areas in which could be improved to increase external funding success:

- Collaboration is key and a base of staff which can be released from teaching is important.
- Contracts must include staff buy out time.
- Identifying key people who can fulfil a need in the market.
- Broader team bases.
- Identify expertise and share staff across ITPs on projects.
- Concentrate on Industry/Community funding, rather than government.

7. Sector wide research conference

The group agreed this was a good idea and would allow for collaborations within the sector to develop. The focus of the conference was discussed, and it was debated as to whether this should just be an ITP conference or if there should be a large amount of industry involvement. It was suggested that the conference could be positioned around the ITP research statement and be used to raise the profiles of ITPs. It would need to be fully Quality Assured and produce a proceedings. The conference would need to go beyond a standard academic conference format, and the creative arts would need to be included through the use of exhibitions. The theme of Research with Impact was discussed.

The timing of the conference was discussed, with no consensus reached. It was suggested that this item be included on the next agenda once those present had discussed it within their organisations.

Action: Support for an ITP conference to be discussed within each institute and ideas on timing and theme to be brought to the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date

To be held late October at Wintec.