

## MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

### HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH COMMITTEE Report of HDRC Meeting 4 April 2008

The Committee noted the activities of the Research and Research Training AUQA Working Group. In addition to compiling a response to the implementation of the 2006-2008 MQ Research Strategic Plan, it is also assisting in the development of a first draft of the 2009-2011 iteration of this plan. The Group comprises representatives from the DVC Research Office and the Quality Enhancement Committee and is meeting fortnightly. Dr Freeman stressed the importance of the four key research goals which form the foundation of the Research Strategic Plan. These are the establishment of a pervasive research culture; prominence in selected concentrations of research excellence; increasing research training commencements and completions; contributing to the nation's economic, social and cultural well-being.

A/Professor Ruth Neumann briefed the Committee on the results of recent student feedback studies. Two outcomes to note from the 2007 MUSEQ-R study include comparative improvements in overall satisfaction and with research supervision in particular. Professor Neumann is preparing a report for HDR candidates to ensure they are fully informed of results and the improvements undertaken as a result of this ongoing research. The reports will be uploaded to the website.

The Committee considered a paper requesting approval of double-badged joint PhD awards with a select number of partner institutions. It was agreed that this be referred to Academic Senate and a separate paper has been forwarded for consideration.

Divisional higher degree research completion targets have now been devised on the basis of information supplied by each Division. The DVC Research will contact each division to formally confirm these targets. While a minimum goal of 209 completions has been agreed, divisions are aiming to achieve 248 completions in 2008. An estimated 130 additional theses are expected by divisions to be submitted for examination by the end of September 2008.

The Committee voted to approve amendments to the Code of Supervisory Practice so as to bring this document inline with the University policy requirements. Agreement was also sought to review Rule 5 and 7 of the Masters by Research and the Doctoral Degree Rules with a view to converting these requirements over to a policy framework and recommending to Academic Senate and University Council that these Rules be struck out. The Committee agreed to progress these issues in the approved manner.

A proposal to introduce an Annual HDR Supervisor Award to the value of \$10,000 was endorsed by the Committee. A/Professor Anna Reid was requested to progress this proposal for implementation as part of the Vice Chancellors Awards for Teaching and Learning.