Dear Colleagues,

This is DVC(R) Bulletin #20 provides 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. ERA UPDATE

The ARC has released the results of the ERA Trial conducted last year on two of the eight clusters, namely Physical, Chemical and Earth Science (PCE), and Humanities and Creative Studies (HCA). The national results of the 2009 Trial Submission are available in the ARC website – http://www.arc.gov.au/era/

The ERA 2010 Submission Guidelines and other relevant documents for this year’s ERA full round submission have now been released. These documents are also available in the ARC website.

The main components of the ERA 2010 Submission include (a) Data on Research Outputs; (b) Data on Research Income; (c) A Background Statement for each of the 22 two-digit Field of Research (FoR) Codes; (d) Data on Eligible Researchers; (e) Applied Measures; and (f) Measures of Esteem. The reference periods for these indicators are as follows:

- Research Outputs (1 Jan 2003-31 Dec 2008)
- Staff Census Date for ERA 2010 (31 Mar 2009)

As part of UNSW’s 2010 ERA submission, the ERA Office has started to collect information from all ERA-eligible staff about their research activity, outputs and publications, and other information which relate to applied- and esteem measures.

For more information, visit the UNSW ERA website (http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/res/rqf.html) or contact the ERA Office on telephone 9385-2084 or by email (era@unsw.edu.au).

a. Research Activity Census

The Research Activity Census is a survey designed to contribute to the statutory Government data collections including ERA and ABS research data collection and the University’s forthcoming new Research Gateway website.

The Research Activity Census is now open for all academic UNSW staff to fill in or update by no later than 26 February 2010. If you do not complete your Census by this date and you are required to do so for ERA, you will be reminded by the ERA Office and your Associate Dean (Research) until it has been completed.

If you have not received email notification including your personalised survey link, please contact ERA Office (era@unsw.edu.au).
Critical details of the stages of ERA for 2010 are:

- 15 February  1st draft of Background Statements Due
- 26 February  Research Activity Census Deadline
- 2 April  UNSW Data collection completed
- 17 May – 17 June  Data cleaning, verification and submission preparation
- 18 June  ERA Submission technical verification
- 22 July  ARC checks the data integrity of UNSW submission
- 6 August  Final submission deadline

2. FUNDING FOR THE INDIRECT COSTS OF RESEARCH

The Sustainable Research Excellence program (SRE) was announced in the Federal Budget last year and will augment the current RIBG (Research Infrastructure Block Grants Scheme) to more fully fund the cost of doing research. SRE's dual objectives are to:

i) help address an identified shortfall in the funding available to meet the indirect costs associated with Australian Competitive Grants (ACG) research; and

ii) support universities to build and maintain research excellence through the implementation of best practice financial management, performance and reporting frameworks.

The SRE will more than double the level of support that has been available through the RIBG by 2014.

To access SRE funding, we need to report staff time spent on research and this will be collected using two surveys which will need to be completed by UNSW staff. The surveys will be conducted in late February/Early March 2010 and then again in May 2010. Further information including instructions on completing the March 2010 Survey will be sent shortly.

Additional information on the SRE can be found at http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/Research/Pages/SustainableResearchExcellence(SRE).aspx

3. ARC DISCOVERY PROJECTS 2011 – SUBMISSION PROCESS REMINDER

We expect that The University will submit approximately 400+ applications to the 2011 ARC Discovery Projects round (DP11). The ARC has introduced a new ARC submission program (RMS) and at this stage, only 221 applications have been recorded in RMS and of these, few have been submitted to the Grants Management Office for review and compliance checking. If you are unfamiliar with RMS, please don’t leave it too late to start to familiarise yourself with its idiosyncrasies. The UNSW internal deadline for review of DP11 applications is 3 February 2010. With only a month left until the ARC deadline for submission, it is important that all researchers who intend to submit a DP11 application setup their application in RMS as soon as possible so the GMO can assign a compliance checker and monitor progress.

Professor Les Field
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)