Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #23 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.

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1. UNSW 2010 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Interfaculty Final

The 3MT Competition provides an exciting and fun opportunity for postgraduate research students from all disciplines to showcase their work. There will be prestigious judges, great prizes, media involvement and most importantly a chance for your postgraduate research students to develop their communication skills. Each Faculty will be running Heats and then entering up to three students into the Interfaculty Final.

Prizes for the UNSW 2010 3MT Interfaculty Final:

- First prize $3,000 – plus entry into the 2010 Inaugural Australia and New Zealand 3MT Completion, flights and accommodation
- Runner-up prize $1,500
- People’s choice prize $1,000

The winner from our Final will be supported to represent UNSW in the Inaugural 2010 Australia and New Zealand Three Minute Thesis Competition, with over 25 other universities, which is being hosted by the University of Queensland on 21 September this year.

See http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/resources/threeminutecompetition.html for more details and encourage your students to enter.

2. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) WITH INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

A new, streamlined procedure has been developed to assist Faculties, Schools and Centres in the establishment of International Research MOUs with International Universities. The procedure is aimed at providing a single point of contact in the Division of Research to facilitate the coordination and approval of the MOUs including ensuring that we partner with Universities where there are clear benefits to UNSW including alignment with UNSW and Faculty research priorities.

The International Research MOU Toolkit including templates can be found at the following website: http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/res/respartnership.html
3. ERA UPDATE

Australia’s first ever national stocktake of research quality within the Higher Education sector, the Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA), is well under way.

The ERA data submission is comprised of eight discipline clusters, and requires information and data on researchers, research outputs, research income, applied measures and esteem measures. More information about the ERA can be found at http://www.arc.gov.au/era/default.htm.

The submission process has four stages. Stage 1 of the ERA submission has commenced on 1 June 2010. This stage requires institutions to upload submission files in System to Evaluate the Excellence of Research (SEER) to have them validated against technical requirements and verified against ERA business rules.

The ERA Office is preparing files for the submission, converting them into the required format ensuring both technical and business requirements are met. Stage 1 ends on Friday 18 June 2010 and institutions are not allowed to make changes to submitted data after this date unless requested by the ARC.

Further stages of the submission process involve the ARC undertaking further verification and integrity checking of the submission data in Stage 2, due on 22 July 2010, and final Vice-Chancellor certification of the submission in stages 3 and 4. Hard copy of signed certification statement is due by Friday 6 August 2010 making the ERA submission complete and final.

UNSW is on track with its preparation and submission of ERA data.

Professor Les Field
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)