Dear Colleagues,

This DVC(R) Bulletin #59 provides an update on important issues affecting researchers at UNSW. If you missed the previous bulletins – the contents are available at http://research.unsw.edu.au/deputy-vice-chancellor-research-bulletin.

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1. Human Research Ethics

There have been some recent media reports regarding UNSW’s Human Research Ethics Committees. I want to make it absolutely clear that there will be no delay in processing human research ethics applications at UNSW as a result of changes to the committee membership.

We have had a number of resignations of HREC Committee members; however there will be one fully constituted and functioning HREC for the October meeting. We are in the process of formalising new member appointments for this Committee and we are committed to establishing a second HREC as soon as possible.

UNSW has also identified a number of external HRECs that can be used, if necessary, during this transition period.

Let me also make it absolutely clear that the integrity and rigour of the ethics review process at UNSW will not be compromised during the transition period. There is no change to the way any adverse events are dealt with at UNSW - please continue to report any serious adverse events to the ethics secretariat for consideration by the HREC.

2. NHMRC Flexible Funding Arrangements

The NHMRC has introduced more flexibility in how NHMRC grant funds can be used from 1st January 2014. Some of the changes are:

- The Independent Research Institutes Infrastructure Support Scheme (IRIISS) funding can now be transferred between collaborating independent research institutes with NHMRC approval.
• NHMRC have removed the requirement for the Chief Investigator to justify the carry forward of funds that exceed 25% of the total funds available in the previous year.
• NHMRC funds for Research Support Schemes can now be used for any direct research costs;
• Approved NHMRC funds can now be applied to salaries and salary on-costs, as long as the aims of the research can be met;

In practice, the last point means that salaries paid from NHMRC grants are no longer constrained by NHMRC salary scales and that any salaries paid from NHMRC grants can be fully covered by the grant. From 2014 there will be no additional salary gaps that need to be paid for staff employed on NHMRC grants. For grants that are already ongoing, or have already been approved to start in 2014, UNSW will continue to contribute to the salary gaps of staff employed on NHMRC grants until the grant has expired.

3. UNSW Student Systems – Resuming 8th October

UNSW is upgrading to a new student information system – SIMS. The following systems will be shut down while the upgrade is implemented:
• From 26th September until 7th October – most myUNSW services will be unavailable. This includes Apply Online and Accept Online;
• From 27th September until 7th October – NSS, the APR system, online Variation to Candidature and TEM will be unavailable;

Contact the Graduate Research School (GRS) if you have any concerns. The following arrangements have been put in place for the shutdown period:
• Admission and acceptance – HDR applicants will be re-directed to a GRS webpage providing information on how to submit documents to the GRS. Successful applicants will be able to accept manually via a form submitted to the GRS.
• Progress Reviews – the paperwork for any reviews scheduled during this period will need to be printed by the school prior to the shutdown period so that it can be used during the review. The outcome can then be recorded after the APR system returns and the documents scanned and uploaded to the system.
• Variation to Candidature – candidates will be advised to return to the system after 7th, or for urgent matters to contact the GRS.
• Thesis Management – during the shutdown, candidates will not be able to lodge a “notice of intention to submit” and supervisors will not be able to issue a “supervisor’s certificate”. However, candidates will be able submit their theses and GRS staff will continue to process “nomination of examiners” forms and examiner reports.
• Faculty Higher Degree Committees – only a few will be affected. The GRS will have access to an old version of NSS that will support the preparation of agendas and documentation.

4. Research Outputs System (ROS) Live

ROS is live and working at https://ros.unsw.edu.au. ROS is UNSW’s new system for capturing and reporting the University’s research publications and outputs. It has now replaced the Research Publications (ResPubs) system which is no longer in use. ROS now contains all the data that was previously entered into ResPubs.

ROS is designed to help reduce the time and effort spent on managing publication and research outputs across the University and offers a number of new functionalities to support researchers at UNSW:
• Streamlined, and in many cases automated, publications data entry;
• Impact measurements, including h-indexes, citation counts and Altmetrics;
- Easy export options that may assist in the creation of publication lists for CVs, grants and promotion applications;
- Collecting and collating data for HERDC and other research assessment exercises;
- Improved uploading of publication information to the UNSW Research Gateway.

Due to the upgrade of the Next Gen Student System, there will be a freeze on UNSW system data from 12pm Friday 27 September to 9am Tuesday 8 October. While data can still be entered into into ROS the updated information will not be reflected in the Research Gateway until the week beginning Tuesday 8 October.

You can find more information about ROS at [http://library.unsw.edu.au/servicesfor/academic/ros.html](http://library.unsw.edu.au/servicesfor/academic/ros.html)

For more information, or to arrange training, contact your Faculty Outreach Librarian.

5. Research Long Term Data Store

UNSW is currently developing a large data store for the storage and archiving of electronic research data for all UNSW researchers. The store will ensure that data captured in the course of research is managed and stored according to funding body and legislative obligations.

The store is designed to hold large amounts of data for many years, rather than be a fast store for computation or databases. Access to the store is free for UNSW research projects. The Long Term Data Store will provide UNSW researchers with a first class data storage and data management capability.

The store will be implemented over a series of steps, the end goal is an online environment that allows a Researcher (or Administrator on their behalf) to request the creation (provisioning) of storage space to hold researchers’ data in a secure, available and robust fashion, enabling access from multiple locations via multiple devices. Data will also be discoverable and easier to manage. The store is currently being piloted by 4 groups at UNSW:

- Climate Change Research Centre (CCRC)
- Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
- Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre
- The Australian Wetlands & Rivers Centre

The store will be progressively rolled out across the University over the period 2013-2015.

6. The Research Data Storage Initiative (RDSI) Store

RDSI is an Education Investment Fund (EIF) Super Science project which has established a number of data centre nodes across Australia for the storage of research data sets that have been identified as being of “national significance” and “valuable for future research”. The NSW node is supported by Intersect, an e-Research agency for member NSW Universities including UNSW.

The RDSI store is primarily aimed at fostering collaborations around data. RDSI storage is free for approved projects which meet a set of criteria. These criteria focus on the value of the data and a willingness to share it more widely. For many UNSW projects the criteria will be easy to meet.

UNSW researchers will be able to find out more about RDSI storage and how to apply for it on the Research Gateway website or by contacting Barbara Chmielewski, General Manager (Research) at barbarac@unsw.edu.au.

7. 2013 QS World University Rankings

The 2013 QS World University Rankings were released on the 10th September. UNSW maintained its position at #52 globally and #5 within the Group of 8 universities. This is a good result – UNSW’s result in the light of strong increased competition. The QS World University Ranking considers the reputation of the university within the academic community and amongst graduate employers, the
faculty to student ratio, the number of citations per faculty member, and the proportion of international staff and students. The good result for UNSW is driven by an increase in the number of research citations, as well as high scores for academic and employer reputation.

QS publishes results for the top 50 universities in five broad faculty areas. UNSW placed in the top 50 in three categories:

- Engineering and Technology, rose 6 places to 33, from a rank of 39 in 2012-2013.
- Social Sciences and Management, rose 11 spots to 23, from a rank of 34 in 2012-2013.
- Natural Sciences ranked 47, up from 62 in 2012-2013.
- Arts and Humanities ranked at 59, up from 77 in 2012-2013.
- Life Sciences and Medicine ranked 72, down from 55 in 2012-2013.

MIT beat Harvard and Cambridge to retain the top spot. The top 10 also included University College London, Imperial College London, Oxford, Stanford, Yale, the University of Chicago, Caltech and Princeton. ANU topped the list of Australian universities at #27, followed by Melbourne (#31), Sydney (#38) and the University of Queensland (#43).

The 2013-2014 Times Higher Education World University Rankings will be released on the 3rd of October 2013 (Local Australian Time).

8. AIATSIS Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies’ (AIATSIS) new edition of the Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies (GERAIS) has been released.

GERAIS is a well-recognised text that has been adopted nation-wide by many institutions as a practical guide to comply with the best standards of ethical research regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. The Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People has acknowledged GERAIS as a tool of great value for research.

For further information regarding GERAIS please contact Pravin Adip, Director Research Business at AIATSIS via email at pravin.adip@aiatsis.gov.au, or visit their website to download the GERAIS at http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethics/GERAIS.html.


This session is informed by the various selection criteria for the ARC Linkage Grant Scheme and will give you an overview of what assessors are currently saying about the selection criteria in actual applications.

- **When:** Tuesday 8 October, 11.00am – 1.30pm

For more information and to register click [here](#).

10. Video Sessions: ARC Assessments and ARC Linkage Project Scheme

Two new on-line video sessions are now available from the Research Strategy Office on UNSWTV:

- **ARC Assessment – Strategic Considerations.** This presentation covers general aspects of the assessment process of ARC Grant schemes. It outlines strategies to maximise the chances that applications will be reviewed by a receptive audience in a favourable manner. It includes a discussion of how to select Field of Research (FoR) Codes and Keywords. (40 minutes)

- **ARC Linkage Project Scheme – An Overview.** This presentation provides high-level insights into this scheme including tips on how to make applications more competitive. This presentation covers recent significant changes to the Scheme and how to strategize accordingly. (43 minutes)

Login with your zpass to view these on-line video presentations on UNSWTV.
11. Do you know... Responsibility for Research Trainees

The term “Research Trainee” means a Higher Degree Research candidate or an early career researcher (for example a junior postdoctoral research fellow).

The UNSW Research Code of Conduct says that “Supervisors must be satisfied that the research methods and outcomes of researchers under their supervision are appropriate and valid” and that supervisors “must ensure the validity of research data obtained by a student / research trainee under his / her supervision.”

This section of our Research Code of Conduct does place clear accountability on all staff who supervise HDR candidates or junior research staff. It means that supervisors carry a responsibility to ensure that the research methods, results, research data and research conclusions of research trainees under their supervision are accurate, robust and reliable.

Professor Laura Poole-Warren
Acting Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)