

GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

PRESENT: Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith (Chair, Graduate Research School), Professor Richard Blaikie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise), Peter Boston (Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards) Andrew Lonie (Graduate Research School), Associate Professor Chrys Jaye (Division of Health Sciences), Danielle Yamamoto Kerr (International Office), Mino Cleverley (Pacific Islands PhD Representative), Hanna van der Giessen (OUSA Postgrad Representative), Kalika Kastein (International PhD Representative), Eleanor Burgess (Acting UOC Representative), Amanda Clifford (Māori Representative)

APOLOGIES: Yasmin Abdul Aziz (Division Health Sciences PhD Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ruth Sharpe (Academic Committees).

DATE: Friday, 28 August 2020

	Item	Action
1.	Minutes of previous meeting The minutes for the meeting held on Friday, 29 May 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
2.	Matters arising from previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>List serves for graduate students (Professor Spronken-Smith):</i> This matter is currently with ITS, and is making progress to be automated. The aim is to have Divisional list-serves for thesis candidates so representatives can contact their peers. Privacy issues around access to and use of the lists was discussed. b) Ideas for questions for an employer panel at a careers event are due by the end of September 	<p style="text-align: center;">RSS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All students</p>
3.	Christchurch update (Eleanor Burgess) Reported on a range of social activities past and planned; the Postgraduate Symposium is to be held 12-13 October. Thoughts are being given to recruiting committee members for 2021. Considerable support has been given throughout networks during the week of the sentencing of the Christchurch terrorist.	
4.	Wellington update - position vacant The vacancy will be advertised. A lack of peer support in Wellington was indicated by an exit survey and will be raised with the new representative.	<p style="text-align: center;">RSS & RS</p>
5.	Distance candidates update - position vacant	
6.	Updates from all Graduate Research Student Liaison Committee Reps (ALL) Each of the representatives at the meeting gave feedback. Key points arising were: <u>Mino Cleverley Pacific Island PhD Rep</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reported on his attendance at an extensive range of social, academic and cultural events that have occurred and are forthcoming. Raised that conversations are occurring around minority/indigenous voices within scholarship and decolonising the university. <u>Hanna van der Giessen (OUSA Postgraduate Rep)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OUSA AGM is coming up so a good time to advertise GRSLC vacancies. Secretary to update website and send vacancies to OUSA postgraduate representative. - To aid student wellbeing, OUSA is seeking ideas to celebrate postgraduates in a manner that is not a physical event, possibly online. The latter could then include international and remote start students. - Supervisor of the Year is coming up. <u>Amanda Clifford (Māori Rep)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reported the adjustments between alert levels has been challenging and created uncertainties around scholarship matters and the future. - Reported Rachel Sizemore, Māori Postgraduate Support Advisor has been very supportive. <u>Kalika Kastein, (International Masters Rep)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raised a range of COVID-19 related stressors for international students. See Item 7 COVID-19 business. - Career support and supervision 	<p style="text-align: center;">RS HvdG</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional concerns about the job market after graduation were raised in the context of some instances of lack of support from supervisors for the establishment of the student's career. The University does expect supervisors to support the career development of their candidates. - The difficulty raising supervision issues was discussed. The point was made that COVID-19 may be affecting communities in an uneven way reinforcing and enhancing the structural inequalities that are already present in the academic community. - Attention will be drawn to the requirements of a supervisor when communications are sent to departments by GRS. - The Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students includes an external student complaints mechanism, currently to NZQA as the Code administrator. It is likely that in 2021 or 2022 the International Student Code and new Domestic Student Code will be integrated. - Perceived racial discrimination and discussions about colonialism in the University. A call was made for the University to adopt anti-racism practices to address concerning systemic behaviours. To respond, members were updated that in March 2019 the Give Nothing to Racism initiative was launched. Also the Cultural Workshops of shared values were held and are among steps the University is taking to address structural inequalities. There is also the work of the Centre for Research on Colonial Culture https://www.otago.ac.nz/crocc/index.html. These are crucial matters that require continuous discussion. <p><u>Yasmin Abdul Aziz (Health Sciences PhD Rep)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both Pūtea Tautoko matters raised were addressed under Item 7 COVID-19 business 	RSS
7.	<p>COVID-19 business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for international students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The International Office is joining a range of other university services to instigate a “we’re all in this together” initiative to be launched early in September or when back to alert level one. The Events team is involved to consolidate all support into a united message under which other initiatives and various Awareness Weeks will occur. - Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A range of communications that have been made or are about to be made were outlined, including a form for special consideration regarding the impact of COVID-19 on thesis research. - Pūtea Tautoko <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over one million dollars has been granted to over 600 postgraduate students to date. - Students whose research has been affected by COVID-19 in the early stage of their candidature are encouraged to apply nearer the end of their degree for support such as in the form of fee waivers or scholarship extensions. - Students cannot apply for funds for use post-graduation because of tax implications when they are no longer a student. 	
8.	<p>Convenor's Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr James Lindsay, Director of Campus and Collegiate Life Services is instigating initiatives for a range of events to stimulate networking opportunities for postgraduates. He seeks ideas for initiatives. One example is instigating happy hours at the Staff Club when level one is reached. - Nomination and voting is open for Supervisor of the Year. - Abbey College will undergo refurbishment over the summer and may be repurposed. Resident postgraduate students will be assisted to find alternative accommodation. Submissions are sought, however OUSA and residents were unaware of the consultation. A call was made for flexibility regarding the move-out dates. 	All members
9.	<p>General Business</p> <p>Nil</p>	

The date of the next meeting is **Friday, 27 November 2020 at 2.00pm Committee Room North, first floor Clocktower.**

Distribution:

Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith (Chair), Dean, Graduate Research Mino Cleverley (Pacific Islands Representative)

Professor Richard Blaikie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Engagement)	(Pacific Islands Representative)
Andrew Lonie (Graduate Research School)	Eleanor Burgess (UOC Representative)
Peter Boston (Graduate Research School)	(UOW Representative)
Aditya Malhotra (Division of Commerce Representative)	Amanda Clifford (Māori Representative)
(Division of Commerce Representative)	(Māori Representative)
(Division of Humanities Representative)	Hanna van der Giessen (OUSA Postgraduate Representative)
Hope Lan (Division of Humanities Representative)	(Distance Representative)
Yasmin Abdul Aziz (Division of Health Sciences Representative)	Danielle Yamamoto Kerr (International Office)
Will Tait (Division of Health Sciences Representative)	Dr Sophie Bond (GRC Humanities Representative)
Joseph Altobelli, (Division of Sciences Representative)	Associate Professor Sally Shaw (GRC Sciences Representative)
(Division of Sciences Representative)	Associate Professor Lisa McNeill (GRC Commerce Representative)
Ellie Torbati (International Representative)	Associate Professor Chrys Jaye (GRC Health Sciences Representative)
Kalika Kastein (International Representative)	Ruth Sharpe (Academic Committees)