Corporate and Information Governance Services

MINUTES

of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences Research and Innovation Committee Meeting held on 17 April 2020 at 14:00 – 13:00, Video Conference

Present

Prof J Surujlal (Chairperson)..……………………………………Deputy Dean FEMS, Research and Innovation
Prof N Moroke………………………………………… Deputy Dean FEMS, Community Engagement Projects
Prof W Grobler……………………………………………………………...........School of Economic Sciences
Prof H Janse van Vuuren……………………………………………………………School of Accounting Sciences
Prof N de Klerk..School of Management Sciences
Prof R Jansen van Rensburg …………………………………………………School of Management Sciences
Prof L du Plessis ……………………………………………………………….School of Management Sciences
Mr C Mahlaule..School of Accounting Sciences
Ms J McIntyre..School of Accounting Sciences
Dr D Metsileng..School of Economic Sciences
Ms K Paadi..School of IPS and HR
Prof Botha..School of IPS and HR
Prof L Graupner..School of IPS and HR
Prof A Heymans.. School of Economic Sciences
Prof E Slabbert……………………………………………………………...School of Tourism Management
Dr L Tseane-Gumbi……………………………………………………………School of Tourism Management
Prof M Potgieter..School of Management Sciences
Prof D Meyer…..TRADE
Prof D Mello…...Research Director: MC
Prof L Botes…...Research Director: VC
Ms E Labuschagne……………………………………………………………………………..Administrator
Prof L de Beer..WorkWell
Prof P Buys..Management Cybernetics
Prof J van Romburgh………………………………………………………………......NWU Business School
Prof J Meyer.. NWU Business School
Prof A Pelser..GIFT
Prof V Leendertz..TELIT-SA
Prof H van der Merwe……..………………………………………......Deputy Dean FEMS, Teaching and Learning
Dr J Lekunze.. NWU Business School
Ms L Jansen van Rensburg..F-EMS:Higher Degree
Prof C Botha.. NWU Business School

Apologies

Prof S Swanepoel …………………………………….……………...........................Executive Dean: FEMS

Secretariat Services

Moshodi. T.I Mr………………………………………………………………………..Senior Committee Coordinator

1 Opening and welcome

The Chairperson, Prof B Surujlal welcomed all members present and declared the meeting open.

1.1 Apologies

The apologies were noted on the attendance register.

1.2 Personalia

The following were noted:

- Prof M Rathbone was attending the meeting for first time on his capacity as the new Ethics Committee Chairperson.
- Prof A Pelser was appointed as the acting Director: Gift, Mahikeng Campus.
- Prof L de Beer was appointed as the Director: WorkWell, Potchefstroom Campus.
- Dr D Metsileng was appointed as a Deputy Director: School Economics, Mahikeng Campus

2 Declaration of interest

In accordance with the NWU Policy on Conflict of interest and Sections 34 (4)(a-b),(34)(5), (34)(6), (34)(7) of the Higher Education Act (101/1997) committee members were afforded the opportunity to declare their own as well as the interest of family, friends and suppliers with business links to the university in any of the discussion items on the agenda. No conflict of interest was declared.

3 Terms of Reference

3.1 Noted

The Committee noted the terms of reference.

4 Determination of the agenda

The agenda was accepted with the addition of the following items:

10.1 Virtual conference

10.2 Submission process

10.3 Alignment process and membership of Higher Degrees Committees

10.4 Nomination of NRF rated member on Research Support Commission

5 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 27 January 2020 were approved subject to editorial corrections.

Proposer: Prof L Botes

Seconder: Prof A Heymans

6 Matters arising

6.1 Action list

7 Standing matters

7.1 Reports from the Higher Degrees Committee

7.1.1 Mahikeng Campus

7.1.1.1 Noted

It was indicated that the report could not be submitted because the responsible staff had no resources to work from home.

7.1.2 Potchefstroom Campus

7.1.2.1 Received

The Minutes of Campus Higher Degree Committee meeting held on 27 February 2020 were tabled for noting.

7.1.2.2 Noted

The Committee noted the minutes of the Campus Higher Degree Committee meeting held on 27 January 2020.

7.1.3 Vanderbijlpark Campus

7.1.3.1 Received

The Minutes of Campus Higher Degree Committee meeting held on 02 March 2020 were tabled for noting.

7.1.3.2 Noted

The Committee noted the minutes of the Campus Higher Degree Committee meeting held on 02 March 2020.

7.2 NWU Business School

7.2.1 Noted

No report was submitted and it was indicated that the Deputy Dean: Research & Innovation would schedule a meeting with the Business School to discuss the way forward.

7.3 Report from the Research Ethics Committee

7.3.1 Received

The minutes of the EMS – REC meetings meeting held on 29 November 2019, 31 January 2020, 28 February 2020 were tabled for noting.

7.3.2 Noted

- The Committee noted the minutes of the EMS – REC meetings meeting held on 29 November 2019, 31 January 2020, 28 February 2020.
- It was indicated that Prof M Rathbone was appointed as the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee.
- It was indicated that the focus would be placed on improving the process to approve ethics applications faster.
- It was reported that there were applications with the old ethics numbers which could not be found in the system and the process to allocate new numbers was in progress. It was further indicated that there would be no post-facto approval in the future.
- It reported that the ethics number would be valid for one year and thereafter it can be extended if an application for extension is submitted.
- It was indicated that the online ethics training was provided by WorkWell and staff members should be encouraged to attend.

8 Extraordinary appointments

8.1 School of Accounting

8.1.1 Dr. S Engelbrecht - extraordinary associate professor

8.1.1.1 Noted

- The nomination of Dr. S Engelbrecht to be appointed as an extraordinary associate professor was presented and the following were highlighted:
  - o That the nominee was an expert in the field of Forensic Accounting.
  - o The nominee was working at KPMG and has worked at the NWU in the School of Philosophy.
- A concern was raised regarding the appointment of the nominee as an extraordinary associate professor due to the low publications. In response, it was indicated that the University was struggling to attract competent staff in the field of Forensic Accounting.
- It was indicated that the categories for extraordinary appointments at NWU do not have Professor of Practice and the review process was in progress.

- A recommendation was made that former academic staff should be appointed as extraordinary associate professors and those who have not been in academia as extraordinary research scientists.

8.1.1.2 Resolved

The Committee recommended the appointment of Dr. S Engelbrecht as an extraordinary Associate Professor to the Faculty Board for approval.

8.2 WorkWell

8.2.1 JC Rothmann – Reappointment: Extraordinary Associate Professor

8.2.1.1 Noted

The application of Prof JC Rothmann to be reappointed as an extraordinary Associate Professor due to the work output was presented for approval.

8.2.1.2 Resolved

The Committee recommended the re-appointment of Prof JC Rothmann as an extraordinary Associate Professor to Faculty Board for approval.

8.2.2 TT Harry - Extraordinary Research Scientist

8.2.2.1 Noted

The nomination of TT Harry to be appointed as an extraordinary Research Scientist was presented for approval.

8.2.2.1 Resolved

The Committee recommended the appointment of TT Harry as an extraordinary Research Scientist to the Faculty Board for approval.

8.3 TRADE

8.3.1 Prof B Slusarczyk - extraordinary associate professor

8.3.1.1 Noted

The application of Prof B Slusarczyk to be reappointed as an extraordinary Associate Professor due to the work output was presented for approval.

8.3.1.2 Resolved

The Committee recommended the reappointment of Prof B Slusarczyk as an extraordinary Associate Professor to Faculty Board for approval.

9 New matters

9.1 2018 Research output report

9.1.1 Noted

It was reported that the report of the research outputs that were rejected by DHET was received and would be sent to the directors for intervention.

9.2 Draft MBA Research Flow chart

9.2.1 Noted

- It was reported that the process to develop a flow chat for research in the Business School was in progress and it would be sent to the Committee for approval.
- A recommendation was made that the process should be in-line with the Faculty guidelines.

9.3 Entity evaluation reports

9.3.1 Noted

- It was indicated that the Deputy Dean: Research & Innovation could not comment on identified concerns because he was copied when the reports were submitted for evaluation.
- It was recommended that in future the reports should firstly be tabled at the Research and Innovation Committee for discussion before being submitted to the Research Support Commission.

- It was indicated that an expert from another institution could be invited to share the information regarding how to capitalise on the third income stream. Prof L Botes indicated that he would facilitate the process.

9.3.1.1 TELIT–SA Internal Evaluation

9.3.1.1.1 Noted

The internal evaluation report of TELIT-SA was presented and it was indicated that the identified challenges would be addressed by the Strategic Plan.

9.3.1.2 TRADE internal evaluation

9.3.1.2.1 Noted

The internal evaluation report of TRADE was presented and it was indicated that despite the concerns raised, the report was positive and the identified challenges would be addressed.

9.3.1.3 WORKWELL Internal Evaluation

9.3.1.3.1 Noted

The internal evaluation report of WORKWELL was presented and it was indicated that despite the concerns raised, the report was positive and the identified challenges would be addressed.

9.4 Entity Reports

9.4.1 TREES

9.4.1.1 Noted

- A verbal report was presented and amongst others, the following were highlighted:
  - Five research proposals were presented.
  - Research:
    - Article equivalent: 17.
    - Articles: 7.
    - Publications: 7.
  - The postgraduate conference was postponed due to the lockdown.
  - The staff attended a workshop before the lockdown.
  - Some of the projects were ongoing.
- A formal report would be sent to the Secretariat.

9.4.2 TRADE

9.4.2.1 Noted

- A verbal report was presented and amongst others, the following were highlighted:
  - That 5 extraordinary professors were appointed – which brought the total number to 17.
  - That support was provided to the staff who did not publish and those who published were rewarded accordingly.
- A formal report would be sent to the Secretariat.

9.4.3 GIFT

9.4.3.1 Noted

- A verbal report was presented and amongst others, the following were highlighted:
  - That there was a partnership between GIFT and IPS&HR research staff and an estimate of 20 articles would be published in 2020.
  - An estimate of 13 book chapters was envisaged for 2020.
  - A postdoc fellow was appointed and assigned the role of co-supervising of a master's student.
  - A doctoral student was expected to complete in 2020 as well as 2 masters students.
  - The short learning programmes would be converted into online to allow enrolment during the lockdown.

- A formal report would be sent to the Secretariat.

9.4.4 TELIT-SA

9.4.4.1 Noted

- A verbal report was presented and amongst others, the following were highlighted:
  - That 4 meetings were held to discuss the strategic objectives.
  - That 2 qualifications would be developed.
  - A meeting was scheduled with Open Access to discuss the book project.
- A formal report would be sent to the Secretariat.

9.4.5 WORKWELL

9.4.5.1 Noted

- A verbal report was presented and amongst others, the following were highlighted:
  - That the Entity was restructured and a process to determine the number of staff members was in progress.
  - The Statistics Workshop which had to be held at the Vanderbijlpark Campus was postponed due to the lockdown.
  - Online Ethics training was in progress.
  - The capturing of 2019 research outputs was still in progress.
- A formal report would be sent to the Secretariat.

9.4.6 Management Cybernetics

9.4.6.1 Noted

A report was presented and amongst others, the following were highlighted:

- The Entity consists of 7 – 15 members (including 3 doctoral and 5 masters students).
- The development of the website was still in progress.
- That the majority of projects were affected by the lockdown and thus placed on hold.

9.5 Terms of reference

9.5.1 Scientific Committees

9.5.1.1 Noted

- It was reported that the terms of reference for the Scientific as well as Selection Committees were respectively approved by the Faculty Executive Committee.
- It was indicated that each Scientific Committee would be allowed to operate differently but required to comply with the terms of reference.
- The membership and processes of each committee would be compiled and submitted to the Research and Innovation Committee for noting.
- Clarity was sought regarding the process for managing the non-delivery by students and in response, it was indicated that Ms. L Jansen van Rensberg would develop a process for the Faculty.

9.5.2 Selection Committee

9.5.2.1 Noted

The matter was discussed under item 9.5.1

9.6 Full-time Masters and Ph.D. studies

9.6.1 Noted

- It was envisaged that due to the National lockdown, not all the final year postgraduate students would complete in 2020.
- A recommendation was made that a task team consisting of the following members should be constituted to assess the situation and recommend a way forward:

- All chairpersons of Higher Degrees Committees;
- Prof E Slabbert;
- Prof P Buys;
- Prof D Meyer;
- Dr. J Lekunze;
- Ms. L Jansen van Rensberg.

9.7 Masters and Ph.D. Studies: Concerns

9.7.1 Noted

The matter was discussed under item 9.6

9.8 Ethics Training

9.8.1 Noted

It was reported that WORKWELL was providing online ethics training and meeting dates would be scheduled. The members would be able to attend from home.

10 Additional Matters

10.1 Virtual conference

10.1.1 Noted

- Clarity was sought if staff members could attend virtual conferences and in response it was indicated that they would be allowed to attend if they could motivate how would it benefit them and if it was recognised by the DHET
- A recommendation was made that the Scientific Committees should advise academic staff on which conferences they could attend.

10.2 Submission process

10.2.1 Noted

- The proposed Submission process was presented and the following were highlighted:
  - The student has to submit a notice of submission on the DIY portal.
  - The supervisor receives the notices and has to ensure it is compliant before approving
  - The approved notice of submission would go the Higher Degree personnel who has to verify the availability of the examiner.
  - The student has to complete the solemn declaration and submit with the research work for marking
  - The supervisor has to verify that the requirements for submissions are met for examination.
- It was indicated that the revised guidelines for submission were sent to the members for inputs.

10.3 Alignment process and membership HDC

10.3.1 Noted

- It was reported that the Higher Degrees Departments were operating differently and a meeting would be scheduled by the Deputy Dean to start the process of alignment.
- Clarity was sought on how the Business School would be managed and in response it was indicated a separate meeting would be scheduled by the Deputy Dean to discuss the way forward.

10.4 Nomination for NRF on research support Commission

10.4.1 Noted

- It was reported that that Prof L de Beer was recently appointed as the Director: WorkWell and was no longer eligible to serve on the Research Support Commission.

- A recommendation was made that criteria should be developed and eligible candidates should be nominated.

11 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 16 July.

12 Closure

The Chairperson thanked all the members for their meaningful contributions and the meeting adjourned at 17:05.

CONFIRMED THIS ________________DAY _______________ 2020

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CHAIRPERSON

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