The Australian National University
Crawford School of Public Policy

Research Committee Meeting

Tuesday 22 September 2015
Commencing at 9.30am
In Murdoch Room, Old Canberra House

Present: Sharon Bessell (Chair), Tim Legrand, Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Bingqin Li (by Skype), Megan Poore, Belinda Lawton, Tracy McRae (Secretariat).

Apologies: Premachandra Athukorala

Research Director's Update.

Chair welcomed to the HDR Committee Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt as the new Resource, Environment and Development (RE&D) Program convenor.

NSC Proposal for a Professional Doctorate.

NSC proposed to reintroduce a professional doctorate in Public Policy. NSC explained that this doctorate is designed to be a research contribution to the profession for people who want to further their professional career with an advanced qualification.

There was much discussion regarding naming conventions, doctorial standards, funding opportunities and comparison with other degrees/scholarships. All committee members had concerns about the quality and nature of professional doctorates. Committee members also raised concerns regarding the potential impact on the reputation of the School and the PhD program. The majority of Committee Members questioned the need for a professional doctorate, given that the PhD program provides the option for research that has a significant policy dimension and makes a significant policy contribution. Other research degrees such as the MPhil or Executive Masters were considered more appropriate for students wishing to undertake research projects that are shorter than a PhD and do not require significant scholarly contribution.

NSC will prepare a more in depth report regarding these issues raised.

New PhD Funding Guidelines

The Chair of the committee ran through the basic guidelines and confirmed that the new guidelines had been agreed by this committee and had been endorsed by the Director. These new guidelines were now active**.**

The student representative commented that the feedback from students had been generally positive as it had clarified things for people and that the guidelines had made it much more straight forward.

The Chair of the committee commented that these guidelines could be added to the Crawford PhD page/admission information to advise any perspective students what they can/cannot apply for with regards to funding opportunities.

The Chair of the committee confirmed that with regards to funding, a maximum of $7,000 would be available to applicants throughout the duration of their program. A maximum of $2,500 for conference funding and up to $6,000 for international and $4,000 for domestic fieldwork funding.
Funding would not available for conference miscellaneous, incidentals, per diems or meals.

The Chair also confirmed that there were specific guidelines for the definition of fieldwork: Fieldwork refers to the collection of primary data for the purpose of meeting a specific research goal. Experiments are not counted as research as they are conducted in a controlled environment. An allocation of up to $2,500 for particular types of data and training is also available. Software or data that needs to be purchased would be included in the $2,500.

Funding Sub-Committee
The meeting of the HDR Committee was closed and the HDR Funding Sub-Committee (Sharon Bessell, Tim Legrand, Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Bingqin Li (by Skype), Megan Poore, Tracy McRae (Secretariat)) convened to consider funding applications.

Two applications were assessed. The committee agreed that funding would be approved for one applicant**.**

Scholarship Ranking Sub-Committee
The meeting of the HDR Funding Sub-Committee was closed and the Scholarship Ranking Sub-Committee (Sharon Bessell, Tim Legrand, Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Bingqin Li (by Skype), Tracy McRae (secretariat)) convened to rank Crawford School Candidates for the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS).

11 applications were assessed by the HDR Committee.

Members of the Scholarship Ranking Sub-Committee noted that it is difficult to assess candidates at School level without clear knowledge of the criteria that will be used to rank candidates at College and University levels.

After assessment of candidates' academic record, publications, and research potential, a total of 7 successful applications were ranked and put forward to the CAP round.

Meeting closed