Summary of Faculty’s Research Performance in 2002

In 2002 the Faculty appears to have improved its research performance across a number of key measures including the all important DEST measures of research publications, external research income earned and research student completions. Also through initiatives such as various research forums involving both staff and research students and the Business Research Interns Group there is evidence to support that the research consciousness and focus of the Faculty is becoming increasing important. Not only within the faculty is our emphasis on research apparent but also RMIT Business has become recognised for conducting research that is practical in its focus and engages with industry and the community. With new opportunities for research and our goals to build on our past performance for the new year, 2003 should be another year of achievement and growth in our research activity.

External Research Income (DEST Research Performance Measure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Research Income from External Sources</th>
<th>Increase from Previous Year</th>
<th>Growth from the Previous Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$998,000</td>
<td>$84,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$1,544,767</td>
<td>$546,767</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$1,914,486</td>
<td>$369,719</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEST Approved Research Publications (DEST Research Performance Measure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Number of DEST Approved Research Publications</th>
<th>Increase from the Previous Year</th>
<th>Growth from the Previous Year</th>
<th>Number of Contributing Authors from the Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>75 approved; 29 pending and further publications being collected and received from staff.</td>
<td>Not known at this stage</td>
<td>Not known at this stage</td>
<td>Currently 46 contributors, however still waiting on publications from some staff. DEST publications are expected from at least 66 staff and research students in RMIT Business.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Higher Degree Research Student Completions (DEST Research Performance Measure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Number of HDR Student Completions</th>
<th>Increase / Decrease from the Previous Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher Degree Research Student Enrolments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total HDR EFTSU</th>
<th>Commencing HDR EFTSU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>114.25</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>116.5</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>129.5</td>
<td>24.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Industry Partnerships and Collaborations

In 2002 some of the new industry partners that the Faculty has been involved in research projects with include:

- DIIRD, Southern Grampians Shire Council - $20,000
- Victorian Women’s Trust - $2,500
- Tenix Alliance - $25,000
- Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group - $13,000
- The Financial Planning Association - $195,419
- The Institute of Internal Auditors Research Foundation - $27,300
- Universal Postal Union - $15,000
- Taxpayers Research Foundation - $46,000

In addition to these new industry partnerships existing Transport Research Centre and Health Services Management partnerships continued.

Applications Lodged for ARC Funding

In 2002 the Faculty lodged 10 ARC Linkage Grant applications with industry partners, of these applications 4 were successful – 3 involving RMIT and an industry partner and one other involving RMIT and the University of Ballarat and an industry partner, also 4 applications are still pending an announcement from Round Two. In addition to the ARC Linkage applications with industry partners listed, a total of 8 ARC Discovery applications were also lodged by the Faculty. Also a application lodged by Monash University which involved RMIT was lodged and accepted for funding.

In 2002 the Faculty awarded a total of $66,000 in seed funding for ARC Discovery and Linkage applications lodged in 2002 ($2,000 per ARC Discovery application and $5,000 per ARC Linkage application). The total of number ARC applications lodged by the Faculty was 18 which was three above the target number of applications set. It is encouraging that the number of applications has increase and the Linkage successes are particularly encouraging. In 2003 the Faculty aims to build further on its ARC performance.

New Research Staff

In 2002 the Faculty welcomed a number of new research staff into the Faculty. As part of the CRC for Construction Innovation Prof. Derek Walker and Peter Goldsmith joined us. Also with the CRC for Smart Internet Technology Assoc. Prof. Supriya Singh
and Claudia Slegers moved from CIRCIT to join RMIT Business. Adjunct Prof. Greg Tucker joined the RDU as a Senior Research Fellow.

**New Research Centres**

In 2002 the Faculty became involved in two Co-operative Research Centres (CRC’s), the CRC for Construction Innovation and the CRC for Smart Internet Technology. Also the Faculty has just recently entered into the CRC for Interactive Design. Each of these CRC’s with its specialist focus of research expertise compliments and augments the Faculty’s research base.

**New Research Program**

In addition to the existing research programs within the Faculty – Masters by Research, Doctor of Philosophy and the Doctor of Business Administration the Faculty also commenced a new research program the Doctor of Project Management led by Prof. Derek Walker. This innovative new program gives candidates skills in project management and recognise opportunities to gain synergies between business and the construction industry as well as develop synergies between the DPM and the Masters level business courses as well as the DBA.

**Research Funding Opportunities**

For details regarding other current research funding opportunities please visit the Research & Development Funding website which provides a list of grants, awards, scholarships and fellowships available to staff and students and is updated weekly at:

http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse?SIMID=jg30k3i1c6l

Also for a listing of scholarships available please visit the Joint Academic Scholarship On-line Network (JASON) website. JASON is an on-line database of scholarship information for postgraduate students. For further information please visit:

http://jason.unimelb.edu.au

**RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowships 2003**

The RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowships have been established to support faculties, departments and research centres or groups in attracting international leaders in their field to visit RMIT and present lectures, seminars or other activities relevant to teaching, learning and research.

For 2003, the Foundation has allocated $30,000 to support International Visiting Fellows. A number of grants will be made, $5,000 being the minimum and $20,000 the maximum. All applicants must secure a funding commitment equivalent to the grant requested through external funding sources such as corporate or industry sponsorship or a grant from another Trust or Foundation.

The RMIT Foundation grant must be used primarily to cover the cost of travel, accommodation and per diem or honorarium. Seminars, lectures and other activities may be funded through the faculty, department or research centre / group or additional external funding.

All proposed visits should not commence before 28 April 2003 and have begun by 31 January 2004. Each Visiting Fellow will be at RMIT for a minimum of 5 days. The visit should include activities that are of interest to the wider community. Preference will be given to candidates from fields that are in accordance with strategic priorities for research and development of RMIT. This does not exclude candidates from other fields.

Applications are now open and close on 28 February 2003. Further information and application forms are available from Stuart Lowe (ext 55277). All successful applicants will be notified by the middle of March.
Department of Family and Community Services

Tender No. FACS/02/T309 for the provision of Consultancy Services in relation to a research project entitled: ‘Rural and Regional Young People and Transport: Improving Access to Transport for Young People in Rural and Regional Australia’ conducted under the auspices of the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme (NYARS).

Background to the Research Proposal: Transport is a derived need, in that the need for transportation arises from other needs, such as accessing goods and services and for the purposes of social interaction. For various reasons, in many rural and regional towns across Australia public transport is limited to non-existent. This lack of access to transport is a major problem for young people in rural and regional areas, impacting on many areas of their lives. Participation in further education, training and employment opportunities, access to health and welfare services, opportunities for recreation, and the social participation and independence needs of young people, all require access to regular and reliable transport.

Inaccessibility of transport means a greater reliance on private vehicles in rural and regional areas and, for young people, continued dependence on family for access to community centres, education, employment or training, recreation and leisure. A lack of transport is also a factor contributing to the exodus of young people aged 15 and over from outlying areas to larger regional and urban centres.

While State and Territory Governments can play a key role in improving access to transport for young people, there are significant challenges associated with this. These challenges include regulating costs involved with the provision of transport services in order to be accessible to all elements of the rural and regional population, ensuring that transport is accessible to young people with special needs (e.g., young people with disabilities), effectively aligning the provision of transport services to transport need and disseminating information about transport services accurately, efficiently and to the correct target groups.

Challenges arise in producing research that has application to State and Territory Governments across Australia. Common questions that arise include:

- How can Governments systematically ensure that young people from rural and regional areas have access to transport in rural, regional and areas?
- What evidence is there that integrated systems of transport improve the transport opportunities for young people?
- Would establishing a body or a department to oversee a fully integrated rural and regional system, which includes community transport, lead to improved transport outcomes for rural and regional young people?

These questions are in the context of the differing political and social climates within states, territories and regions. Involvement of Commonwealth Departments, State and Territory Government peak bodies, youth services, research and advisory groups and young people will be a feature of this project.

Further Information and Deadlines

Tender document is available from Bronwyn Coate at the RDU (email: bronwyn.coate@rmit.edu.au). For any queries regarding the tender documentation, please tel (02) 6212 9582 or email: bruce.ferguson@facs.gov.au.

RMIT internal deadline: Monday 10 February 2003
Deadline (external): Friday 14 February 2003 (2pm)
New Titles on Research Methodology
Available at the Business Library

Recently the Business Library has acquired a few new titles on research methodology, some of these are listed below:

Doing postgraduate research - Potter, Stephen
Catalogue No. 378.155 D657

Essays and dissertations - Mounsey, Chris
Catalogue No. 808.042 M928

Fieldwork, participation and practice: ethics and dilemmas - Laine, Marlene de
Catalogue No. 300.72 L186

Qualitative research in information systems: a reader - Myers, Michael D.
Catalogue No. 658.4038 Q1

Qualitative marketing research - Carson, D et al
Catalogue No. 658.83 Q1

Insider/outsider team research - Bartunek, J
Catalogue No. 300.72 B294

Handbook for research students in the social sciences - Allan, G
Catalogue No. 300.72 H236

Research and evaluation for business - Pelosi, Marilyn K.
Catalogue No. AVC 658.403072 P392

Inside stories: qualitative research reflections - DeMarrais, Kathleen Bennett
Catalogue No. 001.42 I59

Research methodology for the business and administrative sciences - Welman, J. C.
Catalogue No. AVC 650.072 W457

Handbook of research methods in industrial and organizational psychology - Rogelberg, Steven G.
Catalogue No. 158.7 H236
Qualitative research: applications in organizational life - Hemdon, S
Catalogue No. [in process]

Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approaches - Creswell, J
Catalogue No. [in process]

Researchers throughout the Faculty involved in the use of survey methods may also be particularly interested in the following reference which is now available in the Business Library:
Business General 300.723 S678

'Social surveys' is the methods bible for social scientists using survey methods. It provides an unparalleled guide to the state of knowledge in the field and a key asset in practical survey know-how.

A key method of information gathering in the social sciences, surveys provide a structured or systematic set of data. They explore issues of motivation, belief, social, political and economic practices and habits of life. Survey research seeks to discover what causes some phenomena by looking at variation in variables across cases and identifying characteristics that are systematically linked with it.

In these four volumes, the distinguished author on research methods, David De Vaus has combed through the literature to provide readers with the essential contributions in the field. The collection is divided into 11 sections, making it a comprehensive guide to all social scientists using surveys. Chapters include, Methodological Context of Surveys, Ethical Context, Institutional Contexts, Research Designs, Collecting Survey Data, Sampling, Survey Error, Measurement Error, Coverage Error, Sampling Error and Non Response Error.

About the Editor: David De Vaus is Associate Professor of Sociology at La Trobe University, Melbourne. He is the author of Surveys in Social Research and Research Design in Social Research. He is an international authority in the field of social research.

- Reminder -
Overdue RDU Library Loans

A number of staff and research student have overdue loans from the RDU Library. Could anyone with any overdue items please ensure that they are returned promptly to the RDU. Also a number of our resources have not been checked out and have gone missing so if anyone has inadvertently borrowed any resources without details being recorded please advise the RDU or return the items.
ATTENTION ALL RESEARCH STUDENTS

Getting the Most Out Of Your Research Degree

Registration is now available for two moderated online modules on Public Policy AND Leadership and Communication each offered over ten weeks beginning on the 3rd March, 2003.

These modules are designed to help you to gain extra skills that employers look for in research graduates. This and others will be offered regularly for students at the ATN Universities (Curtin, RMIT, UniSA, UTS and QUT). You may register for one or both of these modules, however, if you are interested in both modules there are only limited spaces available and we may only be able to place you in one. Please indicate your preference.

YOU PAY NO FEES TO TAKE PART IN THESE OFFERINGS

Public Policy - This module is designed to increase your understanding of key issues in the impact of public policy on research. It aims to help research students better understand the world of public policy and its relationship to the world of research.

Leadership and Communication - This module is designed to increase your understanding of key issues and the impact of leadership and communication on research. It focuses on developing generic workplace competencies in leadership and communication skills to enable the learner to develop more effective communication of research results and enhance understanding of the key aspects of leadership, redeemable in a number of contexts both professional and personal.

Higher Degree students are encouraged to participate in these programs which aim to help HDR students in developing important skills and knowledge that will assist as far as future employability and career development is concerned. Please note that only 15 applications from RMIT can be accepted for each of the modules so interested students are advised to register early to ensure a place (the final date for registration is 10th February).

Further information on the details of the modules is available from the ATN LEAP homepage http://www.science.uts.edu.au/research/leap.html

Any interested students should contact Helen Lennox for an enrolment form by email Helen.Lennox@rmit.edu.au
The aim of this newsletter is to keep staff informed of research activity within RMIT Business and of research opportunities both outside and within the faculty. If you have any contributions (we are always interested in research or researchers for our feature article) that you think would be of interest to the faculty please contact Bronwyn Coate at the RDU.

The Business Research News is also available for viewing on the RDU’s web site shortly after it has been distributed in paper form. The web site also contains information for research staff and students including the RDU’s library holdings.