

Title: Ensuring the sustainability of an annual international conference of Australasian undergraduate research

Aims

The aims of the project are: (1) to create an organisational framework, appropriate documentation and other necessary support to ensure that an Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research is held each year in different universities on an ongoing basis. (2) to encourage national investment in undergraduate research by raising its profile nationally.

Abstract

The project will create the organisational framework needed to establish a sustainable annual international conference of undergraduate research in Australia. It will build on the experience in 2012 of organising the highly successful First Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research which demonstrated a large unmet demand for opportunities for undergraduates to present the research that they do in special research experience programs and within the broader curriculum. A small project team together with an international consultant will establish an on-going international Steering Group, develop appropriate documentation and specify the technical expertise needed to manage abstract and paper submissions, marketing and other support needed for conference organisation. They will publicise the importance of this initiative by displaying undergraduate research posters in Parliament House, Canberra. Following the project, the Steering Group will be charged with reviewing institutions' applications to host a conference and ensuring that a high quality conference is held annually in different Australasian universities.

Keywords

Undergraduate research, research-based learning, student projects, Posters in Parliament, student conferences, research experience programs

The rationale and aims of the project

An undergraduate research conference is like any academic conference, except that the presentations are all given by undergraduates who report on research carried out within courses, a summer or other research internship, a research-based degree program, or voluntary work. In 2012 the First Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research was held at Macquarie University. This conference demonstrated the need and the considerable demand for an annual international conference of undergraduate research in Australia.

Advertised through the network established during the ALTC National Teaching Fellowship of Professor Angela Brew, the conference attracted 145 abstracts from students at 12 Australian universities. 28 disciplinary academics blind-reviewed the abstracts. Over 220 people including students, their supervisors and supporters attended. Some 50 Macquarie undergraduate volunteers, many of whom were first year students, organised conference folders and name badges, staffed the reception desks, and chaired the sessions. Following the conference, the best 12 papers were published in the Macquarie undergraduate research journal *Macquarie Matrix*. Plans for a second conference of undergraduate research to be held at Macquarie University in September 2013 are now well underway.

However, there is a need to plan an organisational structure and system for ensuring that an Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research can be hosted in different Australian universities on an ongoing basis, that it can attract students from a wider range of universities and can attract sponsorship from government and other organisations. This Seed Project will therefore build on the experience in 2012 by creating an organisational framework, appropriate documentation and necessary support to enable this.

This is a project of national significance. It will result in undergraduate students from all Australasian universities having the opportunity to present their work and to participate in hosting an international undergraduate research conference here. Unlike disciplinary conferences in which undergraduates may play a minor role, here, undergraduates are key players. As such, this is an innovative way to provide the basis for ongoing personal and professional development for students. Further, evidence from 2012 suggests that undergraduate research conferences can provide academics with an

innovative model of assessing their courses by incorporating conference presentation into their assessment. These are key OLT priorities.

There has been growing interest and practice internationally in engaging undergraduates in research and inquiry to address the need to prepare students for professional life when knowledge is uncertain and the future is unclear. Such practices are known to have high impact in engaging students (Kuh, 2008). The benefits to students are now well known and include: personal and professional gains such as increased confidence; and intellectual development including critical thinking and problem solving skills and a more advanced understanding of how scientific knowledge is built (see for example, John & Creighton, 2011; Laursen, Hunter, Seymour, Thiry & Melton, 2010; Lopatto, 2009). Undergraduate research has also been demonstrated to play a useful role in students' career choices. Non-traditional, or minority students are found to particularly benefit (see for example, Nagda et al., 1998).

In Australia, growing interest in expanding undergraduate research provision and in holding a national and international annual conference has been evidenced in:

- a survey of undergraduate research experience programs in Australian universities in 2009 (carried out as part of the ALTC National Teaching Fellowship of Angela Brew) which demonstrated that some 32 universities had special programs for undergraduates to pursue research and that the number of students in such programs was growing (Jewell & Brew, 2010);
- the introduction and spread of the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) degree for example at UWA and the ANU demonstrating commitment to undergraduate research training. Indeed, the undergraduate research conference provides a logical, effective and authentic endpoint for research training in the BPhil (Hons) degree;
- a national survey of Australian undergraduate research program coordinators in 2012, which found that there was a large unmet demand for research experiences amongst undergraduate students;
- the existence of a significant number of undergraduate research and inquiry projects funded by the ALTC and OLT, including: the TREASURE project (Reid, Howitt et al., ANU); the creativity project (Wood et al UNISA); The enquiry-based learning in science Fellowship of Les Kirkup (UTS); the Research Skills Development Program (Willison et al, Adelaide); and the communicating undergraduate research project at UQ (Rowland et al);
- a growing number of ways that undergraduates can disseminate their research (Spronken-Smith, et al., submitted for publication). This includes undergraduate research conferences which have, for example, been a feature of academic life in the USA for 27 years and in the UK for three years;
- increasing numbers of institutions holding regular internal undergraduate research conferences. For example, for the past decade students in the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) program at ANU have run a yearly conference for presentations of student research projects. Students have progressed from presenting at this student-run conference to presenting at professional conferences and being cited authors of refereed publications. The Universities of Queensland, and Sydney also hold conferences. The latter allows undergraduates to present their research alongside postgraduates;
- developments internationally in presenting high quality undergraduate research to parliament as a way of raising its profile, attracting publicity and support at a national level. E.g. Posters on the Hill is held in the US Congress annually and 'Posters in Parliament' held in the UK;
- attendance and feedback at the 2012 conference detailed elsewhere in this proposal and support of Macquarie University's investment in projects designed to develop undergraduate research;
- informal expressions of interest in holding a future national conference already received.

The theoretical background for the proposed project is expressed by Brew in *Research and Teaching: Beyond the Divide* (2006, p.32) where she argued that universities should develop as inclusive scholarly knowledge- building communities where there is respect and mutual engagement in a joint enterprise. This aspiration echoes key priority issues of the Seed Projects. In particular, inclusivity, the promotion of interdisciplinary programs, reshaping discipline-based courses to include more research experiences, and the revision of assessment. Feedback from both students and academic supervisors on the 2012 conference

of undergraduate research confirms that such conferences go a long way to achieving these aspirations. The following comments from the conference evaluation are typical:

2012 ACUR Conference Evaluation

Academics' comments: *What will you do as a consequence of attending the conference?*

“Talk about how fantastic it was to my colleagues, and encourage them to get their students involved in the next one”.

“This reinforces my teaching practice where students conduct and present research”

What was the most valuable thing you gained?

“It was good to see undergraduate students rising to the challenge of presenting their research. I heard some high quality papers, saw some excellent posters and especially enjoyed students interacting with each other. The students I came to support all said they gained a great deal from the experience.”

“Appreciation of the wide range of UG research interests and their absolute professionalism in presentation. ...”

Students' comments: *What will you do as a result of attending the conference*

“suggest to my Uni that they promote the conference more widely next time. I only heard of it by chance, no one else from my Uni was here”

“Definitely continue into my fourth year at uni and complete honours. Talk to my teachers about possibility of incorporating more research into undergrad programmes.”

“I will defiantly talk with my teachers about why we do not do more research as undergraduate students! I was also unsure as to if I should complete a fourth year as an honours student next year but after seeing the passion and the difference that research can make in a relevant context I am inspired to continue studying”

What was the most valuable thing you gained?

“Meeting people, great conversations with like-minded people. Also learnt so much because of the wide range of disciplines. Renewed inspiration and hope in undergraduate research.”

“Talking to people about my research is so much fun! Also I really enjoyed meeting other people whose work is similar to mine, but also people outside my discipline - so I had brilliant conversations about feminism and queer theory with the UTS students, and someone spoke about language used for kids with autism, which is really interesting, and then there's a guy who catches sharks by the nose in a tank to study them! Brilliant!”

The approach the project will take

The small project team comprises people from different universities with a particular interest in the aims of the project. All of them have a strategic role in their institutions to encourage undergraduate research. The project team comprises:

1. Professor Angela Brew, Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University (Project Leader)
2. Ms Lilia Mantai, Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University (Project Administrator)
3. Assoc. Prof. Jenna Mead, Academic Co-ordinator, BPhil (Hons), University of Western Australia. (Project team member)
4. Dr Paula Newitt, Associate Dean, Science@ANU, Program Convenor: Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours), PhB(Hons), Australian National University (Project team member)
5. Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves, Director of the Centre for Research-informed Teaching and Head of the Graduate Research School, University of Central Lancashire, UK (International Consultant)
6. Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith, Dean of the Graduate Research School at the University of Otago, New Zealand (External Evaluator)

The project team will:

- meet to define the scope, explore initial ideas and hear from the external consultant;
- determine the organisational structure for annual Australasian Conferences of Undergraduate Research during and beyond the life of the project;
- establish an international Steering Group to take responsibility and carry the agenda forward beyond the life of the project and to ensure consistency of quality of future conferences;

- draw up criteria and guidelines for institutions wishing to host an undergraduate research conference for feedback from colleagues and discussion in the steering group;
- call for expressions of interest from institutions to host the 2014 and 2015 conferences and establish the hosts for the 2014 conference (The timeline takes account of the need to establish the 2014 conference hosts before the 2013 conference and before the full guidelines have been finalised, so this provides an opportunity to test out developing ideas);
- provide guidance to the chosen 2014 and 2015 conference organising institutions and revise documentation in the light of their experiences;
- create a conference website to house the proceedings of all of the conferences;
- finalise and publicise the guidelines, establish the website, which may include a submission system and database, and update the mailing lists.
- design a sponsorship strategy for future conferences;
- seek sponsorship for future research and conferences including holding a “Posters in Parliament” event in Canberra;
- design and implement a dissemination strategy including preparing a publicity booklet.

Consultant. The project team will draw on the expertise of Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves who has been instrumental in setting up the framework for undergraduate research conferences in the UK with the British Conference of Undergraduate Research. He has also organised the Posters in Parliament event in the House of Commons, London in 2013. His expertise will be invaluable in thinking through the many issues that are likely to arise, including: criteria for eligibility to present at the conference (i.e. definition of “undergraduate”), criteria for deciding the suitability of institutions to host the conference, setting up an international steering committee, conference funding issues, sponsorship and support for students, institutional and parliamentary liaison, archiving and publication of conference presentations, the management of social networking and the creation of interdisciplinary panels etc.

Evaluator. The external evaluator will be Professor Rachel Spronken Smith, Dean of the Graduate Research School at the University of Otago, New Zealand. Professor Spronken-Smith will be appointed to act as a critical friend throughout the project and will provide a summative evaluation at the end. The evaluation will involve analysis of the extent to which the intended outcomes are met. This will include consideration of the structures and resources established to promote the sustainability of the conference.

The anticipated deliverables and outcomes of the project and why these are important

1. Well-developed plans for undergraduate research conferences in 2014 and 2015 in universities other than Macquarie. This will be important as an indicator of the intention to spread the hosting of the conference to other Australian universities. The undergraduate conference directly aligns with UWA’s strategic priority of ‘improving the quality, impact and productivity of research and research training’ by providing a national and international focus for undergraduate research training. The conference also exemplifies UWA’s commitment to research as the production of new knowledge and the socialising of that knowledge through sharing it with national and international communities.
2. A Steering Group with a clear mandate to call for expressions of interest to host future conferences. This is key to the sustainable development of conferences beyond the life of the Seed Project.
3. A published handbook for institutions thinking of hosting a future conference. This is also key to the sustainable development of conferences beyond the life of the Seed Project.
4. A website for conference proceedings. This will support institutions taking on the conference organisation in future years.
5. A ‘Posters in Parliament’ exhibition in Canberra. This is important in raising the profile of the undergraduate research conferences nationally through the publicity it will generate as well as the event itself. This is of particular importance to ANU as it strongly aligns with the university’s research focus and research-led priorities for UG education, as well as institution’s national role.
6. Project evaluation report and a project report

Timeline

August 2013 (Commencement of funding)	Team meets electronically, suggests names for Steering Group. Steering Group established. Call for expressions of interest to host 2014 conference Begin to seek sponsorship for future conferences
September 2013	[2 nd ACUR held at Macquarie] Team meets with consultant for two day meeting, determines organisational structure for ACUR, drafts criteria and guidelines, decides 2014 conference hosts and announces at conference. Design sponsorship strategy for future conferences Design dissemination strategy Steering Group members will be invited to attend a function at the time of the 2013 conference.
October 2013	Electronic meeting of Project team Steering Group agrees on criteria for expressions of interest. Website established and trialled with proceedings of 2013 conference Start negotiations for Posters in Parliament
November 2013	Writing of documents. Publicity for 2015 conference hosting Call for expressions of interest to host 2015 conference
December 2013- February 2014	Meeting of project team Electronic meeting of Steering Group Planning for Posters in Parliament Interim report
April/ May 2014	Posters in Parliament. Dates will be negotiated
July 2014	Guidelines refined and published, Follow up on Posters in Parliament session, Project evaluation and report on project prepared

References

- Brew, A. (2006). *Research and teaching: beyond the divide*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Jewell, E., & Brew, A. (2010). *Undergraduate research experience programs in Australian universities: National Teaching Fellowship Report*. Sydney, NSW: ALTC.
- John, J., & Creighton, J. (2011). Researcher development: the impact of undergraduate research opportunity programmes on students in the UK. *Studies in Higher Education*, iFirst, 1-17.
- Kuh, G. D. (2008). *High-Impact Educational Practices: What They Are, Who Has Access to Them, and Why They Matter*. Washington, DC: Association of American Colleges and Universities.
- Laursen, S., Hunter, A.-B., Seymour, E., Thiry, H., & Melton, G. (Eds). (2010). *Undergraduate Research in the Sciences: Engaging Students in Real Science*. New York: Jossey-Bass.
- Lopatto, D. (2009). *Science in Solution: The Impact of Undergraduate Research on Student Learning*. Tucson, AZ: Research Corporation for Science Advancement.
- Newitt, P (2007). Stimulating our talented: the Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) program *Uniserve Science Teaching and Learning Research Proceedings* (pp. 140-146).
- Spronken-Smith, R. A., Brodeur, J. J., Kajaks, T., Luck, M., Myatt, P., Verburch, A., Walkington, H., & Wuetherick, B. (submitted for publication). Completing the Research Cycle: A Framework for Promoting Dissemination of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry.

BUDGET

All costs should be ex GST and in whole dollars only

		Budget Stage 1/Year 1		
		OLT	Other \$	Total \$
A.	PERSONNEL			
	Project leader (A Brew)	11879	6000	
	Project assistant (L Mantai)	14727	6800	
	Sub total for section A	26606	12800	39406
B.	PROJECT SUPPORT			
	Team meetings -airfares, taxis to and from airport, accommodation, and meals	3035	460	
	Posters in Parliament -poster printing, posterboard hire, stationery, catering, travel for organisers	3000	1600	
	Sub total for section B	6035	2060	8095
C.	PROJECT ACTIVITIES			
	Consultancy - travel, accommodation, subsistence and honorarium	6690	500	
	Website development	2000	5000	
	Printing	800	200	
	Evaluation costs	2910		
	Sub total for section C	12400	5700	18100
D.	ATTENDANCE AT OLT EVENTS			
	Sub total for section D			
E.	INSTITUTIONAL OVERHEAD LEVY			
	Sub Total	4505		4505
Total per Stage/Year		49546	20560	70106

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

OLT	Other	Total
#49546	20560	70106

Budget justification

PERSONNEL

Project leader (A Brew) One and a half days per month for 10 months is budgeted for at the Level E rate of \$792 per day including 18.5% oncosts. This time is needed for liaison with and attending meetings of the project team, liaising with the Steering Group, and with Parliament and attending the Posters in Parliament session, and writing documentation.

Project assistant (L Mantai) Allowance is made for one day per week for 35 weeks at HEW Level 6 Step 2 (\$60.11 per hour including 16.45% oncosts). This time is needed to organise meetings of the project team, administrative arrangements for Posters in Parliament including hiring poster boards, organising student posters, setting up, arranging catering etc. Allowance is also needed for assistance with writing documentation and preparing material for website and publication.

PROJECT SUPPORT

Team meetings –Two face to face team meetings are budgeted for. This includes 2 return airfares from Perth (\$500 each) and Canberra (\$300 each) to Sydney, taxis to and from airports (\$50 per trip), 1 night's accommodation at Macquarie University (Travelodge North Ryde) for 2 team members at each of the meetings (\$150-180 per person per night) are needed plus sustenance based on Macquarie University per diem rates of \$52.34 per day.

Posters in Parliament. It will be necessary to hire poster-boards in Canberra. Costs are based on poster-board hire (\$20 per board for 20 boards) and stationery (eg. Velcro dots) spent for ACUR 2012. Up to 20 posters will need to be printed. Costs of these are based on a Macquarie University Printery quotation of \$50 per A1 sized poster.

Two return airfares from Sydney (\$300 x 2), taxis to and from the airport (\$100), one night's accommodation for two people at University House (\$118 x2) and per diem sustenance (\$52.54 per person per day for two days) are needed to enable the project leader and administrator to attend. An allowance for refreshment at the session is also included.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

External Consultancy. One return airfare from the UK to Sydney (\$2200) travel to and from airports (\$150), accommodation for 5 days at the Stamford Grand Hotel North Ryde (\$215 per night) and sustenance (\$52.34 per day for 5 days) is budgeted for to enable the external consultant Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves to attend meetings with the Project leader and administrator and the project group. An honorarium has been budgeted to pay the consultant for time spent. This is calculated at the Level E rate of \$88 per hour for 5 days work.

Website development. An amount has been included for website development. This is based on an estimate from the Learning Technologies unit at Macquarie University

Booklet printing. Printing of 200 copies of a full colour glossy 16 page booklet is needed to publicise the importance of undergraduate research conferences. Cost is based on a quotation from Macquarie University Printery

Evaluation costs. Two return airfares from New Zealand (\$600 x 2) plus taxi fares to and from airports (\$100 x 2), one night's accommodation at the Travelodge each time (\$150 x 2) and sustenance (\$54.32 x 4 days) will enable Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith to attend the two meetings of the project team. An honorarium of \$1000 has also been budgeted for.

ATTENDANCE AT OLT EVENTS. Not applicable

INSTITUTIONAL OVERHEAD LEVY of 10% of other costs (sections A-D) has been included.

INSTITUTIONAL COSTS INCLUDE extra time for project leaders to pursue project and dovetail it with the ACUR 2013 conference, catering for team meetings, an allowance for a senior member of staff to attend the Posters in Parliament session, entertaining the consultant, website development, and additional printing for meetings.

Qualifications, experience and proposed role in project management of the project leader(s) and project team

Angela Brew (*Project Leader*) is a Professorial Fellow in the Learning and Teaching Centre at Macquarie University and Honorary Associate Professor, University of Sydney. She is a 2009 ALTC National Teaching Fellow working to enhance undergraduate engagement through research and inquiry. She is an elected Fellow of the UK's Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE), a Life Member and past president of HERDSA, and holds a Senior Fellowship of the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA). She has published seven books and over 200 articles, book chapters, conference papers and reports.

Stuart Hampton-Reeves (*External Consultant*) is Professor of Research-informed Teaching at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), UK. He is Chair of the British Conference of Undergraduate Research and of the British Shakespeare Association. In 2007 he established the Centre for Research-informed Teaching at UCLAN and in 2011 became the Head of the Graduate Research School there. He was a co-founder of the British Conference of Undergraduate Research in 2010 and established the first national 'Posters in Parliament' exhibition in 2013. A distinguished Shakespearean scholar, he has published 5 books on Shakespeare in Performance and is the General Editor of the Palgrave series *Shakespeare in Practice*.

Lilia Mantai, (*Project Administrator*) is a Research and Project Assistant at the Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University. Since September 2011 she has worked on Undergraduate Research Projects including organising the First Australasian Undergraduate Research Conference 2012. Lilia holds a Masters Degree in Language Teaching from the University of Goettingen, Germany and teaches in the Department of International Studies, where from 2011-2012 she researched and published on technology use in language learning. She is now undertaking a PhD study into research on international students' experiences of doctoral education.

Jenna Mead (*Project team member*) is Associate Professor and Academic Co-ordinator of the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) degree at the University of Western Australia. The degree is in its second year having admitted the inaugural cohort in 2012. She was the Faculty of Arts nominee for a major review of assessment; has presented papers at teaching and learning forums and participated in peer-reviews and teacher training at university level. A medieval literary theorist, she has published on medieval literature and feminist cultural studies.

Paula Newitt (*Project team member*) is Associate Dean, Science & Program Coordinator, Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) an elite research undergraduate degree in Science at ANU. She aims to expand curricula-based undergraduate research experiences (UREs) as Lead Fellow in the ANU Research-Led Education Fellowships Scheme. She is a senior member of the ANU Science Teaching & Learning Centre, & leader of e-Learning policy, operation & support in Science. Research interests encompass benefits of undergraduate research; pedagogical impacts of new learning spaces; web-enhanced learning; and ethics of science.

Rachel Spronken-Smith (*External Evaluator*) is a Professor in Higher Education and Geography. Prior to becoming Dean of the Graduate Research School at the University of Otago, NZ, she was Head of the Higher Education Development Centre. She has worked in academic development for nine years, with research interests in undergraduate research and inquiry, graduate attributes and curriculum change. She is principal investigator on two national HE projects in New Zealand, has published 1 co-edited book, 6 book chapters, 40 journal articles and has over 70 other publications (reports and conference presentations).



Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Provost
 MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY NSW 2109
 AUSTRALIA
Phone +61 (0) 2 9850 4891
Fax +61 (0) 2 9850 4892
Email provost@mq.edu.au

13 February 2013

Ms Sylvia Schmidt
 Assistant Director, Grants and Fellowships
 Office for Learning and Teaching
 Level 10, 255 Elizabeth Street
 Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Schmidt

Re: Seed Project;
 Ensuring the sustainability of an annual conference of Australasian undergraduate research

Project Leader	Prof Angela Brew, Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University
Team Members	Ms Lilia Mantai, Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University
Title of Application	Ensuring the sustainability of an annual international conference of Australasian undergraduate research
Aims of Project	The aims of this project are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an organisational framework and support mechanisms to ensure the viability and continuation of an annual Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research • Encourage national investment in undergraduate research by raising its profile nationally
How the Project will fit within the institution's aims and priorities	<p>The project furthers Macquarie University's Academic Plan (2.1.3 – Equip students with research skills and critical thinking, through exposure to research problems and realistic environments) which recognises the importance of undergraduates participating in research and inquiry both within the curriculum, and in extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>The project has its origins in both a 2008 Australian Learning and Teaching Council National Teaching Fellowship (Prof Angela Brew – Enhancing undergraduate engagement through research and inquiry), the subsequent First Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research and the publication of a refereed journal of undergraduate research – <i>Macquarie Matrix</i>. This Seed Project will extend the Conference beyond Macquarie University and integrate it into the national Higher Education calendar.</p>
Declaration of support	Macquarie University will support the time commitment of Prof Angela Brew and Ms Lilia Mantai. On behalf of the University I endorse this application and assure the OLT that Macquarie University and its staff have

	the skills and the resources to take this project to a successful conclusion.
Certification	<p>I certify that the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meets the eligibility criteria as specified in the relevant 2013 program and operational information, and application instruction• Complies with the relevant 2013 program and operational information, and application instructions and if the application is successful Macquarie agrees to abide by the terms of the funding agreement• Macquarie University will notify OLT if there are any changes in the project leader's circumstances which may impact on his/her eligibility to participate in, or ability to perform, the project subsequent to the submission of this proposal

Yours Sincerely



Prof Judyth Sachs
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost



Prof Angela Brew
Project Leader



OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (EDUCATION)

Professor Alec Cameron
BSc BE Syd., DPhil Oxon., MS NYU., FAICD

18 February 2013

Ms Suzi Hewlett
General Manager
Office for Learning and Teaching
Level 10, 255 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hewlett

Re: OLT Seed Program: 'Ensuring the sustainability of an annual international conference of Australasian undergraduate research'.

I am writing to endorse the above project as submitted by Macquarie University project team led by Professor Angela Brew.

The project team includes Associate Professor Jenna Mead from the University of Western Australia.

The aims of this project are to:

- Create an organisational framework and support mechanisms to ensure the viability and continuation of an annual Australian Conference of Undergraduate Research
- Encourage national investment in undergraduate research by raising its profile nationally.

This project has its origins in the 2008 Australian Learning and Teaching Council National Teaching Fellowship (Prof Angela Brew – Enhancing undergraduate engagement through research and inquiry), the subsequent First Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research and the publication of a refereed journal of undergraduate research – *Macquarie Matrix*.

The undergraduate research conference directly aligns with UWA's strategic priority of 'improving the quality, impact and productivity of research and research training' by providing a national and international focus for undergraduate research training. The conference also exemplifies UWA's commitment to research as the production of new knowledge and the socialising of that knowledge through sharing it with national and international communities.

The University of Western Australia will support the time commitment of Jenna Mead as indicated in the budget justification.

I certify that:

- The University of Western Australia agrees to abide by the terms of the funding agreement
- The University of Western Australia will notify OLT if there are any changes in the circumstances of the team member(s) from the University of Western Australia which may impact on his/her eligibility to participate in, or ability to perform, the project subsequent to the submission of this proposal.

Alec Cameron
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Jenna Mead
UWA project member



20 February 2013

REF: DVCA/2013/letters/
0016 schmidt re Brew OLT application 20130220

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Office of the Vice-Chancellor

T +61 2 6125 8487
F +61 2 6125 5955
E dvc.academic@anu.edu.au

Ms Sylvia Schmidt
Assistant Director, Grants and Fellowships
Office of Learning and Teaching
Level 10, 255 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Canberra ACT 0200 Australia
www.anu.edu.au

CRICOS Provider No. 00120C

Dear Ms Schmidt

Re: *Seed Project - Ensuring the sustainability of an annual international conference for Australian undergraduate research*

Project Leader Prof Angela Brew, Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University

Team Member Dr Paula Newitt, Associate Dean, ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment and ANU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Title of Application Ensuring the sustainability of an annual conference of Australian undergraduate research

Aims of Project The aims of this project are to:

- Create an organisational framework and support mechanisms to ensure the viability and continuation of an annual Australian Conference of Undergraduate Research
- Encourage national investment in undergraduate research by raising its profile nationally

How the project will fit within the institution's aims and priorities

This project aligns closely with the ANU's goal to build on existing expertise in research-led education and will provide stimulation for undergraduate students to develop sophisticated and professional research and communication skills. The establishment of an annual Australasian conference will provide a highly sought after focus for such undergraduate research experiences. ANU seeks to develop a future researcher framework that can be used to inform coursework program and course development and involvement in such a conference will extend approaches to open access research and provide an ideal opportunity to disseminate student research. These are key components of the ANU by 2020 Education Portfolio Operational Plan and I support and endorse this project application.

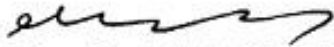
The Australian National University will support the time commitment of Dr Paula Newitt as indicated in the budget/budget justification.

Certification

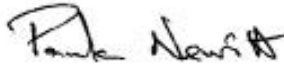
I certify that:

- If the application is successful the Australian National University agrees to abide by the terms of the funding agreement
- The Australian National University will notify OLT if there are any changes in the team member(s) from the Australian National University circumstances which may impact on his/her eligibility to participate in, or ability to perform, the project subsequent to the submission of this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Professor Mamie Hughes-Warrington
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)



Dr Paula Newitt
Associate Dean, Science
College of Medicine Biology & Environment
College of Physical & Mathematical Sciences