

RESEARCH ACTIVE IN THE SCD

Definition and Policy

(to be considered in conjunction with the document: *Register of Supervisors in the SCD*)

NSW DET sets the development of a Register of Supervisors as a condition of re-accreditation of the research degree program (MA(Hons), MTh(Hons), ThD, PhD, DMin)	31 st July 2007
Consultation with Prof Trevor Cairney from the DET reaccreditation panel (formerly Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) UWS)	14 th August, 2007
Initial consultation: informal, chairs of various committees, principals, Office of the Dean	20 th August 2007
Approval of the Research Degree Committee	27 th August 2007
Approval of the Academic Board	5 th September 2007
Further refinements and procedural changes then approval of the Academic Board	3 rd October 2007
Published in the PPM (disk to Member Institutions)	October 2007

INTRODUCTION

A 'research active' academic engages in research as an ongoing part of her or his academic focus and as an essential adjunct to teaching.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: EXPERIENCED FACULTY

To be considered as 'research active', experienced full-time and permanent part-time faculty need to be productive across the following categories.

1. PUBLICATIONS [adapted from the DEST guidelines]

- a. Books from commercial publishers
- b. Chapters in books from commercial publishers
- c. Publications in refereed journals
- d. Chapters in proceedings of conferences
- e. Translation with commentary of a scholarly text
- f. Performance or showing of a creative work as recognized and peer reviewed within the discipline

2. SCHOLARSHIP [reflection of standing in the field]

- a. Refereed conference papers
- b. Successful grant applications

c. Editorial role on refereed journals

d. Citations or equivalent

3. SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING [experience and ongoing training]

a. Successful completions by research candidates

b. Examination of research theses

c. Annual supervisor professional development as accredited by the College

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

To be considered 'research active' early career academics need to be productive across the following categories.

4. PUBLICATIONS [adapted from DEST guidelines]

a. Books from commercial publishers

b. Chapters in books from commercial publishers

c. Publications in refereed journals

d. Chapters in proceedings of conferences

- e. Translation with commentary of a scholarly text

- f. Performance /showing a creative work as recognized and peer reviewed within the discipline

5. SCHOLARSHIP [reflection of standing in the field]

- a. Refereed conference papers

- b. A role in refereed journals

- c. Citations or equivalent

- d. Grant applications

- e. Successful grant applications

6. SUPERVISION TRAINING [experience and ongoing training]

- a. Successful completion of an introductory course on supervision as approved by the College

- b. Annual supervisor professional development as accredited by the College

QUANTIFYING RESEARCH ACTIVITY

There are various systems in Australian universities for quantifying research activity. Our College has its own particular features as a faculty in the broad disciplines of Theology and Arts. The quantifying of research activity needs to be attentive to the attributes of Theology and Arts, the current tertiary standards in the areas of the Arts and Humanities, and the requirements of DEST. As well it needs to be suitable to an institution that is normally ineligible to receive Australian Competitive Grants or the like.

(The following is based on the policy of the University of Melbourne, which appeared to be simple, flexible and adaptable to an institution that is not normally eligible to receive Australian Competitive Grants.)

Experienced members of faculty: minimum standards

To be regarded as 'research active' an experienced member of faculty shall have:

- 1 Published at least FIVE items in the past five years (or part-time equivalent) that satisfy the requirement for DEST publication classification or equivalent as a:
 - Research book *weighting of five*
 - Chapter in a research book *weighting of one*
 - Referred journal article *weighting of one*
 - Refereed conference paper *weighting of one*
 - Translation with commentary of a scholarly text *weighting of three*
 - Performance or showing of a creative work as recognized within the discipline as a major work, peer reviewed for public exhibition/ performance *weighting of one*

- 2 And the achievement of at least **ONE** of the following:
 - a. Publication of at least three more publications: Research book (equivalent of five), chapter in a research book, refereed journal article, refereed conference paper, translation with commentary of a scholarly/ research text (equivalent of three), peer reviewed public exhibition/performance.
 - b. Supervision to successful completion of at least one research higher degree candidate in the past five years (or part-time equivalent)
 - c. Associate supervision to successful completion of at least two research higher degree candidates in the past five years (or part-time equivalent)
 - d. Examination of one higher degree research thesis in the past five years (or part-time equivalent)
 - e. Editorial role on refereed journals
 - f. External research income of more than \$50,000 in the past five years (or part-time equivalent)
 - g. One external research grant from a scheme on the Australian Competitive Grants Register in the past five years (or part-time equivalent)

Early career researchers: minimum standards

To be regarded as 'research active' an early career researcher shall have:

Published at least FIVE items in the past five years (or part-time equivalent) that satisfy the requirement for DEST publication classification as a:

- Research book *weighting of five*
- Chapter in a research book *weighting of one*
- Referred journal article *weighting of one*
- Refereed conference paper *weighting of one*

Also applicable are a:

- Translation with commentary of a scholarly/ research text *weighting of three*
- Performance or showing of a creative work as recognized and peer reviewed within the discipline *weighting of one*

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There is a range of further considerations, given the nature of the SCD and that faculty members are not yet eligible to seek DEST research grants.

Expectations around publishing

The requirements above are a minimum standard for the College as a whole. There are categories of research activity that do not accrue 'points' but are indicators of the scholarly esteem for that the faculty member. Any Member Institution may require a higher standard of publications and research activity from its faculty than the minimum set out in this paper.

Contractual provisions

For a full-time or permanent part-time faculty to be considered research active they must have a contract for at least twelve months full-time equivalent.

Research provisions in academic positions

A further necessary condition is that a 'research active' faculty member, whether full-time or permanent part-time, has conditions for research built into the role. This involves an appropriate allocation for research in employment loading, with consequent processes of accountability. As well there need to be provisions for sabbatical leave in line with current standards, and which include a process of accountability to designated research outcomes from the sabbatical. There may be other possibilities for research leave as well, again with consequent processes of accountability.

Research requirements and academic classification

Academics at each level of classification are required to show a degree of research and publication that is

consonant with that level. The highest output is expected from academics at levels D and E, while faculty at level C should also show substantial research. Evidence of research activity is required for promotion.

Other circumstances

There may be other circumstances that justify staff being classified as research active. These exceptions can be nominated by the Research Committee and approved by the Academic Board.

Administrative Exemptions

Colleagues who take on significant administrative roles within the SCD and the Member Institutions, such as Principals and Deputies of a Member Institution or Directors in the Office of the Dean, or above, will be expected to meet all these criteria during their time of tenure at a rate of 50%.

Fractional appointments

Academics on a part-time appointment have their requirements calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Recognizing non-DEST criteria

The policy makes some allowance for non-DEST recognized activities. This is in keeping with the fields of Theology and Arts, and their contribution to the pastoral and intellectual life of the churches. As well, it reflects that the College currently receives no research funding from DEST, and is not entirely limited by its provisions.

One non-DEST recognized activity is the role of editor of a book, where the editor has the lead in designing the project, commissioning contributors, editing the text and providing an introduction. A second is that of translator and editor of a text, including the provision of an introduction and some commentary. A third is the recognition of a creative work, depending of faculty discussion and including a degree of peer review.

SOURCES

ACU National	“Research and Research Training Management Plan/Report” (28 July 2005)
Macquarie University	“Macquarie University Research and Strategic Plan 2006-2008” (revised Feb 2007)
University of Melbourne	“Research Active Teaching and Research (T&R) Staff” (amended 5 July 2007)
Queensland University of Technology	“Research and Development” (1 July 2005)
University of Sydney	“Postgraduate Research Higher Degree Training Supervision at the University of Sydney (amended 15 Nov 2006)
UNSW	Madison, Manning & Thurbon (2006) “The Faculty’s Future: Beginning a career in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in the 21 st Century” Draft Active Researcher Proposal (Feb 2005)
University of Canberra	“Active Researcher Classification Scheme Guidelines (Oct 2002) “Supervisor Registration” (10 April 2006)

University of South
Australia

“Register of Postgraduate Research Degree Supervisors
(amended July 2004)”

RMIT University

“RMIT Research Committee Register of Postgraduate by
Research Supervisors Policy and Procedures”