The University of Melbourne  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics  

Research and Graduate Studies Committee Minutes  

Monday 20th November 2006  
2:00pm, Thomas Cherry Room  

Present: Aleks Owczarek (Chair), Antoinette Tordesillas, Peter Taylor, Iain Aitchison, Jan de Gier, Loretta Bartolini, Hannah Simonsson (minutes)  

1. Apologies  
Danielle Roller  

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.  
The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.  

- Paragraph 4 was discussed. Loretta explained that departments shouldn’t have their own depository for online theses because of copyright issues. Some journals don’t want any form of their work to be published.  

3. Report of Chair  

RQF: The document is out and it’s compulsory reading. The committee discussed and Peter talked briefly about it: the department is good at getting grant money but not very good at PhD supervision and publications.  

Database reports: We have information on the database that we can access, ie, grants, PhD students, etc.  

Role of publicity officer: Liaising with RPC  

Postgraduate survey idea:  
Suggestion: Create a survey that asks PhD students what things are influencing their choices.  

4. RSS report  
Aleks gave the committee an update about RSS money. Post doc fellows should be supported by the person who receives a grant; you can’t expect the department to pay.  

Loretta explained that students normally won’t apply for RSS money because they are not always allowed to speak at conferences.  

Suggestion: Students should speak to their supervisors regarding RSS money and supervisors should mentor their students.
5. **Grant successes**

Peter gave the committee an update about grant successes: we are heading in the right direction.

6. **Next year’s Discovery applications**

There are 18 possible applications for 2007. The committee discussed a mentoring scheme.

7. **Postgraduate Coordinator’s report**

Iain handed out a document with the status of our current postgraduate students. There are currently 13 scholarship applications including 3 international applications. Six former students are applying to come back. Iain gave a report on the students applying.

The committee discussed current PhD students.

**Action:** Iain to speak to supervisors of those students who we don’t know how they are going (Zaeem Burq, Alexander Caradoc, John Dethridge, Robin Langer, Chien-Hua Lin).

**Action:** Hannah to update database (Tom Coleman, Peter Fox, Will James, Geordie Zhang).

**Action:** Hannah to check Michael Lachut and Tim Robinson.

**Action:** Iain to follow up Bell Foozwell.

8. **RHDC’s PhD Review**

Loretta gave a report. It is important to include “who did what” in a publication. There has to be a sheet with signatures from all people involved.

PhD in Cotutelle will be extended to include other universities than in France.

9. **Any other business**

None

The meeting concluded at 3.40pm.