Confirmation of Candidature Updates

Open Presentation

Confirmation of Candidature oral presentations can be made to a wider audience than the Confirmation of Candidature Advisory Committee.

They can be held in an open setting within the School or Institute with academic staff and other candidates in attendance. The benefit of an open Confirmation presentation is that the candidate receives a wider input of ideas and they can be a good exemplar for peers. Some Schools already practice this and the Research Studies Committee has advised that it is available to all students.

If an open presentation is conducted there may be some questions and answers with all audience members but the deliberations on the formal outcome of the Confirmation are conducted solely by the Advisory Committee.

Confirmation Advisory Committee

The Confirmation of Candidature Advisory Committee is not the same as the supervisory panel. Additional expertise should always be included, whether from inside the School or through external links.

Confirmation Budget Discussion

The RSC has recommended to Senate that Research candidates outline Candidature Support Fund requirements as part of their Confirmation of Candidature and in Annual Progress Reports. Expenses and opportunities that arise afterwards may still be considered. Supervisors and students will be notified when this is made policy.

Police Checks and Candidature Support Funds

A student asked if UWS had an arrangement whereby we sponsored the cost of mandatory police checks that may be required.

The Academic Registrars Office advised that we do not and students usually meet the cost themselves, around $200. This is an expense that could be covered by HDR Candidate Support Funds.

Supervisors Handbook

Contact Mary Krone, m.krone@uws.edu.au to request a paper copy

Delegations in 2012 Academic Structure

Getting lost with the new HDR delegations?

Here is a summary of who is responsible for HDR actions;

Schedule of HDR Delegations (PDF, 56Kb)
Annual Progress Reports (APRs)

APRs are now overdue. Please attend to any you have outstanding immediately. Despite a technical glitch or two, on-line APRs have been very successful with compliance rates up and students saying that they feel that notice is being taken of their report. The Research Studies Committee and Office of Research Services will undertake a review and a survey to refine the process for next year from a user point of view and to evaluate personal responses to the system. Schools and Research Institutes conducted thorough reviews of their cohorts and will share ideas about what worked best, eg., Interviews, or review by stage of progress, whole of candidature review etc.

3 Min Thesis 2012

All contestants left – right
Xiangbe He, Maneesh Mathai, Linhan Zhang, James Oliver, Kirstin Robertson-Gillam, Tim Paris, Trish Murphy, Grant Bickerton and Munirah Shaik Kadir

First and People’s Choice;  Tim Paris, MARCS Institute, “Brain Waves that Predict the Future”

Second; James Oliver, School of Health and Science “Bio-ethanol from the Outback”

Third; Kirstin Robertson-Gillam, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, “Choir Therapy Reduces Depression in Middle Age”

Tim will represent UWS at the Trans-Tasman final at UQ in October.

Supervising the Dissertation

An online, open access book that might interest you. It includes a chapter on supervising the dissertation. One of the authors, Prof Anthony Pare, was an invited speaker at a UWS Research Supervisor Forum. http://wac.colostate.edu/books/winks/

The Research Education Experience Report

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations recently completed their project and the report – The Research Education Experience, is now available on the Department’s website.

Major findings of the report are;

- Institutional, faculty and departmental policies and practices impact on all aspects of the research education experience.
- Discrepancy between policy statements and reality is viewed very poorly.
- Students have a strong need to feel that their research is valued, and that they personally are valued partners.
- Students expressed a desire to be mentored into autonomous researchers valued by their supervisors and academic colleagues.
- Risk of attrition is strongly linked to quality and continuity of supervision, and secondarily to collegiality more broadly.

The report included best practice standards for a range of items such as supervisory practice, resourcing and collegial environments. The RSC is assessing UWS performance against those standards.

Office of Research Services – For further information please contact Mary Krone at m.krone@uws.edu.au