**School of Law Action Plan**

*Response to 2023 Post-Graduate Research (PGR) Student Survey Results*

Developed in Consultation with the PGR Student Representatives, Vice Dean of Grad Studies, Head of School, and PhD Programme Lead in the School of Law.

**Research Infrastructure and Facilities**

*Issues:* The School of Law received feedback that there is a need for better library facilities and specialist resources for PGR students.

*Action Points:*

* Communication with supervisors regarding their responsibility to ensure that their PGR students have appropriate facilities for their work.
* Communication with supervisors regarding their responsibility to ensure that their PGR students have access to storage space, especially for confidential information.
* Continue acquiring e-resources in the library.
* Need for specialist, resources, facilities, and librarians – especially in Law.

**Supervision**

*Issues:* The School of Law has low rates of co-supervision across multiple supervisors. They have improved in recent years, however, there is much less co-supervision and interdisciplinary supervision than other Schools across the University.

*Action Points:*

* Encourage co-supervision - including across disciplines, in order to potentially facilitate increased exchange of expertise and skills among supervisors and to work towards the creation of a supportive supervisory team with diverse knowledge, experience, and connections.

**Research Culture**

*Issues:* The School of Law received quite positive feedback on seminar programs. It also received positive feedback on research ambiance. There was an indication that there is a need for more opportunities for PGR students to discuss their research with peers. In addition, there was an indication that there is a need for more opportunities for students to become involved in the wider research community.

*Action Points:*

* Facilitate engagement for PGR students to engage across the College as well as the wider University.
  + Seek resources for interdisciplinary research and networking events that include PGRs as well as more senior researchers.
* Facilitate engagement with the wider community – beyond the University.
  + Seek resources to bring external community members into PGR events.

**Progress and Assessment**

*Issues:* The School of Law received, overall, positive feedback on progress and assessment. However, there was some concern regarding an appropriate induction/orientation.

*Action Points:*

* Provide more detail in the College orientation/induction. Including involving representatives from various schools and disciplines.
* Request College office inform Vice Dean and PhD Directors of scheduled *vivas* and outcomes.
* Ensure students that start after the September orientation/induction have all appropriate information.

**Research Skills**

*Issues:* The School of Law received, overall, positive feedback on research skills.

*Action Points:*

* Highlight training that is available – especially required trainings such as the Research Integrity Workshop.

**Other Transferrable Skills**

*Issues:* The School of Law received quite positive feedback, overall on transferrable skills.

*Action Points:*

* Continue providing access to the PGR fund for students to gain transferrable skills, such as presenting to diverse audiences.

**Responsibilities and Support/Personal Outlook**

*Issues:* The School of Law received quite positive feedback overall - however, there is a need to do significant work on making students aware of supports available.

*Action Points:*

* Email to PGRs with resources.
* More information available on website.
* Regular coffee catch-ups.
* Wellbeing support officer extends assistance to PGR students – and engages with the students at various point, including orientation/indication, where possible.
* Engage the Vice Dean of EDI and Wellbeing officer in orientation/induction and a coffee morning meet and greet.
* Increase in events to address issues related to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion – for example, a new focus group on barriers to completion.

**Development Opportunities**

*Issues:* Development opportunities could be improved. The School of Law has lower scores than the wider university for opportunities for attending conferences. The School of Law could also improve on supporting PGRs with publications and communicating research. In addition, the School has very low scores regarding industry collaboration. The School could also improve on PRG time spent abroad.

*Action Points:*

* Greater engagement with the Research Development Office.
* Continued availability of the research fund for PGRs.