**School of Business and Economics Action Plan**

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

Developed in Consultation with the PGR Student Representative, Vice Dean of Grad Studies, and PhD Programme Lead in the School of Business and Economics.

**Research Infrastructure and Facilities**

*Issues:* The School of Business and Economics received feedback that there is a need for better infrastructure and facilities for PGR students – in particular, computing resources and specialist resources and facilities.

*Action Points:*

* Communication with supervisors regarding their responsibility to ensure that their PGR students have appropriate facilities for their work – including a laptops, where appropriate.
* 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.
* Seek resources for specialist resources and facilities.

**Supervision**

*Issues:* The School of Business and Economics has high rates of co-supervision across multiple supervisors. However, there is scope for more interdisciplinary supervision. There is also a need for supervisors to provide more assistance in identifying training and development needs.

*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.
* Engage supervisors and students more in the events and resources available at Research Development Centre.

**Research Culture**

*Issues:* The School of Business and Economics received quite positive feedback on seminar programs. However, feedback indicates that there is room for improvement of research ambiance, overall. There was an indication that there is a need for more opportunities for PhD 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 wider research community of the School.

*Action Points:*

* Facilitate engagement for PGR 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.
* New initiative to open up seminars to PGR students from all disciplines across business.

**Progress and Assessment**

*Issues:* The School of Business and Economics received, overall, positive feedback on progress and assessment. There was some concern from students regarding induction/orientation and understanding the require standard for a thesis.

* 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 Business and Economics 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 Business and Economics received quite positive feedback, overall, concerning other transferrable skills – the School could work on increasing networking opportunities for students and developing effective communication skills.

* 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 Business and Economics 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.

**Development Opportunities**

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

*Action Points:*

* Greater engagement with the Research Development Office.
* Continued access to the research fund for PGRs.