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University of Canterbury
The University of Canterbury is known internationally for the depth and breadth of its research. This Report for the 2005 calendar year showcases the outputs achieved by staff in research and creative works. For each of the Colleges and the School of Law the Pro-Vice-Chancellor has provided an overview commentary highlighting key achievements and strategic developments. In every case, I sense the strongest possible commitment to strengthening the culture of research excellence.

Each of the Colleges has its own research committee and the chairs are all key members of the University Research Committee. During the latter part of 2005 that group started work on the important task of developing a Research Plan for the University. It has been agreed that it will be a high level, permissive document that aims to capture the aspirations of all staff in respect of their research programme, be they new and emerging staff or more senior professors.

Another important task for the year has been to establish an advisory group to lead the University’s effort in preparing for the 2006 partial PBRF round. This group worked hard throughout 2005 to put in place support systems for staff to enable them to develop top quality evidence portfolios. Many of the 2228 research outputs listed in this publication will form part of the University’s collective effort. In addition the report lists some 83 PhD theses and 214 Masters theses.

During the year two new research centres were established, both in the College of Arts. Such centres are a very tangible expression of the research leadership so evident throughout the University. In 2006, the University will undertake a review of all its research centres so as to ensure they remain at the cutting edge of our research effort. In particular I will be working with all the Pro-Vice-Chancellors to ensure that the University-wide centres continue to promote and celebrate inter-disciplinary research.

A major development this year has been the University-wide preparation for the Partnerships for Excellence bid in the area of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Although not formally confirmed by the Tertiary Education Commission until early 2006, we have every indication that the development of the New Zealand ICT Innovation Institute (UCi3) will proceed as planned next year. This exciting initiative signals a new era for the University of Canterbury where the research effort is informed by and developed with industry partners. I am certain that this will assist us to continue to recruit the very best students for our postgraduate degree programmes.

The 2005 University of Canterbury Research Medal was awarded to Professor Jack Baggaley for his outstanding contributions to research in astronomy, especially the tracking of particles in the solar system using his unique ground-based radar system.

The efforts described here are a great tribute to the efforts of all our staff and their students, and I thank them for their commitment.

Professor Ian Town
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
2005 was an important year for the College of Business and Economics, representing the first full year of operation for the new entity with completely devolved budgets and decision-making in a number of important areas. One of the College’s central objectives was to build a sustainable research capability, in order to establish UC as a major centre for the study of business and economics. Achieving this goal required substantial investment in senior research leadership and the establishment of a transparent infrastructure to support and incentivise high-quality research.

Following a comprehensive audit of academic staffing in 2004, the College embarked on a major hiring strategy during the course of 2005, designed to ensure that all the College’s major research clusters are led by a senior researcher. Over the 12 months to December 2005, the College appointed five full professors: Amanda Ball (Accounting), Markus Milne (Accounting), Paul Cragg (Information Systems), Bob Reed (Economics) and Udo Staber (Organisational Development). In addition, two associate professors were also appointed: Jeremy Clark (Economics) and Venkataraman Nilakant (Organisational Development).

At the start of 2005, the College established a new structure to support research activity. Professor Les Oxley was appointed as the College Research Director, charged with setting up and chairing a College Research Committee to manage research policy and allocate funding. The College Research Committee was awarded a significant recurrent budget to support conference attendance and provide pump-priming research grants. It drew up a set of transparent policies designed to ensure that financial support is directed towards producing high-quality outputs and incentivising applications for “hard” research funding. These new policies include peer-reviewed evaluations of applications for conference support and guaranteed seed-corn funding for Marsden grant applications reaching the second round nationally. During the course of 2005, academic staff contributed approximately 100 refereed papers to international conferences, reflecting the success of the new funding mechanism. An increased number of research grant applications went forward in 2005, resulting in two new Marsden projects, one on the wealth and health effects of migration and the other on the use of retrospective recall as an alternative to panel data.

The combination of enhanced research leadership by senior academics and a clearer financial support structure for research was bolstered by the development of a new “Professional Development and Review” system during 2005. This new system is designed to provide each academic member of staff with an annual review of, inter alia, his/her research productivity vis-à-vis planned output and an opportunity to discuss future professional development needs and objectives. The scheme is being rolled out during 2006 across the College.

Across the constituent departments and centres, the 2005 UC Research Report is testimony to the vitality of the College’s research culture. New research directions have been sparked by the arrival of new academic staff, which is often interdisciplinary in nature as alliances have been built with incumbent staff. For example, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and business sustainability is emerging as a cross-College agenda, with contributions to the academic literature on the “triple bottom line”, carbon taxes, natural resource management, water pricing and business ethics coming in 2005 from across all three departments. At the same time,
each of the departments continued to build its own research profile in distinctive areas — for example, information systems in small firms and taxation law (AFIS), econometric modelling and experimental economics (Economics) and entrepreneurship and management science (Management) — as well as contributing to the mainstream literature in each of their core subject areas.

Apart from its three highly successful academic departments, the College is also home to the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE), a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence funded by the European Commission. The NCRE was reviewed by the University in 2005 and confirmed as a permanent university research centre. Its application for continuing core funding from the EC through a RELEX grant was approved for a further four years at the end of 2005, allowing the centre to expand its operations as New Zealand’s hub for EU-related research. It has strong connections with MFAT and MoRST, reflected in the annual ‘Europa Lecture’, which was given in 2005 by Phil Goff (then Minister of Foreign Affairs).

Professor Nigel Healey
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, College of Business and Economics
College of Business and Economics

Chapter in Book


Accountancy Finance and Information Systems

Authored Book

Chapter in Book


Journal Article


Conference Contribution

Full Conference paper


Paper in published proceedings


Report for External Body


Theses
Doctor of Philosophy

Master of Commerce

National Centre for Research on Europe

Chapter in Book


Edited Book

Journal Article


Conference Contribution
Full Conference paper


Other


Report for External Body


Economics

Authorised Book

Chapter in Book


Journal Article


Conference Contribution
Full Conference paper


Edited Book


Journal Article


Conference Contribution

Full Conference paper


Paper in published proceedings


Oral presentation


Other


Oral Presentation


Theses

Master of Commerce

Wong, S.V. (2005) The impact of perceived organisational injustice, psychological contract breach and interpersonal transgression on organisational commitment, deviant work behaviours and the expression or suppression of workplace anger.
