



crEFI Bulletin

March 2010

Centre for Research in Educational Futures and Innovation



School of Education

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Director's report

We had a successful Planning Day for CrEFI, DU Management Centre on February 8 2010. Much of this was a getting to know the group as a result of CrEFI's reconfiguration in December 2009. Since then, I met with the DVC(Research), Dean and ADR (Arts and Education) in early March to have proposed budget confirmed which in turn then allows the School to determine its overall research budget. As a consequence we can now go ahead and advertise for the Administrative Officer (.6) for CrEFI which will lighten the load for Jill Loughlin who has been central in the development of CrEFI.

The Executive has met twice, largely to finalise the budget, but also to discuss the processes for allocation of funding to individuals for conferences and related activities for groups and projects. These discussions have been undertaken in close liaison with the Associate Dean (Research) so that there is consistency across the Faculty in terms of funds available to active researchers. Discussions have also been had to as to the respective roles of the Associate Head of School (Research), CrEFI, CLER and the Associate Head of School (Development).

For the above reasons there has been some delay in commencing this year's planning.

A statement is being issued by Mary Dixon with regard to the formation of the School of Education Research Guild(SERG). Each active researcher in CrEFI will be allocated \$2500 per annum for conference and related research activities (buy out teaching etc). This can be gained through submitting the form now available on the Faculty Research Office website and signed off by the Director.

The DVC(R) also determined that each Director of the SRCs is now expected to review and sign off on all grant applications.

It is now important for each of CrEFI's three Programs and the Interdisciplinary Themes to meet as groups. There is a dedicated CrEFI time allocated on Thursdays for Roundtables. The executive would like each convener of these groups to meet and plan for the remainder of 2010 and for the next three years. In particular, we would like suggestions as to Visiting Professors who can assist in enhancing and articulating our research programs and agendas internationally (approximately \$8000 funds per Visiting Professor). These Professors

would be expected to visit for 2 weeks or more, and to engage in a number of activities within the School, Faculty, University and wider educational community.

The Executive has also discussed membership issues. First, it has expanded the Research Committee that oversees CrEFI policy to include an ECR (Geelong), who will be Shaun Rawolle, and the Associate Head of School (Development) Alex Kostogriz. This Committee also includes another SRC Director, the ADR and Robert MacMahon as research manager. A meeting will be called soon. Second, it has been decided that there will be a review of CrEFI membership later in 2010 as a result of changes in academic staff and their research activities.

CrEFI Activities

I presented about the role of CrEFI to the HDR conference in February in Geelong and also to the Faculty Meeting called by the ADR (Arts and Ed) in March. I indicated that CrEFI should be seen as a resource for HDR students and School of Education researchers, and that the aim was to develop good research projects that make a difference.

On Friday 12th March, there were discussions held with Elvira Varcirca from Research and Policy in DEECD. These were in the areas of

- access and equity for first at university
- learning spaces and student outcomes
- partnership model of pre-service/in-service professional learning
- teacher education (ICT pedagogies)

Review of ARC grants.

All applications were reviewed in a group discussion by the various CIs, with Jill and Mary acting as external reviewers. This process was extremely productive and will be used for the review of Linkages and Central Research Grants.

ARC Discovery's submitted in 2010 for 2011 are:-

- Blackmore, J. *Leadership in entrepreneurial universities: comparative investigations of engagement and diversity* (PIs in National Taiwan Normal Uni (Taiwan), Uni of Augsburg (Germany), Arhus University (Denmark) and Uni of Maryland (US)).
- Doig, B and Groves, S. *Mapping children's prior to school mathematical development.*
- Tytler, R. et al *Exploring quality primary education in different cultures: a cross-national study of teaching and learning in primary science classrooms.*

Linkage Applications

4 Linkages are being developed, and under review to be submitted early April to Deakin Research Office.

Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Fellow candidate

- Efrat Eliam: *Action research for increasing the effectiveness of schools and communities participation towards sustainability*

Jill Blackmore has been invited to act for ADR on April 11 when these are allocated.

HDRs

3 new doctoral candidates commenced March 1 with 2 new Linkages projects. They are Jessica Premier (Melbourne) and Shirley Spiteri and Siobhan Casey (Geelong).

Increasingly HDRs will be linked to programs within CrEFI and encouraged to participate in its activities as well as develop their own peer seminars. At the HDR conference in February, Jill Blackmore introduced CrEFI and indicated that HDRs should attend all seminars and also those who wish additional work if full time on campus, to register with CrEFI as Research Assistants.

Visiting scholars /seminars

- Professor Miriam David, London Institute of Education - *Improving Education through Widening Participation*. February 9
- Professor Mariko Suzuki, Ph.D. Media, Science and Mathematics Education, Shiga University - *Learning and Teaching Science with the Use of Technology*. February 25
- Terry Haywood: Director of the International School of Milan - *Internationalisation of schooling*. February 18
- Associate Professor Tammy Kwan, University of Hong Kong – Whole school mentoring support. March 18
- Laurence and Jean Simonneaux, Didactics of Emerging Professional Scientific Knowledge, Toulous EducAgro, ENFA – *The food-environment relationship: socio-scientific issues in the perspective of sustainable development*. March 25
- Associate Professor Shaaron Ainsworth, University of Nottingham – *Understanding visual and multimodal learning*. March 31

Forthcoming events

Public Policy Forum: Co-sponsored with School of Education: *Whose school?* May 7 & 8

Workshops to be presented in April -June

- Getting ARC grants
- Building partnerships
- What editors of journals want
- Writing book proposals

Writing workshop (August)

- Professor Pat Thomson, Adjunct Prof. Deakin

Jill Blackmore

Director, Centre for Research in Educational Futures and Innovation