

PGR Rep Report:

Based on the discussion in the last Research Committee meeting, ARU aims to be 10 times better University in terms of research quality within next 10 years.

Some minor changes are coming to the PGR degree regulations (Doctoral School is going to circulate the changes among PGRs and their supervisors). The upcoming changes include timescale (The procedure for requesting intermission has been made simpler for the first 6 months. Any retrospective request must now go to a full committee meeting. A maximum intermission period of 18 months will be introduced. (4.12-4.17)). The doctoral school and the research committee was informed that the ARU financial system needs to be PGR friendly in order to address the revision (as well as for many other cases).

The need for social space (informal/ semi-formal) for PGRs were explained to the Chair of the Research Committee. This issue was discussed with Doctoral School before.

There is going to be a PGR association (PGA) in the next academic year under the umbrella of the Doctoral School. The PGR Reps will get the opportunity to be actively involve with PGA.

24/7 Access (FST): There were some issues with Sawyers building access, which was resolved. On the matter raised for David building, PGRs are requested to follow the FST guideline. The PGRs need to be careful about the lab access due to health and safety reasons. The list of high-risk and low-risk area will be provided to PGRs.

The research committee is still trying to make the process smoother for all PGRs as well as staff members (not only for FST).

Write-up Stage: The previous changes in the regulation made the write-up stage moved to 30th month due to standard practice, which caused trouble for few PGRs. The Doctoral School assured that the PhD student can go to the write-up stage even before 30th month, if all other criteria are fulfilled.

Viva Date: The 90 day-period situation has improved than before. The doctoral school explained why there is still some delays for other cases.

Other resolved and unresolved issues include (but not limited to) J drive access, calendar sharing, IT issues.

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