Hi all,

I have been updating you on research-related matters and developments in the Business School since 2018. As the feedback has been positive, I will continue the practice also this year. There will be some changes though. Our Early Career Researchers Committee (ECRC) will start issuing their own updates targeted specifically at ECRs and so, I will not be including any longer the section “From the ECRC desk” that featured in most of my earlier Updates. Also, instead of the “Did you know” section that appeared in the 2020 Updates, I will be including one called “Worth noting”. I hope you will continue to find the Updates useful.

2021 Faculty Research Committee and ECRC

There are a few changes in the membership of our 2021 Faculty Research Committee and Early Career Researchers Committee. Their current composition ensures both continuity and renewal. For the purposes of efficiency and accountability, they will continue their established practice to work in taskforces alongside other initiatives. This year there will be three taskforces in the Faculty Research Committee: Research Development, Research Impact, and Funding. Our Research Services team will continue to contribute to and assist these taskforces.

Research impact

The Research Translation Day, initially planned for March this year, had to be postponed due to the shift in Covid-19 alert levels and will now be held on 7 May 2021. Please feel free to invite your industry/government contacts to attend the event. The programme includes (1) a keynote on what makes people with diverse sets of knowledge seamlessly learn from each other, particularly when working to understand and solve complex social problems, (2) an interactive workshop on research translation, and (3) a panel discussion on social investment. There will be the opportunity to network over lunch and, of course, to attend the award celebration of the New Zealand Business Research Translation Competition 2020/2021. The winners of the Competition (which we have organised for first time this year as a national one) will be announced, and the awards delivered by Judging Panel members who are experts from industry and government. We will hear from the judges what made the winning research translation articles stand out. You can register to be part of the Research Translation Day here.

We are celebrating the publication of the research stories The economics of happiness and well-being and The insidious return of ‘slavery’ on the University's external facing webpage Mātātaki Challenge, an ongoing series that explains how researchers are tackling the major national and global issues that affect us all. These two stories are the result of research conducted respectively by Prof Robert MacCulloch (Dept of Economics) and Assoc Prof Christina Stringer (Dept of Management and International Business), the winners of last year's Research Impact Competition run by the Faculty Research Committee. If you are interested in having your research story told on Mātātaki Challenge, please contact Christiane Rupp.

The second issue of our Business School's SSRN Research Papers Series eJournal has been released on 23 March 2021 to several hundred global subscribers and has been promoted via Twitter. It aimed to create awareness about work done by our scholars on COVID-19 related matters. The third eJournal is in the making to be distributed in April. All colleagues interested in having their working papers or accepted papers considered for our eJournals are welcome to send them to Christiane Rupp for upload. For those who wish to become familiar with SSRN, the SSRN Toolkit is a useful tool.

Trying to improve the ethics application/approval process
Work has been taking place over the last months in that space. We are tackling the issue on two related fronts. On the one hand, we continue conversations with decision-makers in the UoA Human Participants Ethics Committee (UAHPEC) about how to reduce difficulties many of us perceive as unnecessary without compromising the robustness of the process. At the same time, we are aware that there is space for improvement in us putting forward good quality ethics applications. Our two representatives in UAHPEC, Dr Simona Fabrizi (Dept of Economics) and Dr Peter Zámborský (Dept of Management and International Business), will be leading the latter activities. They have already met with our departments’ ethics advisors and are planning sessions for researchers and doctoral students aimed to increase awareness of how the ethics approval processes work and how to obtain ethics approval without numerous revisions and delays.

**Business School editorial roles**

The White Paper on Editorial Roles has been updated once more and is available [here](#). The list of academic staff engaged in making editorial decisions in various journals comprises 44 names and accounts for 25% of our research-active staff. More than two-thirds of these editorial positions held by our staff are ranked as A*/A journals on the Australian Business Deans Council journal quality list. If you serve in an editorial role that involves editorial decision-making and are not listed on the White Paper, please let Dr Yuri Seo know. I encourage participants in the A* Accelerator programme and other colleagues to utilize the expertise many of our peers have in their editorial positions.

**Marsden 2020 Expressions of Interest round and Summer Research Student Scholarships 2020-2021**

15 Expressions of Interest to the Royal Society of New Zealand’s Marsden Fund have been submitted by researchers from the Business School – 10 Standard applications and five Fast Starts. 12 applications were submitted to the Economics and Human and Behavioural Sciences panel, and three went to the Social Sciences panel. The spread of the applications across departments was as follows: Accounting and Finance 1, Economics 3, Energy Centre 1, ISOM 3, Marketing 3, MIB 3, and Property 1. The results of the round will be announced in early May.

All students and supervisors involved in the 2020-2021 Summer Research Student Scholarships have completed their final reports satisfactorily. In collaboration with the Faculty BizMarketing team, four students were selected to share their insights about the value of the scholarships scheme. Their stories can be found here: [link 1](#) and [link 2](#).

**Woth noting: Predatory publishing**

Predatory publishing, the business practices that often offer scientific publishing services under the pretext of open access but do not (or only insufficiently) carry out quality assurance processes, has become a global phenomenon. The article ‘Predatory publishing in Scopus: Evidence on cross-country differences’ by Vit Macháček and Martin Srholec published in Scientometrics (2021) examines the propensity to publish in potentially predatory journals for 172 countries in four fields of research over a two-year period, reviews existing literature on the topic, and introduces a black-list to identify suspected predatory journals. We have uploaded the article [here](#), along with a list of predatory journals. It is worth checking the list before deciding where to submit.

Best regards,

Snejina