Flinders University

Research Administrators and Developers (RAD) Network

Background and Aims

In 2013, a Flinders university-wide network of professional staff who support the research activities of the University was established with the following aims:

- Improve lines of communication amongst professional staff who support research activities
- Develop efficiencies through the sharing of best practice and facilitate the establishment of uniform practices consistent with University policy
- Build the capacity through skills and knowledge transfer via formal and informal training and mentoring
- Assist in training new professional staff in research administration, management or development roles to smoothly transition into their roles within the University
- Facilitate cross disciplinary research activity within the University in line with the University Strategic Plan
- Improve Flinders responsiveness to new research opportunities which require significant collaboration and administration.

This initiative is gaining traction and is improving the way professional staff involved in research support engage across the campus and assist the University achieve its goal of focusing research and produce high quality, targeted and collaborative research.

Governance

The RAD Network is an informal Network that relies primarily on member support to achieve its aims. The DVC(R) is supportive for the Network and has provided a small budget to cover costs of catering for events and other resources on a case by case basis. This budget is accessed through the Research Services Office representative on the Committee. The Professional Development Unit also supports the Network with venue booking, catering, event promotion, and on occasion provision of professional development specific for the Network.

Membership to the Network is open to all professional staff members working in a research administration, development or management role at Flinders University.

A Steering Group has oversight of the Network.

1) Membership

- Membership of the Steering Group will include a representative from each of the four Faculties and the Strategic Initiatives Project Officer from the Research Services Office (RSO). Nominations will be considered from professional staff members working in a research support role.
- The term of Faculty representative membership will be 2 years. The Strategic Initiatives Project Officer will remain on the Committee in an on-going capacity.
- The outgoing Steering Group will call for and assess membership nominations and confirm new members. In the event a Faculty representative has completed their 2 year term and no other eligible member nominates for that Faculty, the existing member may nominate for another 2 year term if they wish.

2) RAD Network Events

- Members will canvas the views and ideas of professional research support staff in their area to ensure events meet the interests and needs of Network members.
• The Steering Group will plan, arrange and publicise within their constituency, regular Networking events (a minimum of 4 per year)
• As necessary, the Steering Group will liaise with the Professional Development Unit in relation to venue bookings, catering and promotion through the University events calendar.
• A record of attendance at events will be kept.

3) Web pages
• The Steering Group will monitor the RAD Network web pages and update information as necessary.

4) Contacts database
• The Steering Group will monitor the RAD Network database and update details as necessary.