

### **Vice-Principal Science and Engineering's report to Senate**

The Faculty has had a busy three months since our last report. In January, we held the annual Faculty Celebration, which welcomes new members of staff to our community. We also presented awards to 34 Faculty colleagues in recognition of outstanding levels of innovation in teaching, research and professional services. These awards recognise the talents and remarkable contributions of our staff. At this event, we launched the new Research Enabling Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to build upon the supportive environment that already exists within the Faculty for the development of our research profile. Its particular focus is to underpin the successful capture of external research funds. This is one of the cornerstones of our research growth strategy. We anticipate that it will become a valuable tool for our staff, enabling them to increase the momentum of their research activity and giving them greater flexibility to develop an internationally leading research agenda.

In February, we made our Faculty presentation as part of the annual PAR process. We are pleased to have entered into this process with a strong financial position. Through flexible and responsive financial management, the Faculty is on track to meet our Forecast 1 operating surplus target for 2015/16. This has not been easy and much credit is owed to our schools for reacting to a complex and changing financial environment with a professional and pragmatic approach.

We are currently starting recruitment activity for two senior appointments within the Faculty. Firstly, Professor Steve Lloyd is nearing the end of his term as Head of the School of Physics & Astronomy. We are extremely grateful to Prof Lloyd for all the hard work that he has undertaken over his period in this role. We are seeking a new Head of School and are anticipating a strong field of applicants. Prof Lloyd has agreed to stay on as Head of School until we have found his successor. Secondly, Professor Wen Wang will be standing down as Dean for Research at the end of this academic year. We are very fortunate to have been able to draw upon his research leadership skills over the last few years and we are grateful to him for all his hard work. We are currently seeking expressions of interest in this exciting role from our academic community.