



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION

EVALUATION RESULTS

24 July, 2009

1. OVERVIEW

Thank you to all students who attended the 24 July 2009 Induction and took the time to complete and hand in an evaluation. The evaluation is an excellent opportunity for us to review the induction process overall and consider student suggestions for change to improve the success of future Induction programs.

A total of 133 evaluations were received from 144 attendees and the results are summarised in the following sections of this report.

It should be noted that not every student completed every question so some totals will be less than 133. Attachment A provides a summary of the average student ratings for each presenter. A copy of the 24 July 2009 Induction Program is provided in Attachment B for reference purposes. Outlined in Section 7 is the Graduate Centre's response to some of the comments made by students in their evaluations.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Length of time since completing Pre-Post Graduate Research studies

Total Responses	
0-2yrs	52
3-4yrs	27
5-6yrs	9
>6yrs	27

Previous University of Adelaide student?

Total Responses	
Yes	59
No	71

Length of time since enrolling

Total Responses	
0-3mth	84
4-6mth	29
6-9mth	10
>9mth	5

International or Domestic student?

DOMESTIC Total Responses	
Sciences	20
ECMS	16
Health Sciences	10
H&SS	6
Professions	4

INTERNATIONAL Total Responses	
Sciences	31
ECMS	12
Health Sciences	22
H&SS	11
Professions	2

3. SESSION 1 (8:50am- 11:40am)

The first session comprised speakers from each of the following areas: Adelaide Graduate Centre; Psychology; Researcher Education and Development Programs (RED); Research Branch; Information Technology Services; Student Support Services; Adelaide University Union and Adelaide University Postgraduate Students' Association (AUPGSA). Speakers gave a presentation relevant to their area of responsibility.

The evaluation forms provided students with the option of selecting from a scale of 1-7 (1=strongly disagree; 4=undecided; 7= strongly agree) to indicate whether they found the content of each of the talks to be informative and interesting. There was also the option of providing further written comments on Session 1, if desired.

The figures listed below are averages.

THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING	
AREA/SPEAKER	
2.1 Adelaide Graduate Centre/ Prof. Richard Russell	6.02
2.2 Psychology/ Dr Anna Ma-Wyatt	5.14
2.3 RED Programs/ Dr Michelle Picard	5.57
2.4 Research Branch/ Mr Simon Brennan	5.26
2.5 Information Technology Services/ Mr Terry O'Donnell	5.69
2.6 Student Support Services/ Ms Sandra Gault	5.71
2.7 Adelaide University Union/ Ms Vicki McCoy	5.52
2.8 AUPGSA/ Mr Morteza Mohammadzaheri	4.90

4. SESSION 2 (11:50am-1pm)

In session 2, students attended one of five faculty based discussion groups in the following areas: (1) Sciences; (2) Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences; (3) Health Sciences (including Dentistry and Medicine); and (4) Humanities & Social Sciences *and* The Professions.

Each faculty group consisted of a panel of four members: one senior and experienced supervisor, one research librarian, and two senior research students.

The evaluation forms provided students with the option of selecting from a scale of 1-7 (1=strongly disagree; 4=undecided; 7= strongly agree) to indicate whether they found the content of each of the talks to be informative and interesting. There was also the option of providing further written comments on Session 2, if desired.

The figures listed below are averages.

THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING	
AREA/SPEAKER	
3.1 Supervisor	6.00
3.2 Research Librarian	5.79
3.3 Research Student 1	6.06
3.4 Research Student 2	5.79

5. OVERALL PROGRAM

The evaluation form provided students with the option of selecting from a scale of 1-7 (1=strongly disagree; 4=undecided; 7= strongly agree) to indicate how they rated the Induction Program overall. There was also the option of providing further written comments if desired.

The figures listed below are averages.

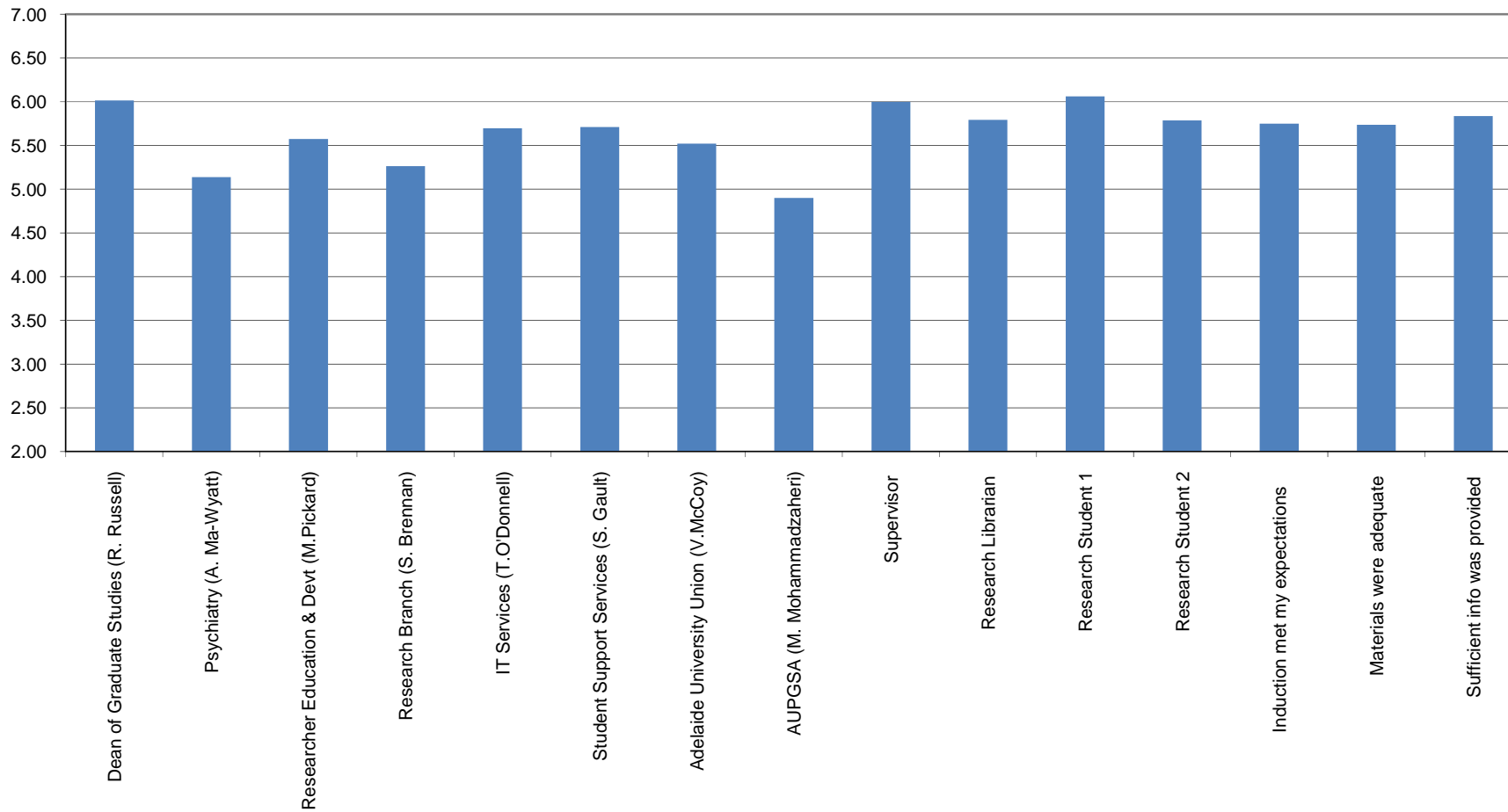
OVERALL PROGRAM	
4.1 The Induction met my expectations	5.75
4.2 The materials provided were appropriate	5.73
4.3 The sessions contained sufficient information for a student beginning his/her program	5.84

6. SUMMARY

A summary of overall student ratings for each presenter in the 24 July 2009 Induction together with the other components of the program has been provided in the form of graphs in Attachment A. Individual graphs are also displayed for each faculty.

A copy of the Program for 24 July 2009 has been provided in Attachment B.

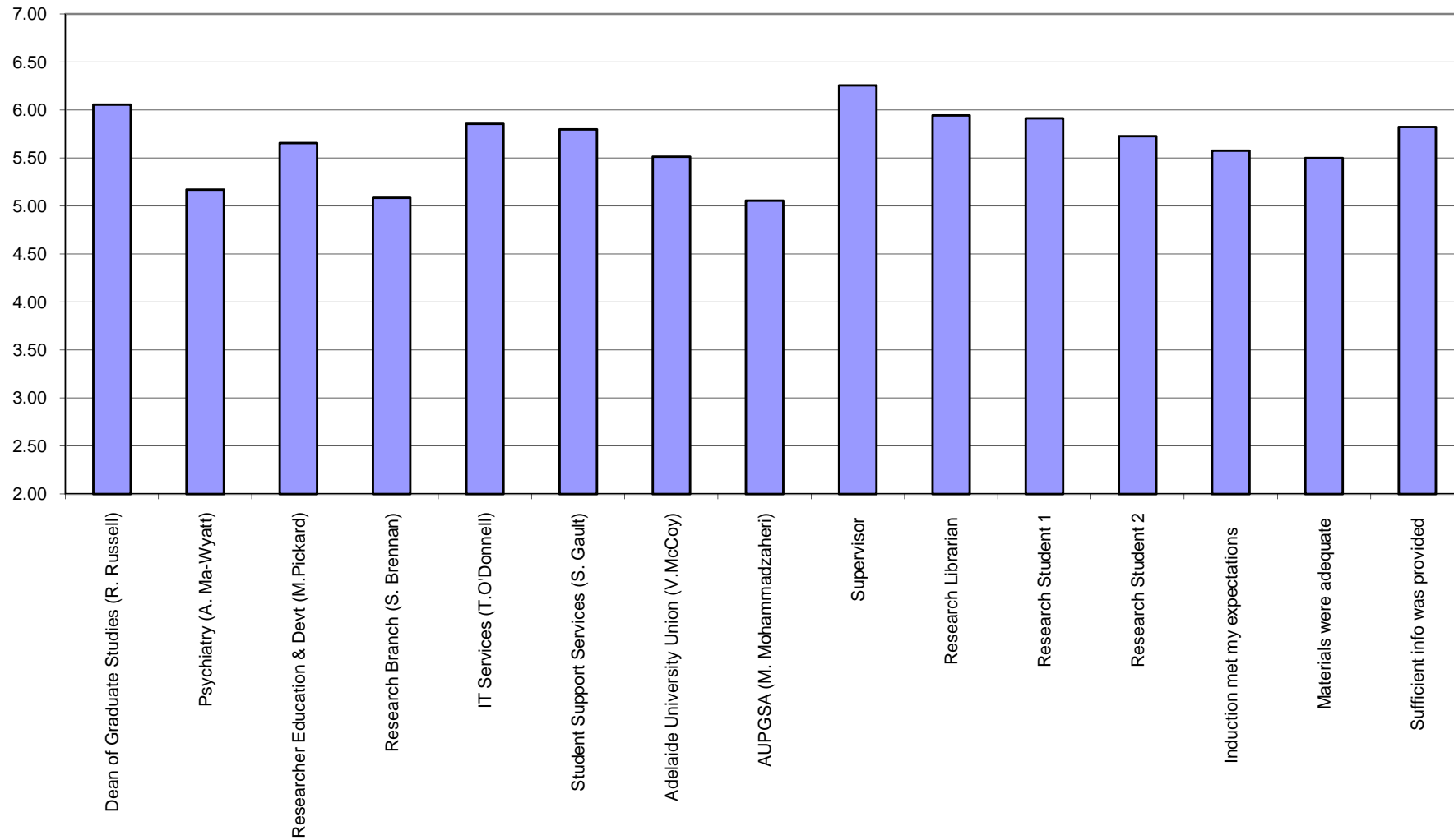
****The table below shows the averages for all Faculties****



Postgraduate Research Induction, 24 July 2009

The content of the talks was informative and interesting (scale: 1 =strongly disagree, 4=undecided, 7=strongly agree)

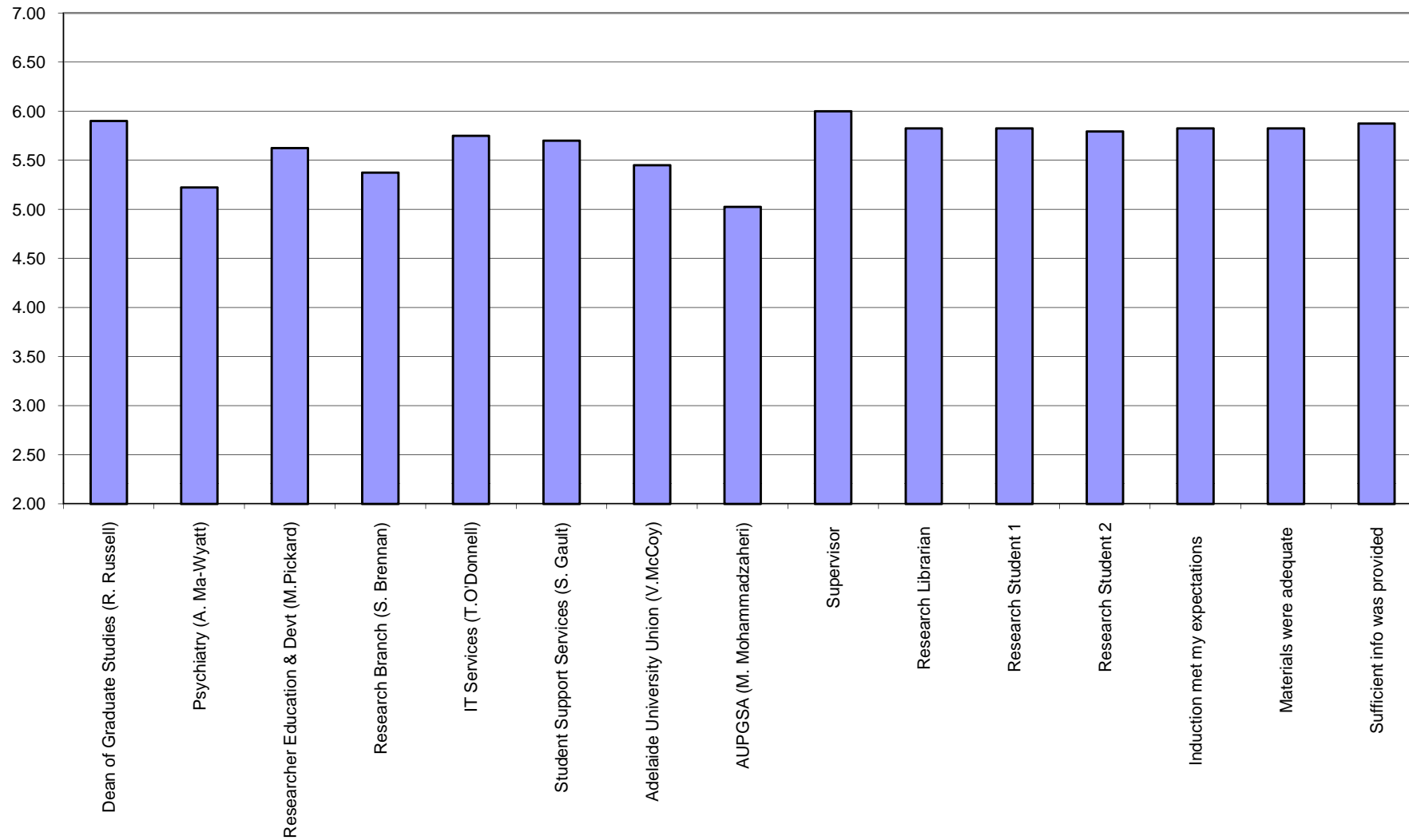
****The table below shows the averages for the Faculty of Engineering Computer and Mathematical Sciences****



Postgraduate Research Induction, 24 July 2009

The content of the talks was informative and interesting (scale: 1 =strongly disagree, 4=undecided, 7=strongly agree)

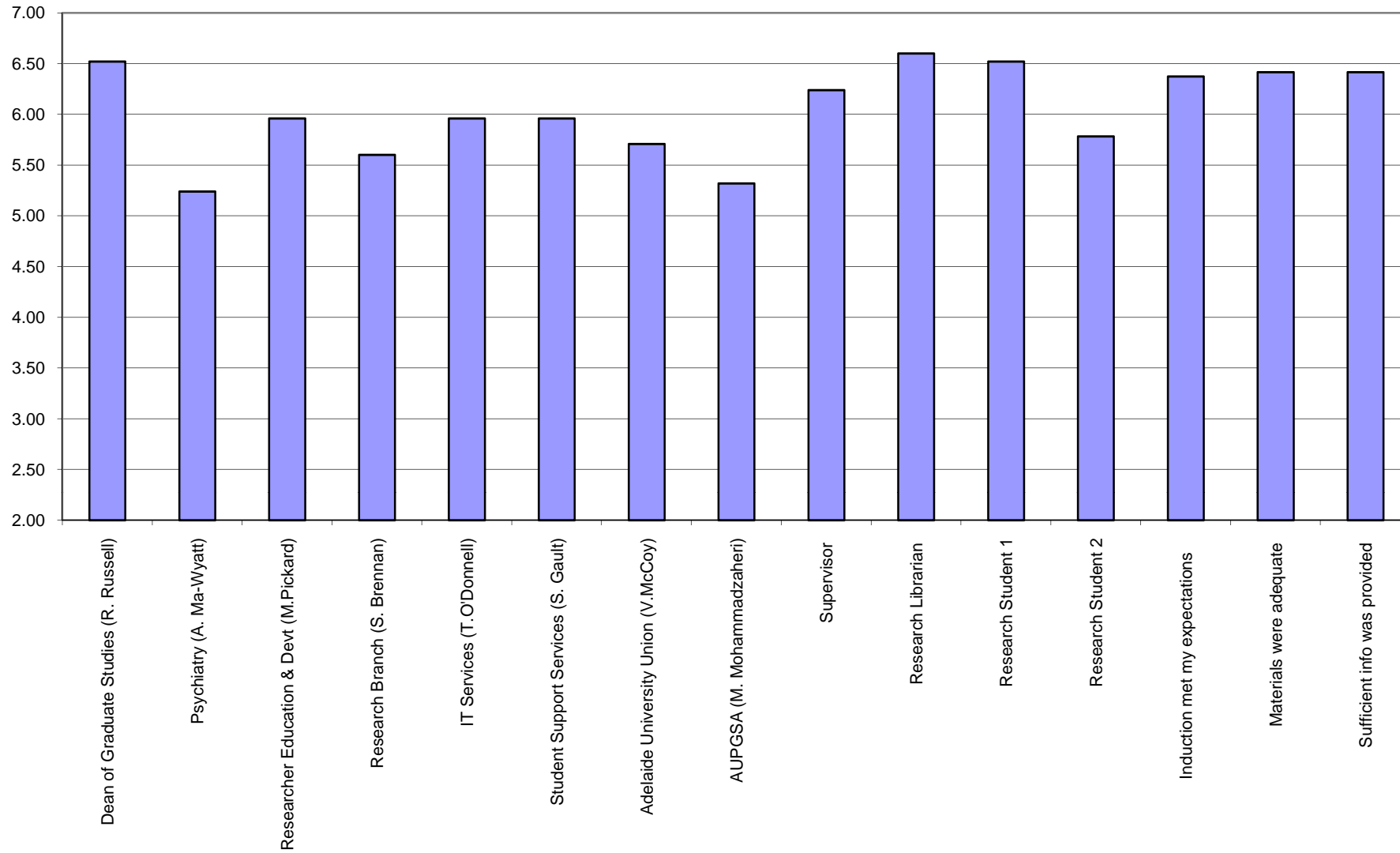
****The table below shows the averages for the Faculty of Health Sciences****



Postgraduate Research Induction, 24 July 2009

The content of the talks was informative and interesting (scale: 1 =strongly disagree, 4=undecided, 7=strongly agree)

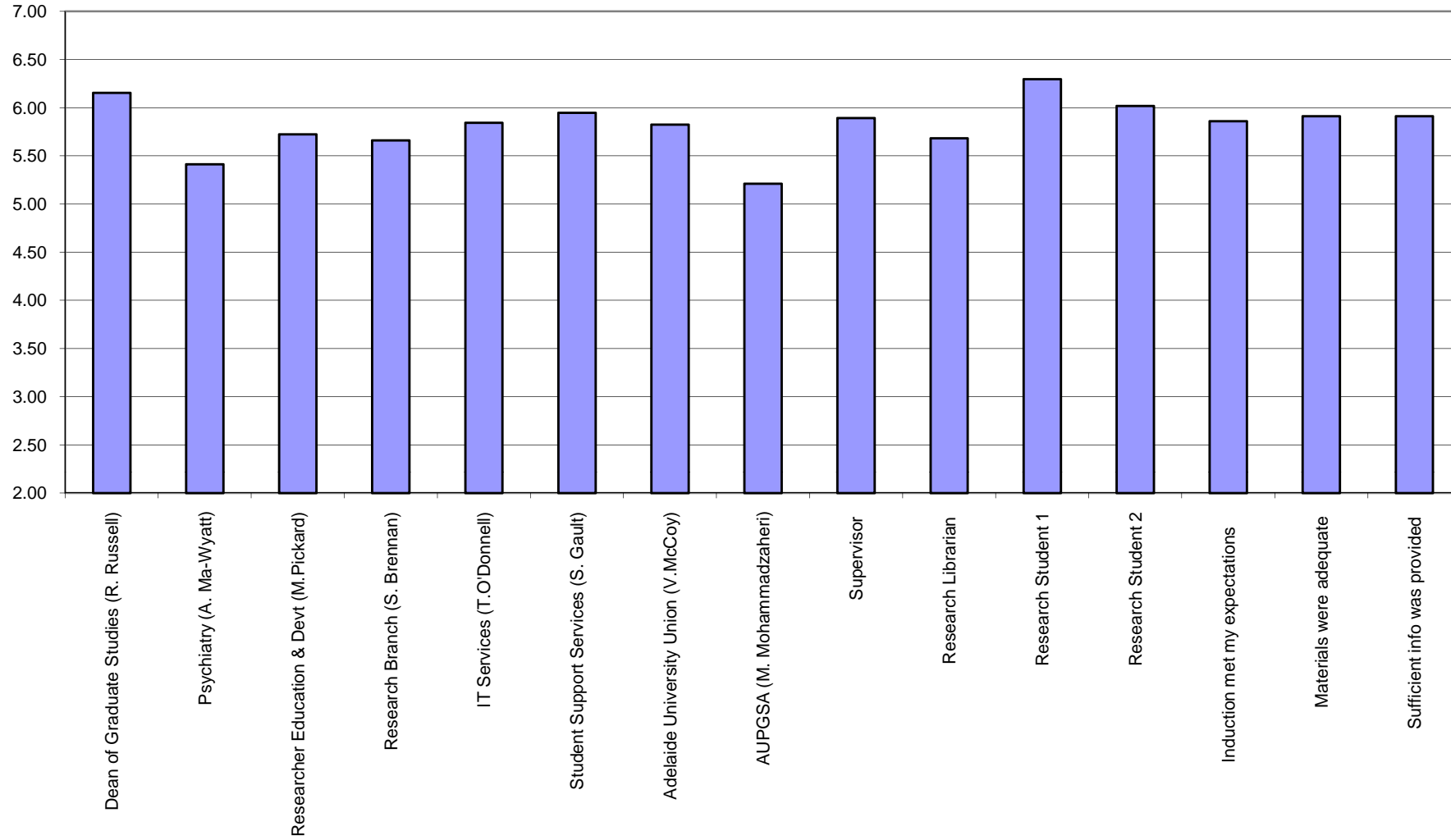
****The table below shows the averages for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences****



Postgraduate Research Induction, 24 July 2009

The content of the talks was informative and interesting (scale: 1 =strongly disagree, 4=undecided, 7=strongly agree)

****The table below shows the averages for the Faculty of Sciences****



Attachment B



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION SEMESTER 2, 2009

Friday, 24 July 2009
Napier 102 Lecture Theatre, Level 1, Napier Building

SESSION 1:

An introduction to University of Adelaide Staff, Services and Resources available as you commence your postgraduate research degree.

8.50 am	Student Registration: Collection of Induction Packs and Name Labels
9.10 am	The Adelaide Graduate Centre and how to get off to a good start with your research degree <i>Presented by Professor Richard Russell, Dean of Graduate Studies, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
9.50 am	Meeting in the middle: expectations of PhD students and supervisors <i>Presented by Dr Anna Ma-Wyatt, Lecturer, School of Psychology</i>
10.00 am	Researcher Education and Development (RED) <i>Presented by Dr Michelle Picard, Director, Researcher Education, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
10.15 am	Research Ethics and Compliance <i>Presented by Mr Simon Brennan, Director, Research Branch</i>
10.25 am	Morning Tea Break
10.55 am	Online Services <i>Presented by Mr Terry O'Donnell, Project Manager, Information Technology Services</i>
11.10 am	Student Services at North Terrace Campus <i>Presented by Ms Sandra Gault, Transition Unit Coordinator, Student Support Services</i>
11.25 am	Student Care Office of the Adelaide University Union (AUU) <i>Presented by Ms Vicki McCoy, Education and Welfare Officer, Student Care Office</i>
11.35 am	Adelaide University Postgraduate Students' Association (AUPGSA) <i>Presented by Mr Morteza Mohammadzaheri, President AUPGSA</i>
11.40 am	Proceed to respective venues for session 2 (see over)
	<i>Each panel member presents a talk: (see over)</i>
11.50 am	Supervisor talk
12.10 pm	Research Librarian talk
12.20 pm	Research Student 1 talk
12.30 pm	Research Student 2 talk
12.40 pm	Group Discussion, information sharing, questions and answers
12.55 pm	Evaluation
1.00 pm	Program Conclusion

SESSION 2

Friday, 24 July 2009

Designed to give students the opportunity to hear from senior postgraduates on how to survive..... and enjoy life as a research student! Session 2 also addresses: useful information about supervision, navigating the library, putting together your research proposal and a valuable group discussion, question and answer time.

GROUP	AGC LEADER	PANEL	VENUE
Sciences	Ms Sheryl Jurgens	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A/Prof Eileen Scott <i>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Angela Mills <i>Waite & Roseworthy Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Dominic Skinner <i>School of Earth and Environmental Sciences</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Stephen Talbot <i>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> 	Napier Building Napier 208
Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences	Ms Rosanna Scarsella	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Wen Soong <i>School of School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Michael Draper <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Jayesh Minase <i>School of Mechanical Engineering</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Morteza Mohammadzaheri <i>School of Mechanical Engineering</i> 	Napier Building Napier 102
Health Sciences (Including Dentistry and Medicine)	Ms Barbara Little	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr David Haynes <i>School of Medical Sciences</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Maureen Bell <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Jordan Roberts <i>School of Psychology</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Kayla de la Haye <i>School of Psychology</i> 	Napier Building Napier G04
Humanities and Social Sciences <i>and</i> The Professions	Ms Jade Wildy	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Heather Kerr <i>School of Humanities: English</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Margaret Hosking <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Vinh Lu <i>School of Business</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs Joy Ricci <i>School of Social Sciences: Asian Studies</i> 	Napier Building Napier LG24

7. ADELAIDE GRADUATE CENTRE RESPONSE TO STUDENT FEEDBACK

General or recurring themes noticed in comments provided by students are summarised below:

Separate Induction Sessions for new and continuing students of the University

The Graduate Centre is aware that some of the information may already be known by some students particularly those who have studied at the University of Adelaide previously. The program has been developed however to cater to students new to the University, as well as those who are commencing a research degree for the first time, to ensure that all receive the information required to set them on the right path.

We could consider separate sessions for new and continuing students in the future but the current program provides an opportunity for students to meet others from different backgrounds as well as some supervisors.

More Specific School and Individual Program Information

In Session 2 we divide into Faculty/School groups to attempt to provide more specific information to students. Due to room capacities and numbers of students it is not feasible to have a separate group for each school. Most Schools also hold their own individual Induction program.

Supervisors in Session 2 try to give an overview of research candidature and often include information about developing a research proposal, producing conference papers and journal articles, ethics, intellectual property and myuni. Sometimes time constraints prevent an in depth discussion on individual subjects however. As this information can also vary from school to school it would be better for the differences to be covered at the Individual induction program conducted by most schools. As school induction programs are traditionally held at the beginning of the year however some students may not have commenced studies in time to attend their School's induction program

Information for part time and remote students

The information presented is valuable for part time and remote students. Any problems with accessing facilities should be addressed on admission or when applying for remote status.

8. CONCLUSION

The Graduate Centre appreciates students' feedback and suggestions for improvements to the sessions and will review future programs to meet the needs of all students.

It is apparent that the induction program is still considered to be of benefit to postgraduate research students and it is hoped that the development of the on-line version will address some of the issues raised by the participants. It is hoped that all students who attended the July induction found it beneficial.