



- Present:** Christina Boswell, (Convener), Catherine Burns, Jarmo Eskelinen, Stuart Forbes, Ian Hatch, Laura Jeffery, Chloe Kippen, Susan McNeill, Edd McCracken, Antony Maciocia, Andy Mount, Fiona Philippi, James Smith, Lorna Thomson
- In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Jen Cusiter, Katherine Quinn, Lynn Walford
- Apologies:** George Baxter (Ian Hatch attended as EI representative)
- Invited:** Sheila Fraser, Anne Sofie Laegran

1. Note of Last Meeting (25 October 2022)

Paper A

Approved

2. Matter Arising

2.1 Minute 6: CMVM report. It was agreed that the new NHS Lothian – University Framework would be presented at this meeting (Agenda item 4)

2.3 AOB: Sustainable Travel Policy: The College Research Managers had assisted the RSG secretary in seeking researchers’ views on whether greater delegation of authority to allow exceptions would simplify implementation of the policy. Those who responded not only gave their views on the question asked but also provided their views on the Sustainable Travel Policy in general and how Diversity Travel operated.

Action:	Convener and RSG secretary to meet with Deputy Director of Finance and Director of SRS to convey the views provided by researchers about the Sustainable Travel Policy and Diversity travel and agree a way forward.
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3. Convener’s Update

The Convener briefed RSG on the following subjects:

- Research Cultures action plan
- Horizon Europe and Plan B
- UK Government changes
- The Future Research Excellence Programme
- Latest Chancellor’s Fellows recruitment round

4 Strategic Impact Fund

Head of Knowledge Exchange and Impact outlined the proposal to allocate the funding for 2023/24 in accordance with the objectives set out in the University’s REG Strategic Investment Plan. The aim is to pump prime impact infrastructure and partnerships in a way that benefits a wide range of colleagues, co-produced with professional support colleagues.

Agreed:	Strategic Impact Fund would be allocated based on responses to a Call for Ideas; with College Research Offices and the Head of Knowledge Exchange and Impact working up a plan for approval by the VP Research and Enterprise.
Action:	Head of Knowledge Exchange and Impact to work with the College Research Offices to develop the scope and a process for allocating spend for 2023-24

5 University –NHS Lothian Data Sharing Framework

Paper C

Having signed the UoE- NHS Lothian Framework in November, the MVM Head of IT was now co-ordinating a cross University action plan. The Framework was essential for UoE researchers to be able to work with patient data. She outlined the commitments that the University has made as a condition to the Framework being approved by the NHS and the timescale for achievement. For the main part, the commitments amounted to tightening up existing measures so that we could easily prove we have the required level of data security, relevant staff are aware of the Framework and know what they need to do to comply. Research data security was assuming greater significance in the UK research environment. To that end, an information governance team will be set up in ERO.

6 University and Climate Change – Ambition and Opportunities

Paper D

RDI will be one of the three elements in the Climate Strategy 2030’s core theme ‘Rebalancing’. The RDI element was ambitious and the Convener outlined what the goals were. Significantly increasing the focus of our research and its impact on environmental crises should align with public research funding priorities. Furthermore, having a framework to integrate sustainability into research practice would put the University in a good place to address anticipated reporting requirements. There was a discussion about the role of the Edinburgh Earth Initiative and how it can be both a front window to showcase relevant research across the University as well as coordinating bids. The Director of College

Advancement and Health Philanthropy stated that D&A could raise the profile of EEI with philanthropists with the aim of securing funding for EEI.

Action	RSG secretary to invite the Director of the Edinburgh Earth Initiative to come to a future meeting
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7. College Reports **Paper E**

CAHSS are planning a series of activities to support ESRC centre bids. The centres are intended to interdisciplinary research that will address the UKRI priorities. CSE schools have enjoyed significant success in securing ERC awards.

8. Research and Innovation Strategy –Progress

The development of the draft strategy is progressing well. A number of the themes were standalone strands and these discussions were progressing in parallel with the themed discussions that are taking place at Research and Innovation Steering Group meetings. The Deputy Director of ERO described the next steps. A draft strategy that will weave together all the themes will be presented to a meeting of RSG in early 2023/24.

9. REF202X Planning **Paper F**

The REF202X planning paper had been considered by University Executive on 21 February and would be considered by University Court on 27th February. University Executive were supportive of the direction of travel.

10 Establishment of a Major Initiatives Governance Group **Paper G**

The need for such a group was recognised. Its establishment need to take account of the potential for overlap with the Strategic Partnerships Group and other relevant University groups. There was a discussion about where such a body should be placed in the University’s existing Research governance landscape so that there articulation with existing groups, how such the MIG group should operate, and who should be on it to ensure it was representative without being too large to be agile. Finally it was noted that initiatives could be ‘major’ because of their high profile rather than high monetary value.

Agreed:	Convenor to continue discussions about the role of a MIG and where it should sit within in the University’s governance landscape.
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11 Review of RSG **Paper H**

Members agreed that the time was right to have a review and approved the draft plan for holding the review

Agreed:	RSG secretary to carry out review of RSG which should follow the plan set out. A report on the review with recommendations would be presented to the meeting of RSG in June.
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12 People and Money

Members provided examples of the ongoing problems with P&M. The impact of these was significant for research and the people trying to support researchers. There was a discussion about the need for immediate solutions and action to address the underlying issues.

13 Audits by Research Funders

The Wellcome Trust audit had gone well. The auditors commented very favourably on the GRT initiative and inaugural Good Research Practice week. They had also made a number of observations. The starting point for the Royal Society’s forthcoming audit will be the Wellcome Trust audit report.

Papers for approval or information

11 Library Research Support report **Paper K**

UK university groups have rejected Springer Nature’s latest offer in ongoing negotiations for access to its journals.

Research Grants and Applications update **Paper L**

Noted.

13 Technician Commitment paper to University Executive **Paper L**

The paper had been presented to University Executive on 21 February which supported the recommendations.

14 Edinburgh Research Office report **Paper M**

Noted