



**Present:** Christina Boswell, (Convener), George Baxter, Chris Cox Jarmo Eskelinen, Laura Jeffery, Susan McNeill, Edd McCracken, Antony Maciocia, Andy Mount, Fiona Philippi, James Smith, Lorna Thomson  
**In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Jen Cusiter, Cathy Lord, Katherine Quinn,  
**Apologies:** David Brown, Catherine Burns Laura Cockram, Stuart Forbes, Michael Rovatsos, Sara Shinton, Dominic Tate  
**Invited** Chloe Kippen

**1. Note of Last Meeting (31 August 2022)**

**Paper A**

Approved

**2. Matter Arising**

**Paper B**

The Technicians' Commitment paper and University Ethics policy would now be considered at later University Executive meetings.

**3. Convener's Update**

The Convener briefed RSG on the following subjects:

- Recent funder visits
- UKRI funded PhD stipends
- Possibility of cuts to research funding to be announced in Autumn Statement
- Net Zero research collaborations with Glasgow

**4 Update to the University's Essential Medicines Statement**

**Paper C**

The current statement needs to be updated to facilitate access to medical technologies in the Global South, remove clauses that could be a disincentive to implementing new technologies and rebalancing references between Medicines and Healthcare Technologies.

**Agreed: To recommend to University Executive that a new Essential Medicines statement is adopted.**

**5 JeS Switch-Off and Transition to new UKRI Funding System**

**Paper D**

During 2023 there will be a transition from Je-S to the new UKRI funding platform. The transition will be a challenging time. It was vital that UKRI have effective communication about the transition and the benefits that the new system would bring.

**6 College Reports**

**Paper E**

**CAHSS:** Nicola McEwen (Social and Political Sciences) was one of three nominated for the ESRC prize for Outstanding Public Policy. Lynn Walford would be taking up a two year secondment as CAHSS College Research Manager.

**CSE:** EPCC would be joining seven other HEIs in Academic Partnership with the MET office. Its purpose is to work on advancing weather and climate modelling. EPSRC had announced new investment in Centres for Doctoral training (CDTs) for students to start in academic year 2024-2025. More detail was expected later in the autumn

**CMVM:** Two CMVM centres had each received a single donation worth more than £10 million. CMVM was nearing the end of a multi-year process of in which they had been working with Lothian Health board to update their Framework Agreement. This key agreement requires the University to implement a number of compliance steps in order that researchers can be permitted to work with NHS Lothian patient data.

Action: Head of the CMVM College Research Office will bring for the Framework Agreement to the next meeting of RSG

**7. REG uplift and Delivery Plan**

**Paper F**

The Convener outlined each of the themes of the plan to use the REG uplift as well as covering the governance arrangements and the proposed delivery plan. Members were asked to comment on the plans and timeframes for the delivery plan and their attention was drawn to two areas: the Edinburgh Career Development scheme and Ideation/big ideas seed funding. Members were supportive of the measures targeting career development for ECRs, including enhancing support for under-represented groups. To test whether the aims of these schemes were achieved an Equality Impact Assessment would be carried out.

**8. CAM – Learning from REF2021 and how other HEIs present research**

**Paper G**

The plans to communicate the results of REF2021 had been successfully put in place. The planning and delivery stages were the result of a partnership between staff in CAM and ERO, Colleges, schools and CMVM research centres. The decision to focus on the impact of Edinburgh research rather than badging everything as 'REF' had been worthwhile. This

choice meant the stories have a longer lifespan than material that is obviously associated with the REF. A study of how benchmarked Universities present their REF results had highlighted some ideas that were relevant to the University.

**9. Research and Innovation Strategy**

**Paper H**

The work strands of the Strategy and the topics within were considered. Members also noted how the work streams would be delivered and then brought together to form a strategy. It was noted that the work strands aligned with the REG uplift plans. The development of the R&I Strategy and its eventual publication would support activity to promote the University's research to external stakeholders, potential funders as well as showing how University goals for research and innovation support delivery of Strategy 2030.

**10 EI - What can we learn from other HEIs' Innovation activity**

**Paper I**

As part of the University's REF2021 learning project, EI had carried out a benchmarking exercise to learn what these HEIs were saying about commercialising their research and how they presented opportunities to potential investors. The University should do more to brand its commercialisation activity and make use of league tables in which the University was highly ranked. Mindful of the levelling up agenda, we should do more to promote how important the University is to the economy of Edinburgh and Scotland. In short we should be less cautious in presenting our strengths, in particular the number and sustainability of spinouts and DDI.

**11 Impact of economic environment on research activity**

**Paper J**

The period since the August meeting of RSG had been tumultuous to say the least. There was considerable nervousness about the impact of the political events, the follow-on effects on the economy and what this means for the HEI sector.

**12 Any other Business**

Sustainable Travel Policy and exceptions

Action	To gauge what the implementation of the Sustainable Travel exemptions was having an impact on research across the University, the RSG secretary will send out a message from the RSG mailbox to College Research Managers to be shared with schools and research centres.
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**Papers for approval or information**

**11 Library Research Support report**

**Paper K**

Noted

**12 Research Grants and Applications update**

**Paper L**

Noted