



Present: Jonathan Seckl (Convener), George Baxter, Christina Boswell, Charles ffrench-Constant, Pauline Jones, Gavin McLachlan, Andy Mount, Lydia Plowman, Sara Shinton, Tracey Slaven, Lorna Thomson

In attendance: Susan Cooper (secretary), Charlotte Brady, Catherine Burns, Lynn Forsyth, Paul McGuire, Jacq McMahon, Dominic Tate

Invited: Lesley McAra, Adam Rusbridge (to item 4)

The Convener thanked Lydia Plowman as the outgoing Dean of Research for CAHSS for the hard work she had invested in her role and for championing the adoption of best practice in respect of research integrity.

1 Note of Last Meeting Paper A

Approved

2 Matters Arising Paper B

Actions undertaken or planned were noted. Further progress with regard to meeting the expectations of the Open Data concordat would be made by Christmas (Minute 6.1 referred).

3 Convener’s Update

The Convener reported on:

- The first meeting of the University’s REF Board held on 1 December;
- The Chancellor of the Exchequer’s Budget statement on 22 November and opportunities therein;
- How UKRI will operate until the formal transfer of responsibilities and dissolution of RCUK and Innovate UK;
- The new chair to the SFC Council Board was Mike Cantley. Three new board members, including Prof Lesley Yellowlees who had recently retired from the University, would join him.

4 EDINA Data Mining Proposal Paper C

The EDINA Project Manager outlined the benefits of the EDINA Text and Data mining proposal and the next steps that were planned. In principal members welcomed this innovative proposal and recognised it had the potential to enable researchers to carry out searches on entire text of outputs rather than just abstracts. They also felt that more work was needed before the group could back the proposal.

Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EDINA Project Manager should carry out further work to strengthen the Text and Data mining proposal. 2. Convener to review the revised proposal and, if appropriate, agree to it returning to a future meeting of RPG so that the group could decide if it wishes to endorse the proposal.
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5 The UK Government’s Industry Strategy Green Paper and University’s Response to New Opportunities

After the presentation from the Director of Edinburgh Innovation (EI), the main points in the discussion were:

- General agreement from members, particularly the Deans, that we need to redouble our horizon scanning activity so that we are in a good place to quickly respond to calls for research proposals that address the interdisciplinary Grand Challenges;
- The changes to EI should enhance its ability to support research commercialisation;

6 REF2021 Update Paper D

Members welcomed the news that three members of University staff had been appointed as REF2021 subpanel chairs and noted the University’s REF2021 board had held its first meeting.

7 Engaging the Public with Research Paper E

Public Engagement Strategy, which CMG had referred to RPG for discussion, had been developed as a part of the University’s commitment to ensuring that practices that engages the public with research become part of our culture. After confirming how the delivery of the Strategy would be supported in terms of staff resource, the Assistant Principal, Community Relations sought members’ views on how to embed the strategy:

- One of the purposes of the strategy was to support existing public engagement activity across the University by facilitating the formation of network for relevant staff so they could learn from each other more easily;

- Public Engagement was one means aspect of demonstrating the impact of research beyond academia and as such could be of use in developing some of the REF2021 impact case studies;
- Support with turning the Public Engagement proposals that were included in Pathways to Impact statements that form a part of grant applications into actual plans would be welcomed by the Colleges;
- We must redouble our efforts to maximise the generation of all impact from the University's research.

8 Research Grants and Contracts Update

Paper F

After commending CSE for their recent achievements, the Director of the Research Support Office (RSO) confirmed that her staff were well prepared to support academic colleagues in the task of preparing strong grant applications that would ensure that the University continued to perform very well relative to Russell Group peers.

9 College Reports

Paper G

The Convenor thanked the Deans for their informative reports and commended the team at the MRC Centre for Reproductive Health, who had been awarded a biennial Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education for their work to improve Women's Health.

10 Emerging Major Funding Opportunities

The key to future grant application success would increasingly be dependent on bringing together interdisciplinary research teams and having the best intelligence on emerging opportunities. These distinct but interconnected work strands would involve both academic and support staff working together and having the right skills mix. To ensure our current performance is sustained into the medium and long term we also need to consider succession planning.

Action	The Director of the RSO and Dean of CSE to develop a strategy paper on how we can maximise our success in securing large grant awards
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11 Responsible Metrics

Paper H

Given the growing importance of research metrics and use of software platforms such as Scival, members accepted that was important that the University develops a policy with the objectives of being better informed about the valid ways of using metrics and the limitations of using metrics. Once such a policy had been drafted and discussed by College Research Committees, members considered it would be appropriate for the RPG to consider recommending that the University becomes a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment.

Action	The Head of Library Research Support, Director of RSO and Head of Strategic Performance and Research Policy would work together to develop a draft policy on research metrics and their use.
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12 RCUK Governance of Good Research Conduct

The Director of the RSO and the RPG secretary were working with HR and IAD to update the University's Research Misconduct for staff so that it took account of the new RCUK reporting requirements.

Action	The Director of the RSO would present the revised draft Research Misconduct policy and rollout plan to the next meeting of RPG.
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For Information or Approval

13 *For information:* Research Ethics and Integrity Update

Paper I

14 *For information:* Research Support Office

Paper J

15 *For information:* Library Research Support Report

Paper K

16 *For information:* University Response to the House of Commons Enquiry on Research Integrity

Paper L