



Present: Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Christina Boswell, Charles ffrench-Constant, Pauline Jones, Andy Mount, Sara Shinton; Rena Gertz (to item 4)

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

Apologies: Lynn Forsyth, Gavin McLachlan, Tracey Slaven, Lorna Thomson

1 Note of Last Meetings (8 October 2018) Paper A

Approved

2 Matters Arising Paper B

Actions undertaken or planned were noted.

3 Convener’s Update

The Convener reported on:

- Recent Brexit developments
- The importance of actively engaging with European partners, including LERU
- Launch of joint PhD provision with Glasgow
- Possible developments relating to the scope of the Nagoya Protocol¹

4 Brexit and Data Sharing Paper C

If the UK leaves the EU without a Withdrawal Deal with the EU, the arrangements for sharing personal and medical data between UK and EU based organisations will end after 31 March 2019. In that circumstance, the UK will be deemed a Third Country in accordance with the Clinical Trials Regulation. As a Third Country the UK would have to show that it can provide adequate protection for personal data. Should the EC deem the UK *in toto* to be unable to provide an adequate level of protection, there is scope of the UK Higher Education sector to demonstrate that it can provide sufficient protection for a sectoral adequacy decision. Support from EU Universities would be crucial to making such a case to the EC.

Action	Data Protection Officer to work with Deans to produce simple guide on what staff will have to do if there is a ‘No Deal’ Brexit and their research uses personal or medical data sent from a HEI in the EU.
Action	Data Protection Officer to draft a paper for the Convener to use as the basis of discussions to elicit support from LERU.

5 Responding to Plan S Paper D

There is the widespread support for Plan S from national European funders, including UKRI, as well as two major charities with others expected to follow. Given the speed with which Plan S will take effect – 1 Jan 2020, it is vital that the University not only responds directly to the consultation on Plan S that has been launched by the grouping of European Funders mentioned above but also contributes to the Russell Group and LERU responses.

- Members confirmed that they support Plan S but also raised a number of points about initiative.

Action	Head of Library Research Support to develop a simple guide to Plan S with links to sites listing journals that are OA compliant, once further information has been published by cOAlition S.
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6 Developing a Responsible Metrics Policy Papers E

Members noted that considerable progress has been made toward developing a UoE statement on Responsible Metrics that would be relevant to good practice in all three Colleges.

Agreed	To recommend to University Executive that the University signs up to DoRA in 2019. This commitment would be accompanied with a statement on how the UoE makes responsible use of metrics in decision making.
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¹ <https://www.ed.ac.uk/research-support-office/toolkit-for-applicants/policy-a-z/nagoya-protocol>

7 Strategic Research Development Team **Paper F**

The Strategic Research development team provides greater capacity for horizon scanning as well as research trend analysis. Members found the selection of the SRD team's work informative.

8 Enhancing Research Practice across UoE **Paper G**

Members expressed general agreement with the REIRG proposal to hold a Good Practice Research event supported by academic leads from each College. The intention behind such an event would be to move the focus toward creating a positive research integrity culture by recognising that small improvements in research practice areas yield sizable benefits. Planning such an event makes sense as REIRG anticipates that the revisions to the UUK concordat on Research Integrity will place a stress on HEIs actively supporting a culture that promotes best practice.

9 REF2021 Update **Paper H**

Analysis of the Open Access status of the outputs submitted to the Mock REF was encouraging. A short statement should go with the Code of Practice drawing attention to the key points for staff comments.

10 Developing Strategic Partnerships **Paper I**

Progress is being made.

11 College Reports **Paper J**

Deans were thanked for their informative reports.

12 Research Grants and Contracts Update **Paper K**

Awards are behind last year's record at this early stage.

AOB Review of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Research Staff

Action	Deans to send any comments on the draft response to the Head of Researcher development at IAD
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For Information or approval

11 Research Support Office **Paper L**

Noted

12 Library Research Support Report **Paper M**

Noted

13 Research Ethics and Integrity Report **Paper N**

Noted