



Research Policy Group

Note of meeting Monday 20 February 2017

Present: Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Jeremy Bradshaw, Pauline Jones, Catherine Burns, Andy Mount, Lydia Plowman, Tracey Slaven, George Baxter, Mark Stevens, Robin Rice

In attendance: Jennifer McGregor (Acting Secretary), Charlotte Brady, Paul McGuire, Jacq McMahon, Dominic Tate, Lynn Forsyth

Apologies: Gavin McLachlan, Hamish Macandrew, Brian Walker

George Baxter was thanked for attending the meeting in respect of item 4. Mark Stevens was thanked for attending in place of Brian Walker and Robin Rice was welcomed in place of Gavin McLachlan. Catherine Burns was welcomed to the Group as Head of Strategic Research Development, representing Hamish Macandrew.

1 Note of Last Meeting

Paper A

Approved

2 Matters Arising

All matters arising were addressed in the substantive items on the agenda.

3 Convener's Update

The Convener reported on:

- The appointment of the new Principal
- Mark Walport announced as Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation
- The involvement of the University in the Rosalind Franklin Institute
- Latest Developments on the City Deal process.
- How UoE will want to position itself in the EU
- The appointment of Lorna Thomson as Head of the Research Support Office, replacing Hamish Macandrew.

4 REF2021 Consultation

Paper B

Pauline Jones outlined areas of debate across the University. Points discussed included the definition of independence of staff, numbers of outputs per staff member, interdisciplinarity, non-portability of outputs and the resubmission of impact case studies submitted for REF 2014.

Action	Jonathan Seckl and Pauline Jones to finalise the consultation response.
---------------	---

5 ERI Vision for increasing research commercialisation

Paper C

George Baxter presented a summary of ERI's business plan strategy outlining the role of ERI, the opportunities for the University, and his vision for the future. Members discussed the reformed approach of ERI and agreed that industrial money awarded to the University is a good proxy for activity. The recently-announced industry strategy challenge fund would create further opportunities. It was noted that co-ordination of support for funding applications would be crucial.

Action	Further discussion between Lydia Plowman, Andy Mount, Brian Walker, Jonathan Seckl and George Baxter to ensure co-ordination of activity.
---------------	---

6 Research income update

Paper D

Both applications and awards are up compared to last year, with RCUK income up by around £44m from the same period last year and charity and EU Government income continuing to grow. Members also discussed new research commercialisation metrics and noted that while applications for industrial income are increasing the success rates have dropped (perhaps an inevitable effect of increased applications). George agreed to provide metrics for areas where we are particularly strong for the next meeting.

Action	George Baxter to provide further metrics for areas of strength for the next meeting.
---------------	--

7 Global Challenges research fund update**Paper E**

Catherine Burns reported on actions from the first meeting of the GRCF Steering Committee which took place in January 2017. Members noted that the SFC GCRF allocation would be aligned as far as possible to FEC on research funded through Newton or GRCF from April 2016. Some funds will also be used for ODA compliance. There has been a good number of UoE applications, but without the high levels success which we would have liked to see, as yet. A review of GCRF progress and lessons learned will take part. .

Agreed	Catherine Burns to report to next RPG meeting on main GCRF issues.
---------------	--

8 Research Support Office update**Paper F**

Members were informed that Charlotte Brady is working with GaSP and Library Research Support to develop a dashboard of useful research management information including sources of research income, spend, number of PhD students and Chancellor's Fellows for Schools and Colleges.

It was noted that there was a crossover with work being undertaken in CAHSS. Jacq McMahon and Charlotte will liaise.

Action	Jacq McMahon to provide details of contact for work already being undertaken in CAHSS.
---------------	--

9 College Reports**Paper G**

The Convener thanked the Deans for their reports. It was agreed that the reports helped highlight opportunities, best practice and synergies between Colleges. Colleges should continue to produce them.

10 Library research support update**Paper H**

Dominic Tate outlined that the paper on the UK Scholarly Communications Licence will go to PSG as soon as legal advice had been taken. Input from Research Deans is sought to inform the procurement of the Research Analytics Tool. CAHSS and Dominic Tate need to engage about compliance issues.

Action	CAHSS to engage further with Dominic for compliance issues relating to Open Access
---------------	--

11 Elsevier Data Lighthouse**Paper J**

There was unease about Elsevier seeking free consultancy, curating our data and charging us to access it. The Group suggested that there could be an opportunity for UoE to partner either with Elsevier, or with other universities, to deliver a similar service. The Group was clear that UoE should remain in control of this, and that we could lead on this work with other HEIs, and enter into bilateral conversations with potential partners.

Action	George Baxter and Gavin McLachlan to engage with Mark Parsons to discuss complexities of this approach
---------------	--

12 AOB

For the REF readiness reports, it was agreed that it would be useful to get information on lessons learned. Pauline will address this.

The Convener noted that he is currently reviewing the structure of RPG, with more focus on strategic issues. The membership of the Research Policy Group may therefore change.

13 College Research Ethics and Integrity reports**Paper K**

The content of the helpful and detailed reports was noted and accepted.