



## Research Policy Group

Note of meeting Monday 26 June 2017

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**Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Andy Mount, Lydia Plowman, Tracey Slaven, Brian Walker

**In attendance:** Susan Cooper (Secretary) Charlotte Brady, Paul McGuire, Lynn Forsyth

**Invited:** Catherine Burns, Damon Querry, (to item 7 inc), Sara Shinton

**Apologies:** Jeremy Bradshaw, Pauline Jones, Jacq McMahon, Dominic Tate, Lorna Thomson

### 1 Note of Last Meeting

Paper A

Approved

### 2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not addressed in the substantive items on the agenda.

### 3 Convener's Update

The Convener reported on:

- Outcome of the General Election and the implications for research
- BREXIT discussions and implications for research
- LERU meeting of Vice Rectors of Research
- The opportunities available from the next round of calls for applications to the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) applications
- Wellcome Trust's new scheme to support translational partnerships

### 4 Becoming a Forum for more Strategic Discussions

Paper B

There was agreement that the discussion of necessary operational matters should be embellished by strategic issues bearing on research across the University.

It was agreed that RPG would make use of working groups to address and report on a specific issues.

### 5 REF2021 Update

Paper C

RPG discussed the following topics:

- The probable timetable for REF2021 announcements
- The options being considered for staff eligibility for REF2021
- Output portability, institutional impact case studies and the relationship between staff FTE and number of outputs to be submitted.
- Possible changes to UoAs for REF2021
- Joint submissions

Conversations with HR were continuing about implications of the 'Stern Review' proposal that all 'staff with any significant responsibility to undertake research' should be submitted to REF2021.

### 6 Supporting our Research Staff

Paper D

Sara Shinton (Head of Researcher Development/ Assistant Director, Institute of Academic Development) presented proposals about how IAD could work with Schools and Colleges to support researchers at key points in their careers as well enhancing the skills sets of those seeking to apply for interdisciplinary grants. The key points addressed were:

#### Supporting early career researchers

- The development needs of postdocs and ECRs will differ across academic disciplines. MVM has well-established programmes for supporting clinical early career researchers and IAD's proposals should be capable of being embedded within this provision. Any new IAD provision for this group should fit with existing provision from Schools.
- Enhancing the existing support by Schools and Colleges for postdocs and ECRs would be beneficial to the University, particularly as it would further embed our commitment to the '*UK Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*'

### Mid-career researchers

- Staff at the mid-point in their research careers have different development needs from postdocs or ECRs.

### Collaborative grant application

- This proposal was intended for those were new to making large interdisciplinary grant applications

## **7 Research Dashboard**

**Paper E**

Members offered the following feedback:

- GCRF or ISCF awards could be shown as sub-set of RCUK awards
- Income from commercial activity should be visible
- Stacking the 'doughnuts' that represent separate academic years would improve the layout

## **8 Research Support Office Update**

**Paper F**

A discussion about the portfolios of the advertised posts would take place with the Colleges and RSO directly.

## **9 Supporting Big Bids**

The key themes outlined in a CSE presentation on supporting Big Bids, robust internal review and the value of dedicated support from RSO, were agreed to be of general relevance.

Action	Deans to consider what further collaborative action they could take to support to support large bids
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## **10 European Partnerships**

The recent round of visits to other European Universities had been initially successful, with more visits due in the autumn. The outcomes would then be analysed and the most propitious partnerships would be progressed.

## **11 College Reports**

**Paper G**

The Deans were thanked for their informative reports.

## **12 Library Research Support Update**

**Paper H**

All vacancies in the Library Research Support teams had been filled. Scival would be available to University staff to support a number of activities including identifying potential collaborators and analysing research trends.

Action	Library Research Support to provide training opportunities to RPG members as part of the roll out of SciVal
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## **13 AOB**

On behalf of the Group, the Convenor thanked the Dean of MVM, who was leaving the University, for his outstanding support.

The following papers for information were noted:

## **14 Research Ethics and Integrity Review Group Report**

**Paper I**

## **15 Research Grants and Commercialisation Update**

**Paper J**