



- Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Christina Boswell, Charles Ffrench-Constant, Gavin McLachlan, Jacq McMahon, Andy Mount, Sara Shinton, Tracey Slaven, Lorna Thomson
- In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Caroline Laffey, Paul McGuire, Bridget Mellifont, Dominic Tate (to item 4), Jeremy Upton
- Invited:** Catherine Burns, Kirsty Collinge (to item 8)
- Apologies:** Lynn Forsyth

**1 Note of Last Meeting (7 October 2019) Paper A**

Approved

**2 Matters Arising Paper B**

Minute 9: Service Excellence – Managing Research application and awards

The existing pre- and post-award procedures will be maintained until after a review of the newly combined service. The other actions undertaken or planned were noted.

**3 Convener’s Update**

The Convener reported on:

- R&D promises in the Conservative party’s General Election manifesto
- Muscatelli report on Universities’ engagement with industry and their contribution to economic growth<sup>1</sup>
- Barnett formula and the Scottish Government’s budget decisions
- Recent major research funding successes

**4 Updating the UoE Research Publication Policy Paper C**

The Convener congratulated those involved with the development of the new policy, which will enable the University comply with Plan S, major UK funders as well as saving money while and also ensuring freedom to publish.

Harvard and Imperial College have already adopted similar policies without encountering difficulties. Enabling the University to hold the copyright of outputs of research carried out here would bring a number of benefits. It was thought that making outputs OA potentially at an earlier stage would lessen the value of outputs in journal format – thus subscriptions to journals were unlikely to diminish. The authors of Plan S have already acknowledged the potential impact on niche journals which were of particular value to certain disciplines. The communications about the policy to staff need to stress the benefits of being within the policy and the negative impact of opting out.

Action	Head of Library Research Support to tighten up the paragraph about opting out of the policy
Action	Head of Library Research Support to work with Deans of Research to develop clear staff communications

**5 Implementing UUK New Research Integrity Concordat Paper D**

The expectations placed on Universities under the new concordat were more stringent than before. The University already satisfied the most immediate requirements of the Concordat, such as publishing an annual research integrity report. The action plan showed both University’s current ability to meet all the other new Concordat expectations on Universities as well as the work needed to ensure that we can demonstrate that we are fully compliant. The Director of ERO described the immediate action that would take place in the New Year. The senior academic who had accepted the 0.2FTE role as Research Reproducibility Champion had agreed to be explicitly involved with the delivery of the action plan. The UK research funders that were signatories to the Concordat had recognised there was a need for publically accessible repositories for research that yields null or negative results.

<b>Agreed:</b>	RPG should recommend the establishment of a recurrent budget for Research Integrity compliance
Action	Director of ERO to ensure that the new Research misconduct policy includes a clear statement on what information can and cannot be released and to whom in the case of FoI requests about allegations

**6 Actively valuing the University’s Research Reputation Paper E**

Members were asked to consider whether there was a need for a University level process to review research funding offers that could be considered contentious. After a discussion, it was agreed that there was a need for a set of

<sup>1</sup> SFC press release & link to Muscatelli report (commissioned by Scottish Government) <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/news/2019/news-77799.aspx>  
For the version of the minutes to be uploaded to the RPG web page, text highlighted in yellow will be redacted as commercially sensitive

principles that would guide those having to review such funding offers, which would be mindful of the fact that acceptance of an offer not only depended on the source of the offer but also how the funding offer would be used.

Action	CSE Dean of Research to bring a paper on the principals to be considered when determining whether to accept research funding from a source that could be contentious.
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### 7 Implementing New Researcher Career Development Concordat

Paper F

Members warmly welcomed the paper and the proposed process for developing an action plan and KPIs. Discussions had already started to set up a small group to develop an action plan and a broader consultation group. Three strands of activity have been identified: those for delivery in the first 24 months after signing; those needing a longer timeline and resources to implement; and those that needed concerted action across the sector. The proposal to appoint two careers consultant for researchers would be one of the early actions. The distribution of advisers' time must take account of the spread of 'Research -only staff' across the Colleges.

Members recognised the importance of having clear structures in place to support those academic staff who were working on research programmes initiated by more senior colleagues. There was general agreement that RPG should have a further discussion about the merits of establishing a 'Postdoc College'.

Agreed	RPG would recommend to University Executive that the we become a signatory to the new Concordat
Agreed	RPG would support the case to establish two career consultations who would be based in USG
Action	IAD Assistant Director (Researcher Development) to present a paper on 'Postdoctoral Colleges'.

### 8 Academic Talent Strategy for Research Funding

Paper G

The ERO strategy was a welcome development and its implementation was timely given item 7. Members agreed with both the number and definition of the career levels as well as the plans for tailored offers reflecting their particular needs. As academic career plans are not always unidirectional or linear it would be useful if the strategy could explicitly recognise this. To help individuals to know which training offers were right for them, clear descriptions of the intended audience were needed. Members were pleased to learn that the sessions could be booked via MyEd.

Action	CEO of EI to liaise with the ERO Assistant Director (Strategic Research development) so that the EI training could be mapped onto the ERO framework: thus showing the training covered innovation.
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### 9 Core Systems Update

The major project to replace the Finance and HR systems was now called 'People and Money'. Referring to a paper circulated to members for comment at the start of November, the Chief Information Officer described developments that address the three key points had been raised at the June meeting of RPG. Pure and Worktribe were now both ranked as top priority packages because of the REF2021 submission.

Action	CIO to ensure that RPG is provided with regular progress reports
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### 10 Promoting Grant Application Activity

Paper H

A separate meeting of the Deans, the Director of ERO and the Convenor will be held to discuss the proposals.

### 11 UoE Research Grants and Applications Update

Paper I

Noted

### 12 Deans' Reports

Paper J

Noted

**For Information or approval**

**13 Responsible Metrics Working Group Update**

Noted

**Papers K**

**14 Library Research Support Report**

Noted

**Paper L**

**15 Edinburgh Research Office Update**

Noted

**Paper M**