



Research Policy Group

Note of meeting on Thursday 26 February 2018

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

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

Invited David Leach (to item 5)

Apologies: Paul McGuire, Tracey Slaven

1 Note of Last Meeting Paper A

Approved

2 Matters Arising Paper B

Actions undertaken or planned were noted. The Research Support Office will circulate a draft paper on making the most of emerging major funding opportunities.

3 Convener's Update

The Convener reported on:

- Encouraging engagement with SMEs
- The latest major grant award successes
- Being better able to grasp opportunities that develop by being more agile and working across disciplines
- UCU action over changes to pensions
- Brexit and implications for research at Edinburgh

4 Open Science Paper C

The three main policy goals for EU research and innovation are Open Innovation, Open Science, and Being Open to the World. In an EU context, Open Science means spreading knowledge gained from research as soon as it becomes available. This EU goal remains important to the University although the UK has voted to leave the EU because it aligns with the University's Strategic Plan. Furthermore, post-Brexit the University will continue to be a member of LERU.

Members supported the general view that the University should show we are committed to the goal of Open Science. Open Science offers opportunities could be of long term benefit to research at Edinburgh but we must also recognise the costs and challenges, not least pushback from academic publishers.

A further paper on Open Science was planned and would take the ideas further. The topics should include how to communicate the benefits of Open Science, which go beyond Open Access, as well address the costs and challenges of Open Science, such as ensuring data security and ethical use of data. The issue of Open Monographs that was particularly relevant to AHSS also needed to be reconsidered.

Action	Head of Library Research Support to bring an extended paper to a future meeting of RPG that showed clear next steps, which, if appropriate, RPG can recommend to the University Executive.
Action	CAHSS Dean of Research to hold further discussions within her College to explore the issues around Open Monographs and making more use of Edinburgh University Press.

5 REF2021 Update Paper D

The REF manager outlined the shape and scale of the planned Mock REF. Colleges were making progress with the task of implementing the Initial Academic Staff Decisions Framework.

6 Promoting Good Research Conduct Paper E

The need to revise the University's Research Misconduct policy had provided an opportunity to adopt the policy for handling research misconduct developed by the UK Research Integrity Office. The adoption of UKRIO policy with a glossary of terms and their UoE equivalents brings several advantages, not least of which is that it would take considerable time to develop a completely new policy. Assuming the draft policy was formally adopted by RPG and approved by the University Executive and the recognised trade unions, a dissemination plan would be

put in place. The purpose of the plan would be to maximise awareness not only of the Research Misconduct policy but also of the support and information available to staff and students to promoted best research practice.

Approved	The revised Research Misconduct Policy, subject to clarifying the points raised by the CSE Dean of Research.
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7 College Reports **Paper F**

The Convenor commended the Deans for their reports that were far sighted and offered a useful insight.

8 Research Grants and Contracts **Paper G**

The latest picture showed the University was performing very well. The University's submissions to the current round of CDT renewals were progressing well. The Convenor also drew attention to encouraging developments in regard to seeking GRCF funding. Success in regard to securing industrial awards was more variable and the Convenor reiterated the points made previously about engagement with industry especially SMEs.

For Information

9 *For information:* Research Support Office report **Paper H**

10 *For information:* Library Research Support Report **Paper I**

Deans agreed to that it would be helpful to reiterate at relevant College meetings that it is University policy¹ that all research outputs [regardless of whether they will be submitted for REF assessment] should be recorded in the University 's Research repository [PURE].

11 *For information:* Universities UK, UK Research Integrity Office and Wellcome Trust **Paper J**

12 AOB: Responsible Research Funding

The Director of RSO was in discussion with the Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement and Executive Director of Development and Alumni, Chris Cox and they were working together to develop proposal to bring to a future meeting of RPG.

¹ <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/about/policies-and-regulations/research-publications> (University Research Publications policy)