



- Present:** Christina Boswell (Acting Convener), 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, Katherine Quinn, Dominic Tate
- Invited:** Kevin Ashley (to item 8), Malcolm Macleod, Jen Milne (to item 6), Anne-Sofie Laegran (from item 8)
- Apologies:** Jonathan Seckl, Lynn Forsyth

1 Note of Last Meeting (18 December 2019) Paper A

Approved

2 Matters Arising Paper B

The actions undertaken or planned were noted.

3 Convener’s Update

The Acting Convener reported on:

- Research Fish/ Research Outcomes Exercise – the application window closes on Friday 12 March
- Research Misconduct policy – feedback should be submitted by Friday 6 March
- Plans to enable staff to contribute to the University’s response to the UKRI Open Access Review Consultation

4 European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and UoE Paper C

The Digital Curation Centre (DCC) plays a key role in this Europe wide data curation initiative. It is part of the EU wide commitment to Open Science which includes making datasets Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). The aim is to facilitate academics to work across a greater range of datasets rather than just those that are held within their institute or accessible via national networks. Although some academic disciplines have mature data sharing practices already many other do not and could benefit from this initiative. It is hoped that the UK’s involvement will continue after the transition period has ended. The future shape and structure of EOSC was under discussion and it would be beneficial if the University used the national and European channels open to it to express its views.

Action	DCC Director to keep RPG up to date with EOSC developments via the RPG secretary.
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5 People and Money Update Paper D

The Chief Information Officer and Deputy CIO together outlined progress to replace the current Finance and HR systems with a combined package that would provide HR and finance functionality.

Action	Deputy COI to provide regular reports to RPG as well as the current project timetable
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6 Research Funding Due Diligence Principles

RPG acknowledged that the current due diligence process is oriented towards managing institutional risk; whereas a values statement would provide a framework for staff to reflect on broader ethical implications of their research, in particular in light of UoE’s commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals¹.

Action	CSE Dean of Research to bring a paper on a values framework to inform research funding and practices to the next meeting
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7 Research Integrity and Improvement Paper E

Members thanked Academic Lead for Research Integrity for the comprehensive scoping work he had carried out and noted that external funding to support specific initiatives was being sought. The four themes he had identified were discussed. Each of these large themes have a part to play in creating a healthy research culture which would interplay with the University’s commitment to promote research integrity and research improvement. The focus of the Academic Lead would be on the first theme, namely to create a framework to improve the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of research. He would also work with IAD and ERO in regard to the other themes.

¹ <https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/news/archived-news/2018/sdgs-report>

Action	Academic Lead for Research Integrity to report on progress achieved and future plan in the Autumn
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8 Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund Update **Paper F**

The EI and the schools which had participated so far had learnt a number of valuable lessons as a result of bids submitted to date with industrial partners that had been successful.

9 UKRI and Pathways to Impact **Paper G**

Members discussed how to ensure that future grant applications show that the impact and knowledge exchange would be an embedded element of activity funded by UKRI following the UKRI's decision to no longer require applicants to submit a 'Pathways to Impact' statements. This was a cultural shift and research support staff would have a key part to play in facilitating those submitting grant applications to adapt to this new approach.

10 Deans' Reports **Paper H**

The Deans highlighted key points from their reports that they wished to bring to the attention of RPG.

11 UoE Research Grants and Applications Update **Paper I**

The University was on course to exceed its performance in 2018/019 in terms of the both the number of applications and awards. Members were reminded that research funding could only count toward the REF2021 submission if it was recorded as spent in the 2019/20 period.

For Information or approval

12 Library Research Support Report **Paper J**

Noted

13 Edinburgh Research Office Update **Paper K**

Noted

14 Research Ethics and Integrity Group Report **Paper L**

Two USA charities that fund research had recently changed their terms and conditions. These changes raise questions in regard to how to comply with the new conditions and GDPR.

Action	Director of ERO to investigate whether a joint response could be adopted by the Russell Group in regard to the challenges raised by the changes to the terms and conditions of two specific Research funders
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15 Responsible Metrics Working Group Update **Papers L**

Action	RPG secretary to ask the Working Group to bring an action plan to the next meeting showing the practical measures that they recommend schools adopt to make use of research metrics with regard to DORA
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