



Research Policy Group

Note of meeting on Wednesday 26 June 2019

- Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Christina Boswell, Charles Ffrench-Constant, Gavin McLachlan (to item 4), Pauline Jones, Andy Mount, Sara Shinton, Tracey Slaven, Lorna Thomson,
- In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Lynn Forsyth, Paul McGuire, Dominic Tate,
- Invited:** Catherine Burns (RSO), John Jeffery and Caroline Woodside, (EI); Robin Rice (IS to item 7); Lesley McAra (Law, to item 5)
- Apologies:** George Baxter, Jacq McMahan

1 Note of Last Meetings (25 February 2019)

Paper A

Approved, subject to amending minute 8 to show that the base to be established would be a virtual entity.

2 Matters Arising

Paper B

Actions undertaken or planned were noted.

3 Convener's Update

The Convener reported on:

- The QS World University rankings for 2019
- Perceptions of Plan S across Europe, China and USA
- Post-18 Education Review (The Auger Review) and implications for Scotland
- Developing implementation policy as the University was now a signatory to DORA
- Status of University's GCRF and ISCF applications and future opportunities

4 Pure and Core Systems

The Chief Information Officer confirmed that discussions were ongoing to ensure the successful adoption of the new HR and Finance systems in 2020

Action	Chief Information Officer to provide an action plan covering how research management activities will be supported by the new core systems and during their implementation.
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5 Engaging Public with UoE Research – Implementation

Paper C

The senior academic lead on Community Relations and former Assistant Principal Community Relations described the work required to set up a multidisciplinary team to deliver this project which brought together staff from IAD, SRS and RSO as well as academic staff with a track record of Public Engagement (PE). The first task was to carry out a stocktake of the PE already taking place. With this information the team would turn to promote best practice across the University. Members acknowledged that academic staff would require advice and guidance in order to deliver more high quality PE.

6 Promoting Cross College Research Themes

The cross-College themes are a different stages of development and each and tailored plan to bring it forward was being agreed between the Deans and RSO. After a discussion about the cross College themes and the Strategic Plan to 2030 that was in development, it was concluded that they were congruent and both relate to the UN Goals of Sustainability and Reliance¹ to which the University was committed.

7 Research Data Management and Supporting Open Research

Paper D

Research Data Support (RDS) can provide a range of services to researchers including information, advice and guidance on how to build data plans into their research grants. In response to questions, members noted that the University hosted several research data stores. Having several repositories was necessary because the data security requirements that researchers must satisfy can vary. For example NHS data cannot be held in the same safe haven as a data from a number of other types of project. Commercially funded research can also come with other very specific data storage rules. RDS can guide researchers to the right data store solution for them.

Action	Head of Library Research Support and Head of Research Data Support to provide a report on how IS and EPCC are working together to deliver a combined digital data storage service
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¹ <https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/governance-publications-reports/reports/2017-18/sustainable-development-goals>

8 Research Support Developments

RSO had been going through a period of transformation.

Action	Head of Research Support Office to report on service delivery once the RSO transformation period was completed
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9 Developing Export Controls Policy for relevant UoE Activities

Paper F

Members recognised the need for such a policy.

10 College Reports

Paper G

The Convenor welcomed the evidence of considerable cross disciplinary research activity across all three colleges.

11 Research Grants and Contracts

Paper H

Performance was steady.

For Information or approval

12 Annual UoE Research Ethics and Integrity report

Paper H

Approved

13 Library Research Support Report and Open Science and Plan S

Papers J & K

Papers withdrawn. Updated papers to be presented to next meeting of RPG

Action	Head of Library Research Support to provide a report on the UoE download stats from Research portal relative to peers
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14 Research Ethics and Integrity Report

Paper L

Noted

AOB Training Grants

Action	Head of Strategic Performance and Research Policy to investigate how Research Training Grants are reported to HESA in the Finance return.
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