



- Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), George Baxter, Christina Boswell, Pauline Jones, Andy Mount, Sara Shinton, Tracey Slaven, Lorna Thomson
- In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Charlotte Brady, Lynn Forsyth, Paul McGuire, Jacq McMahon, Dominic Tate
- Apologies:** Gavin McLachlan, Charles ffrench-Constant

1 Note of Last Meetings (9 August and 26 February 2018) Paper A

Approved

2 Matters Arising Paper B

Actions undertaken or planned were noted.

3 Convener’s Update

The Convener reported on:

- Successful academic year 2017/18 in terms of securing research funding. The increase in funding from Industry was particularly welcome;
- Encouraging start to 2018/19 in regard to number of grant applications; and
- The development of the Knowledge Exchange Framework and likely assessment requirements

4 BREXIT and UoE Research Paper C

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the UK Government’s Underwrite Guarantee assures funding for UK based researchers even if they are notified of the success of their Horizon 2020 application after the EU exit providing the application are submitted before 29 March 2019. UKRI has set up a Horizon 2020 portal to collate information about projects and participants within scope of the Underwrite Guarantee.

Deans confirmed that staff would appreciate a clear and positive message about applying for EU funding which sets out what they need to do. The message should confirm that individual academics should NOT use the UKRI Horizon 2020 Portal: this will be done for all staff by RSO.

Action	Convener to write to all staff about research and innovation 2017-18 results and EU arrangement
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Members also discussed some of the post Brexit scenarios. Further action would be dependent on whether there was an UK – EU deal and its terms.

5 Supporting Our Research Staff Papers D & E

The UK Concordat for the Development of Researchers is being revised again. It is expected that the University will be able to comply with any changes to the Concordat. Some of the recommendations are already known and IAD will have discussions with relevant staff in HR and Colleges to ensure that the University is ready to respond

The Convener congratulated IAD, which had become the lead on one of the eleven EPSRC-funded projects to improve equality, diversity and inclusion within Engineering and Physical sciences. IAD are the partner institution on two other EPSRC projects within the same suite.

6 Promoting Major Bids Paper F

The Deans, Directors of RSO and EI had proposed five cross University themes and three potential themes.

The Convener confirmed that the themes were well chosen.

Action	1 Deans to lead conversations about the themes in their Colleges and, by working together, to identify leads for the five themes. 2 Directors of Research Support and Edinburgh Innovations to work with the Deans to develop each theme into an outline business plan to present at the next meeting of RPG.
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7 Open Research

Paper G

Members were asked whether the University should have single senior academic leader for promoting awareness of Open Research as defined by the LERU Roadmap or devolve leadership to Colleges. With the growing importance of ORCID both for Open Research and as a REF data item, there was merit encouraging staff to register for an ORCID ID within an updated University Research Publications Policy.

Action	Deans and Head of Library Research Support to bring to RPG a recommendation to support Open Research at UoE.
Action	Head of Library Research Support to initiate a review of the University's Research Publications Policy.

8 PGR Provision with Glasgow

Paper H

The Convener outlined the likely timing of a joint PGR studentship scheme with Glasgow.

9 Research Grants and Contracts Update

Paper I

The University had had two outstanding years.

AOB Strategic Plan Refresh

GaSP were refreshing the Strategic Plan published in 2016. The plans to take forward the major bids would fit well with the initial discussions about the research aspects of the plan.

Action	Director of RSO and Head of Strategic Performance & Research Policy to work together to ensure alignment between the Strategic Plan refresh and the Major bids strategy
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For Information or approval

11 Research Support Office

Paper J

Noted.

12 Library Research Support Report

Paper K

The Convenor congratulated the Dean of Research for AHSS on her schools' level of Open Access compliance which were all above 95%.

13 Setting up a University Impact Network

Paper L

Noted