



- Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Christina Boswell, Charles Ffrench-Constant, Jacq McMahon, Andy Mount, Sara Shinton, Tracey Slaven (to item 3), Lorna Thomson,
- In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Lynn Forsyth, Dominic Tate
- Invited:** Louise Ker (to item 4), Lee Hamill (item 9)
- Apologies:** Gavin McLachlan, Paul McGuire

**1 Note of Last Meeting (26 June 2019) Paper A**

Approved

**2 Matters Arising Paper B**

Actions undertaken or planned were noted.

**3 Convener’s Update**

The Convener reported on:

- Publication of the new Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat>
- The expected publication of the UUK Concordat on Research Integrity later in October

There was general agreement about the importance of supporting Early Career Researchers and the need to provide the right development opportunities to ECRs as well as enabling Postdoc Research Assistants to develop their careers. It was also recognised that training would be a key theme in the new UUK Concordat on Research Integrity when published.

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| Action | IAD Assistant Director (Head of Researcher Development) to provide an action plan covering the expectations placed on the University as an Employer of Researchers in the VITAE concordat |
| Action | Director of Edinburgh Research Office (ERO) to provide an action plan covering the expectations placed on the University as an Employer of Researchers in the UUK concordat               |
| Action | IAD Assistant Director (Head of Researcher Development) and Director of ERO to work together so that their action plans acknowledge the expected synergy between these concordats         |

**4 Edinburgh Research Office New Web Presence**

Louise Ker from ERO introduced members to the new ERO website and SharePoint site and explained the intended audiences and key features of each site<sup>1</sup>. In discussion, the importance of sending researchers targeted messages about funding opportunities relevant to them was stressed. This involves the Colleges and ERO working together.

**5 Research Awards and Grants Performance Paper C**

- The Convener summarised the University’s recent research award performance

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| Action | Deans to consider what University wide or College specific incentives would encourage more grant applications and present their ideas to the next meeting of RPG. |
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**6 Maximising Industrial Funding**

After summarising the University’s performance relative to other Scottish Universities and the upper quartile of the Russell Group, the CEO of Edinburgh Innovations used a series of recent examples to illustrate the types of support provided by EI to promote researchers and their PG students to engage with industry. A series of initiatives were developed to encourage more academics to work with industry.

**7 College Reports Paper D**

The CAHSS Dean was thanked for her report. The CSE and CMVM Deans summarised the main developments in their Colleges. The Convener commended the Deans for their engagement with key research councils and the City Deal.

<sup>1</sup> New Edinburgh Research Office website: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/research-office>  
Direct Link to Insights, Intelligence and Analytics Area: <https://uo.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchSupportOfficeIntelligence>

## 8 Enhancing Rigour and Reproducibility of Research

Paper E

Having agreed that University should join the UK Reproducibility Network, the University Executive had asked RPG consider how to appoint Academic Champion to lead this initiative.

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| Action | CSE and CMVM Deans to work with the Director of ERO to agree an appointment process |
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## 9 Service Excellence – Managing Research Applications and Awards

The Finance Director advised members that, as part of the Service Excellence Programme, a there had been a review of how pre- and post-award management work. The review had been solely concerned with the activities of the teams in Finance and ERO. The review had shown that considerable benefits would be gained from bringing both teams together to deliver seamless 'cradle to grave' award management under as part of one operation under a single director. This approach had been approved by the SEP board in July. The next steps were to agree the details of the new structure and appoint Director for the new operation. During this period, the Finance and ERO would work together develop and deliver a communications plan to show how the new team would work with researchers as those supporting research in Centres, Schools and the Colleges.

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| Action | On Directors of Finance of Finance and ERO to develop a series of scenarios that would illustrate how the new structure would operate and what this would mean for researchers and research managers |
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### For Information or approval

#### 11 Revised Research Policy Group Terms of Reference

Paper F

Approved, after members agreed that the reference to the REF should be changed to state 'Ownership of the processes for the delivery of external assessments such as the Research Excellence Framework'

#### 12 Responsible Metrics Working Group Terms of Reference

Papers G

Approved

#### 13 Library Research Support Report

Paper H

Noted. The list of MVM centres included in the Open Access report to RPG would be reviewed.

#### 14 Research Systems Governance Report

Paper I

Noted

#### 15 Edinburgh Research Office Update

Paper J

Noted

#### 16 Research Ethics and Integrity Group report

Paper K

Noted