



- Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), George Baxter, Christina Boswell, Chris Cox, David Brown, Jarmo Eskelinen, Stuart Forbes, Jane Hillston, Antony Maciocia, Susan McNeill, Andy Mount, Michael Rovastos, Sara Shinton, Lorna Thomson
- In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Charlotte Brady, Lena Lorenz, Edd McCracken, Jacq McMahon, Katherine Quinn,
- Invited:** Theresa Merrick, Louise Ker
- Apologies:** Edd McCracken, Laura Cockram, Jen Cusiter, Pauline Manchester, Dominic Tate

1. Note of Last Meeting (11 March 2021) **Paper A**
 Approved

2. Matter Arising **Paper B**
 All actions noted.

3. Convener’s Update
 The Convener briefed members on the following topics:

- How the mooted reduction in social distancing rules in Scotland would be beneficial to research activity within our safe environments and the steady rise in footfall
- The third wave of Covid infections and the fact that vaccinations are having a very significant lessening the impact but Long Covid may have a lasting effect on the health of some survivors
- Evidence is needed that shows the consequence of the cuts to GCRF funding
- Emergence of the areas that ARIA was likely to support and key role its senior team would play in shaping the agency
- Changes of the senior personnel at UKRI

4. Promoting University Research to a UK and Global Audience **Paper C**
 The paper was warmly welcomed by RSG. The key points from the discussion were:

- How to ensure that CAM can facilitate the senior leadership team, Court members and other groups such as DDI ambassadors so that they can use suitable opportunities to promote the University and its research
- That having an external impact can be via means other than engagement with the media
- A balance has to be struck between having strategic themes and promoting these as well as recognising the breadth of the University’s research activities
- Creating a consistent core message that can be promoted by those across the University with CAM duties as a part of their job description as well as CAM professionals. The Director of CAM outlined some measures that would facilitate, which included creating a cross University community of CAM practitioners and a concept of professional expectations

Action	Director of CAM to work with Colleges, ERO and EI to develop more integrated and homogeneous support for promoting Research. This should recognise the complexity of requirements for various internal and external audiences
Action	Director of CAM to continue to work collaboratively with Director of DDI and make best use of DDI case studies.
Action	Director of CAM and Director of ERO to, by working together, give priority to communications with key stakeholder groups other than the media, for example University Court and its committees

5. Colleges’ Forward Plans for Research **Paper D1-D3**

Noting UK Government’s Life science strategy¹, members agreed that the time was right for the University to have its own Life Science strategy drawing relevant strengths of all three Colleges. CAHSS were investigating how to create the concept of across Colleges cohort of ECRs which by working together would form interdisciplinary links at the start of their careers as independent researchers.

Action	Dean of CMVM to talk to counterparts at Dundee University about accessing Wellcome LEAP funding
Action	Deans and VP Corporate Services to work together to develop a University Life Science Strategy

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-sciences-industrial-strategy>

6. REF2021 Equality Impact Assessment

Paper E

After noting that the REF2021 Equality Impact Assessment document had been written specifically to satisfy one of the conditions of REF submission, members approved the report. Attention then turned to what further analysis would be useful for determining next steps and what E&D information could be provided to Colleges about the spread of REF2. It was acknowledged that it would be beneficial to carry out an Equality impact on the staff listed on REF impact case studies has having carried out research that underpinned an impact case study as well as general discussion about the results.

Approved: To send the EIA to the Scottish Funding Council in order to comply with one of the conditions of participation in REF2021

Action	On the RSG secretary to prepare an EIA for internal use on the staff listed on REF Impact case studies
Action	On RSG secretary to provide the Colleges information on the REF2 spread by E&D and employment characteristics by School if the size of a UoA means providing data that could identify individuals

7. Research Metrics Group – Final Report and Recommendations

Paper F

The paper was generally welcomed. Members offered feedback on the three main recommendations:

- **Communications:** Broad support
- **Research Metrics for Promotion:** Adding the number of grant applications to the existing a basket of metrics for promotions would be beneficial. Grant awards must remain a key metric especially for promotion to senior grades.
- **Narrative CVs:** The use of narrative CVs was of interest. However the use of narrative CVs in place of the traditional format could unintentionally place women and those for whom English is not their first language at a disadvantage. Instead, members considered the adoption of template for covering letters to accompany CVs that was more structured would be beneficial.

After noting the breadth of the remit of the Research Culture group, it was agreed that this subgroup should give the report more detailed consideration and recommend actions

Action	On the DVP (Research) as Convenor of the Research Culture Working group arrange for the WG to, after taking note of the points raised in the RSG discussion about appropriate research funding metrics for promotion and narrative CVs, to consider the report and, in due course, to recommend actions
Action	On the DVP (Research) as Convenor of the Research Culture Working group to consider how to integrate oversight over the responsible use of research metrics into the business of the Research Culture working group

8. Working with the BEIS Research Collaborations Advice Team

The BEIS team was intended to provide researchers with advice and guidance on security-related topics, such as export controls, Cyber security and the protection of intellectual property. The team was being recruited and once in place the team members would have to engage with the HEI community in order to provide the advice and guidance needed. It was understood the team would be dispersed across the UK in order to facilitate engagement with researchers

9. Edinburgh Research Office Update

Paper G

Despite the challenges of the resumption of restrictions and a second COVID lockdowns in 2020/21, it was anticipated that by the end of the year the number of research grants and applications would be higher than forecast. The vacant posts in ERO were gradually being filled which would ease the considerable pressure on ERO staff. As a part of Growing Research Together, ERO would hold conversations about what hybrid working model would optimally fit its operations

FOR INFORMATION OR APPROVAL

10. RE2021 Staff Circumstances Report

Paper H

Approved to send to the report to the Scottish Funding Council to comply with one of the conditions of participation in REF2021

11. Revised terms of Reference for REIRG

Paper I

Approved

12. Research Engagement TOR

Paper J

Approved

13. Research Culture TOR

Paper K

Approved

14. Research Culture report

Paper L

Noted

Research Ethics and Integrity report
Noted

Paper M

16. Research Grants and Application report
Noted

Paper N

17. Library Research Support report
Noted

Paper O

18 Elsevier Science Direct Negotiations
Noted

Paper P