



Present: Jonathan Seckl (Convener), George Baxter, Christina Boswell, David Brown, Chris Cox, Jarmo Eskelinen, Jane Hillston, Antony Maciocia, Susan McNeill, Michael Rovastos, James Smith, Dominic Tate, Lorna Thomson

In attendance: Susan Cooper (secretary), Charlotte Brady, Laura Cockram, Lena Lorenz, Jacq McMahan, Katherine Quinn

Invited: Pauline Manchester, Mark Parsons, Lana Smith

Apologies: Jennifer Cusiter, Stuart Forbes, Edd McCracken, Sara Shinton

1. Note of Last Meeting (19 August 2021) Paper A

Approved, after it was noted that Jane Hillston had sent her apologies.

2. Matter Arising Paper B

All actions noted.

3. Convener's Update

The Convener briefed members on the following topics:

- CSR and what it could mean for funding for UKRI
- UK participation in in Horizon 2020 and how it may be funded
- Putting UoE Research Funding Due Diligence procedures into practice
- UKRI Open Access rules and negotiations with a number of large academic publishers

4. Research Information Governance Support for Researchers Paper C

There was a need to support the increasing number of researchers who were using or generating data that needs specific controls. Until recently the number of such researchers had been relatively small as was their call on support from Legal services and ERO to ensure that the data controls were compliant. In order to provide the same support on a sustainable basis to a larger number of academics, it was proposed that a small Information Governance Research Team is created funded by a charge being placed on all grant applications for projects that have controlled data. RSG acknowledged the need for such a team and supported a charge added to grant applications. RSG considered that formal responsibility for research information governance was part of the remit of RSG's convener.

Action	On the Personal Chair for HPC and the Director of ERO to come up with a business model that would enable an Information Governance Research Team to be funded on a sustainable basis
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5. REF2021 Preparations: Lessons Learnt Paper D

The report written by the SVP's Project and Policy Officer and Deputy Director of Planning and Policy would be a valuable legacy document for the planning stage of the next REF. A further document about the lessons to be learnt will be written once the REF2021 results are published in May2021.

6 SFC Research Funding

The Scottish Government response's to the SFC review of Coherence and Sustainability has not been published yet. It is anticipated that future SFC block grants for supporting research and PGRs will come with additional conditions SFC are expected to hold a consultation on the future formula for REG and RPG funding in the New Year. It was expected that the SFC will set up a modest fund to enable the formation of multidisciplinary pools. Accessing it would be conditional on HEIs committing to double match funding. RSG will return to the topic of SFC research funding at its next meeting, after the Scottish Government's budget is published on 9 December

7. College updates

7.1 CAHSS Paper E1

CAHSS has adopted nine interdisciplinary research themes that address global challenges. Each theme could be shown to be interconnected with the other eight themes: this was illustrated by the connections between Data and Digital. All CAHSS research can now be tagged in PURE to show which of the themes it contributed to which will assist with external audience. Several of the themes such as Health and Wellbeing and Energy and Sustainability already brought to researchers from across all three Colleges. In a discussion, RSG acknowledged that further cross college linkages were possible particularly in regard to DDI. To ensure that the themes at an earlier stage in development have good academic leadership it would be beneficial to have generic description of the role of theme leader.

7.2 CSE Paper E2

Having presented CSE Research Plan for 2021/22 to the meeting of RSG, the Dean outlined the key achievements to date. Having been identified as a training partner for the UKRI-EPSCRC funded Rosalind Franklin Institute's new PhD training programme, work was ongoing to develop training programme. Four CSE staff had been awarded prestigious UKRI funded

fellowships. A process of reviewing CSE Schools' research strategies was underway which takes account of the changing funding landscape.

8. Innovation Developments – UoE/ Scotland/ UK/ EU

Members received an outline of the current initiatives which align with UoE Strategy 2030 and *Technology Families* described in the UK government's *Innovation Strategy*. The Director of Strategic Partnerships and his team had secured a meeting with the Chief Executive of RBS to make a pitch for funding to support innovation that would facilitate the transition to net zero.

9. UK Govt Innovation Strategy – Engagement Preparation

Paper F

Progress had been made to ensure that the University makes a submission to consultations in the UK Government's *Innovation Strategy*. RSG noted potential senior academic leads for existing/anticipated UK government consultations. Given the need for agility, RSG noted that a task and finish group should be set up to manage responding to consultations and thinking through what the strategies mean for UoE. The Convener anticipated that the *Levelling up White Paper* would be a matter of considerable interest across the University. The *Terms of Reference of the Independent Review of the Research, Development and Innovation Organisation Landscape* had been published, but there was residual uncertainty about how it would be conducted.

10. Growing Research Together

The Growing Research Together Programme has been working hard through the design phase, including facilitating a six day intense co-design week including exploring research support capabilities and stretch delivery models to inform the building of future models. The programme team is distilling the information and working towards building future delivery models options to be design and tested with stakeholders ahead of any formal decision of the future delivery model.

Action	Programme Manager (GRT) to produce a statement for Schools summarising the current status of GRT and the next steps in the timeline
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11. ERO report

Paper G

The UKRI audit last week had taken place last week.

FOR INFORMATION OR APPROVAL

12. Research Data Management Policy

Paper H

Approved. The need for clear guidance to academics on the new policy was noted.

13. Grant applications and Awards update

Paper I1, 12, I3

Action	On the CSE Dean of Postgraduate Research to produce a paper on PGR numbers, ideas for improving numbers and the PGR student experience which would take into account post-graduation opportunities
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14. Library Research Support update

Paper I

Noted

15. Research Culture subgroup update

Paper K

Noted

16. Research Engagement Subgroup update

Paper L

Noted

17. NSIA Developing UoE processes and messaging

Paper M

Noted.

18. University response to BEIS research bureaucracy consultation

Paper N

Noted