Present: Christina Boswell (Convener), George Baxter, Jen Cusiter Jarmo Eskelinen, Stuart Forbes, Laura Jeffery, Chloe Kippen, Anne Sofie Laegran, Andy Mount, Fiona Philippi, Katherine Quinn Dominic Tate, Lynn Walford; Susan Cooper (secretary)

Apologies: Antony Maciocia, Edd McCracken, James Smith, Lorna Thomson

Invited Jamie Cross (Director of EEI item 4); Alan Campbell (Research Integrity Manager, item 5); Eliane Reid (Programme Lead GRT, Item 6)

1. Note of Last Meetings (20th June and 22nd August 2023)   Paper A
Approved

2. Matter Arising   Paper B
Noted

3. Convener's Update
The Convenor's briefing covered:
- UoE activity to support researchers to apply for Horizon Europe funding following the UK announcement
- Activity to develop and deepen bilateral relationships with other large research-intensive universities in the EU/EEA
- Sectoral discussions about the REF2028 Initial Decisions document and responding to the associated consultation
- Appointment of ARIA directors and need to for ARIA to engage with Scotland from the start
- Welcome Trust award to support activity to improve research culture.

4. Edinburgh Earth Institute   Paper C
The EEI was launched at COP26 in November. The Director of EEI outlined its remit, how it operates, its activities since its establishment as well as how its current Implementation plan will articulate with the new Research and Innovation Strategy and the revised University's Climate Strategy. RSG was asked to consider nine questions covering three themes:

- Strengthening, expanding, and resourcing UoE research communities
- Extending UoE partnerships and engagement
- Maximising UoE impact through ethically informed engagement and influence

SRS is responsible for external communications about EEI. The Director of EEI acknowledged the need for a single clear message and that it would be advantageous for a single-entry point for external stakeholders and for staff to be able to easy see what EEI can offer and how they can engage. Helping staff to consider if their research contributes to the University's climate change and sustainability commitments could be likened to conversations that took place when GRCF was set up in so far as there is a need for networks to bring in those on the periphery as well as supporting already engaged in research within the scope of climate change and sustainability centre of activity already. EEI intends to both support the set-up of such networks and augment existing support for those constructing large scale bids.

5. National Institutes of Health (NIH)   Paper D
A condition of holding a grant funded by the NIH and other bodies of the US Public Health Service (PHS) is that the award holder must be compliant with the Institution's Financial Conflict policy, which in turn, must comply with that of PHS. Until recently the University had not been an NIH grant holder. A consequence of a member of staff becoming a PI on a NIH grant the University must not only develop and approve a compliant policy and procedures but be able to show that its policy and procedures are being followed. The Research Integrity Manager explained who was within scope of the policy before summarising the activity that had been taken to develop a policy and procedures. There are also Pre- and Post - Award Work Flow documents. Members noted the considerable work would have to be undertaken to ensure that staff were aware of the policy and the time that would have to be allowed to show compliance.

Approved	RSG will recommend to University Executive that the policy and procedures be approved.

6. Growing Research Together   Paper E
The GRT programme manager explained the stage that GRT had reached and what the next steps are. These can be summarised as:
- Set up one pilot study in each College to investigate the potential of having 'Local Hubs' and 'Flexible Resource Centres'. It is hoped that these pilot studies will aid the understanding of how and where it is best to deliver services. The pilot studies would be the result of an inclusive co-design approach and that should ensure the research community have a sense of ownership that the GRT team know is important.
- Scope a project to improve the research contracts service by harvesting existing data from within existing research support systems. The project had been chosen to illustrate how GRT is working to improve the services researchers

and those who support research activity need. in this case the objective is to improve the transparency and speed of delivery of the services as well as facilitating easier access to researchers.

Members welcomed the general approach of GRT and the continued commitment to involving the research community, both researchers and relevant professional service staff, in redesigning the approach to deliver research support in the University.

Research and Innovation Strategy   **Paper F**
After describing the most recent changes to the strategy, the Convener outlined the next steps in the consultation and approval processes. RSG has responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the Strategy and Implementation mapping document (Annex 1) is intended to assist RSG in this task.

The Implementation Mapping expands on the Priority Areas set out in the Strategy, by listing (a) related University strategies and plans, (b) relevant projects and initiatives and (c) which part of the University is responsible. This part of the document will be taken forward through identified 'owners' across the organisation that, in turn have to develop delivery strategies. Almost all the Priorities for Research set out in the Strategy area have more than one 'owner'. The diagrammatic approach for mapping 'owners' to the Priorities for Research indicates which Area of Responsibility has reporting duty which does not necessarily mean the Area as has operational duties. As a means of illustrating how monitoring would work, the mapping document was commended as it conveys a lot of information in a format that is easy to understand.

8   College Reports   **Paper G**
The Deans and College Research managers were thanked for their informative reports.

<u>PAPERS FOR INFORMATION</u>

9   Major Initiative Group Terms of Reference   **Paper H**
Approved

10   University Response to the REF2028 Initial Decisions Consultation   **Paper J**

| Approved | A proposal that the Convenor that she approves the final version on behalf of RSG |

<u>PAPERS FOR INFORMATION</u>

11   Library Research Support Report   **Paper K**
Noted

12   Annual Report on Research Grants and Applications for 2022/23   **Paper L**
Noted

13   Institute of Academic Development report   **Paper M**
Noted

14   Major Initiative Group – note of meeting of 31-08-2023   **Paper N**
Noted

13   Research Ethics and Integrity Group report   **Paper K**
Noted

14   Growing Research Together update   **Paper L**
Noted