Present: Christina Boswell (Convener), Liz Baggs, Kirsty Collinge, Jarmo Eskelinen, Laura Jeffery, Chloe Kippen, Lena Lorenza, Susan McNeill, Andy Mount, Fiona Philippi, Katherine Quinn, Dominic Tate, Andrea Taylor, Lorna Thomson, Stuart Tooley, Lynn Walford; Susan Cooper (secretary),

Apologies: Anne Sofie Laegran, Edd McCracken, Antony Maciocia and James Smith

RSG thanked James Smith and Stuart Forbes for their contributions to RSG and the development of the University's R&I strategy. Andrea Taylor and Liz Baggs were welcomed as the new CEO of EI and Dean of Research for CMVM respectively.

1.	**Note of Last Meetings (6th March November 2024)**	**Paper A**

Approved

2.	**Matters Arising**	**Paper B**

Noted

3.   Convener's Update

The Convener's briefing covered the following topics:

- UUK's plans to develop a blueprint that would show how UK HEIs can help the new UK Government to deliver its growth agenda.
- The Russell Group was investigating how to improve cost recovery of research. The latest TRAC data continued to show that, across the sector, research activity was dependent on a cross subsidy from international students' fees.

4	**Post UK Election Developments -Stakeholder Engagement**	**Paper C**

The Head of Public Affairs (CAM) gave a presentation which, after briefly addressing the scale of the change as a result of the recent General election, focused on CAM activity to support stake holder engagement activity. The RSG secretary outlined the developments following the General election that were relevant to the UK RDI landscape and were likely at the time of the meeting.

5   Post UK Election Developments – perspectives of the Deans of Research and CEO of EI

In a wide -ranging discussion, the following topics were addressed:

- The ongoing conversations between the University's senior leadership team and UK Government ministers in DSIT and the Scotland Office regarding commitment of funding to an exascale computer to be hosted by the University.
- A desire for clarity about what Labour's commitment to 'scrap short funding cycles for key R&D institutions in favour of 10-year budgets' means
- Labour's intention that universities are to be one of the key regional stakeholders that civic leaders will have a statutory obligation to work with to develop Local Growth Plans which will align with a new National Industry Strategy as well as an Infrastructure Strategy. The Scottish government will have a place in developing these two UK-wide strategies but what is not clear is whether HEIs in Scotland will be as involved in the development of local growth plans as will be expected in England.
- A hope that the change of UK Government would mean that there was a recognition of the value of SHAPE disciplines to the UK both in what they could contribute in themselves as well as in partnership with STEM disciplines.
- The explicit recognition of the need to ensure that start-ups have better access to finance was welcomed and it was hope that this meant that the UK Government would actively develop measures help to start-ups avoid the 'valley of death'.

Overall, there was hope that the HE sector would benefit from the change of government at Westminster and that HEIs would be seen as an enabler of the new UK Government's growth agenda. However, the hope must be tempered with the fact that the Chancellor's speech made just before UK Parliament rose for its summer recess means that it is reasonable to expect that the outcome of the Spending review to be published in Spring 2025 will mean there will be hard decisions about RDI funding.

6.	**Competency Framework for Innovation Careers**	**Paper D**

Members welcomed the Innovation Competency Framework which would set out and define the skills, knowledge and behaviors that researchers need to pursue an innovation career path.

The Framework would run alongside the University's promotion policies which were undergoing a root and branch review. It was intended to articulate with the Research Career Tool hosted by IAD and there would be signposting between the two. Colleges and Schools would have a key role in disseminating and integration the Framework that would be considered at the next CSE Colleges Research Committee. It would be an item for discussion at future Academic Strategy

Group which was attended by all Heads of School as well as a future meeting the CSE College Research Committee. EI intended to continue work to determine interlink the Framework with their resources to enable researchers to become innovation active. It was confirmed that the Framework was intended to be use as a resource that individuals could dip in and out of as needed. With that in mind it was expected that it would be used by managers as one of the resources to develop as well as Innovation managers in their roles to raise awareness of the L&D provision for innovation active researchers and those who were considering becoming active at all career stages.

Having noted the plans for the roll-out plan for the Framework, members agreed to engage with the development of strategies to maximising adoption, which would have to be tailored to be relevant to different academic disciplines and career stages. Finally, members noted that Innovate UK's Talent and Skills team and a relevant senior member of BBSRC were interested to learn more about the Framework. At present no other UK HEI has a a similar Framework.

7. College reports   Paper E
The Colleges were thanked for their informative reports. CAHSS was commended for that significant increase awards and several new key appointments were noted. The ongoing work to explore what was happening on the ground in CMVM, was of great interest. Members also noted the changes to the CMVM governance structure. CSE was congratulated on recent awards. Recent engagement with EPSRC was noted appointment of a new HoS for Engineering.

8. RSG Terms of Reference and Mapping Plan   Paper F

Approved	The draft RSG terms of references, subject to the following changes: • It should be stated that there was an intention for an ECR to become a member of RSG. • The Research Cultures Forum does not report to RSG but it can be used as a vehicle for seeking perspectives on new or revised policies.

Members welcomed the proposal to develop a diagrammatic representation of the internal committees, working groups and networks that have a relevance to RDI, which could be used as a means of consultation during policy development and dissemination.

The RSG secretary would ask members to provide a list of those internal committees, working groups and networks that have a relevance to RDI that they chair or as a member together with the name of the person who acts as the secretary to that group.

PAPERS FOR APPROVAL
9. Research Sustainability Working Group ToR   Paper G
Approved.

10. Doctoral College Management Committee ToR   Paper H
Approved

11. Research Culture Forum ToR   Paper J
Members noted that as the Forum did not report to RSG as such its ToR did not need to be approved but welcomed the opportunity to see it.

PAPERS FOR INFORMATION
12. Library Research Support   Paper K
Noted.

13. Research Grants and Applications update   Paper L
Noted.

14. Edinburgh Innovation KPIs   Paper M
Noted

15. Edinburgh Research Office report   Paper N
Noted

16. Research Ethics and Integrity Group report   Paper O
Noted

17. Major Initiative Group Notes of meetings   Paper P
Noted

18. REF2029 Board Terms of Reference   Paper Q
Noted