



- Present:** Christina Boswell (Convener), Aileen Applebaum, Liz Baggs, Theo Andrew, Jen Cusiter, Laura Jeffery, Anne Sofie Laegran, Andy Mount, Antony Maciocia, Fiona Philippi, Katherine Quinn, Dominic Tate, Lorna Thomson, Lynn Walford; Susan Cooper (secretary)
- Apologies:** George Baxter, Kirsty Collinge, Jarmo Eskelinen, Stuart Forbes, Chloe Kippen, Edd McCracken, James Smith, Dominic Tate
- Invited** Antonia Chatzopoulou Chatzi (item 6), Kim Graham

RSG thanked George Baxter for his years of leadership at Edinburgh Innovation. He would be taking up an appointment in New York.

1. Note of Last Meetings (30th November 2023) **Paper A**
Approved

2. Matters Arising **Paper B**
Noted

3. Convener's Update

The Convener's briefing covered the following topics:

- The external and internal launch of the University's Research and Innovation strategy
- The innovation career path would be put in place by the summer
- Discussions had started to create a government engagement plan for the new R&I Strategy, which would align with the University's overall government engagement strategy
- Scotland Beyond Net Zero¹ was launched at Holyrood on 23rd January. It is a collaboration between Scotland's HEIs to support Scotland's goal of achievement Net Zero by 2045. The founding members are Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- The EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation had visited Edinburgh on 12th February
- Several visits of UK research funders would be taking place in the coming months

4 REF2029

The Head of REF, Performance & Planning had been appointed and would be in post by 1st May. The first meeting of the REF board would be in late May. Pending more news about the UKREF PCE pilot being announced, a group had been set up to consider what PCE metrics the University would be able to produce. The pros and cons of taking part in the REF PCE pilot were discussed, with RSG members noting challenges in participating given the continued disruption created by P&M. Deans were reminded that by 31st August it should be agreed who the UoA coordinators in their Colleges would be. It was intended that there would be introductory meeting for UoA coordinators in the early autumn.

4. RSG Terms of Reference and Mapping plan **Paper C**
Paper withdrawn and will be presented at a future meeting.

5. College Research Reports **Paper D**

For CAHSS the value of awards currently stands at £28M which is almost three times the size of the same time last year (£9.9M) and more than double the 3-year average of £13M. In the latest recruitment round for Chancellors' Fellows, CAHSS had met the gender diversity targets. CMVM were carrying out a college wide governance review. As a consequence of this they would be recruiting a number of leadership roles which would include appointing a new Dean of Research. CMVM had had a number of recent significant awards from the MRC and several UK charities. CSE would lead one of the UKRI Engineering Biology Hubs, two EPSRC AI hubs and had also had success securing four new EPSRC CDTs. CSE were assessing how relevant staff could be supported to successful applications for the Faraday Discovery Fellowships² announced in the Autumn Statement.

6. Strategic Grants **Paper E**

The Head of Research Bid Development outlined the Research Support Services Framework for prioritising and confirming delivery of support for strategic external grant application and how her team (Strategic Proposals) were working with College Research Offices to enable submissions to be made to calls for large grant applications to strategic opportunities. The ERO team and College Research Offices will identify how different types of opportunities will be supported and how decisions will be made considering which team/s are able to provide input and at what level to make best use of resources.

¹ <https://scotland-beyond-net-zero.ac.uk/about/>

² [Faraday Discovery Fellowships | Royal Society](#)

7. Fixed Term Contracts – Substantive Fellowships and Pooled Staff

Paper F

RSG considered three proposals.

1 To carry out a data gathering exercise to identify best practice across the University in regard to the transition of those on substantive fellowships onto open-ended contracts (OECs). In the discussion, it was noted that the exercise would have to explore the reasons for differing practice which would including looking at funders' policies, disciplinary differences, and defining what is meant by 'substantial'.

Action	Senior Policy and Officer (Research and Enterprise to carry out the data gathering exercise and report to RSG in the autumn
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2. To set up a task and finish group that would investigate the scope to create a pool of Career Scientists who would be placed on OCEs. The group's members would be chosen to bring together staff in a wide range of roles from across the University. The group would investigate best practice across the University and, if possible, the wider UK HEI sector.

Action	The Convenor to arrange for the group to be set up, which would report to RSG in the autumn
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3. There was agreement in principle to the proposal to move all Chancellor's Fellows onto OCEs and that in future CFs would be appointed to an OEC. It was noted this was a complex proposal with a number of factors that need to be worked through drawing on experience from across the University.

Action	The Director of HR partnering (and HR representative on RSG) to scope out the issues that need to be considered and, after drawing on experience from across the University, would present more detailed proposals to a future meeting of RSG. The timing would be agreed with Convenor.
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PAPERS FOR APPROVAL

8. Annual Research Ethics and Integrity report

Paper G

Approved. Members noted that the format of the report would be different next year.

9. Annual report on Researcher Development Concordat

Paper H

Approved

PAPERS FOR INFORMATION

10. Library Research Support

Paper J

Noted. LRS had carried out a light touch review of the University's rights retention policy which had improved OA stats. RSG noted that several other HEIs were adopting similar policies and that having been the first UK HEI to have a rights retention policy placed the University in a strong position.

11. Research Grants and Applications update

Paper K

Noted.

12. Edinburgh Innovation KPIs

Paper L

Noted

13. Edinburgh Research Office report

Paper M

Noted

14. Research Ethics and Integrity Group report

Paper N

Noted

15. Major Initiative Group Notes of meetings

Paper O

Noted

The Provost joined members for the second half of the meeting. In the discussion, the following topics were considered:

- External funding for PhD students and their role in supporting teaching and learning activity in the University
- Incentivising innovation by giving staff some security so they would feel better able to take a risk
- People and Money – learning from the experiences and
- Determining the right size and shape for the University to ensure that University can provide a world class teaching and learning experience as well as world leading research and impact