



RKE Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 18th February 2015, 2pm
Balcony Room

Present

Professor Lani Florian (LF) – Bell Chair of Education ETL, RKE Director and, Chair of Committee

Professor Carolin Kreber (CK) – Professor of Teaching & Learning in Higher Education and, ECS Research Lead

Professor Nanette Mutrie (NM) – Chair in Physical Activity for Health and, SPEHS Research Lead

Professor Judy Robertson (JuR) – Chair of Digital Learning and, ETL Research Lead

Dr Jen Ross (JeR) - Lecturer /Programme Director - Digital Education and, RKE Deputy Director

Dr Simon Temperley (ST) – RKE Officer

1. Apologies and Introductions

- This was the first RKE Committee meeting with Professor Lani Florian as new RKE Director and Chair of the committee.
- LF formally welcomed Dr Jen Ross as new RKE Deputy Director
- Dr Evelyn McGregor has demitted as PGR Director and will no longer serve on the committee. Her successor has yet to be appointed.
- Apologies received from Orna Mulrooney.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Circulated as **Paper A** (Minutes of RKE Committee meeting 18th Nov 2014).

- Actions reviewed and minutes checked for accuracy and accepted.
- NM requested that future RKE committee meeting papers be amalgamated into one PDF document for circulation before meetings.
- CK requested that Dr Ellen Boeren's paper submitted to the RKE Committee for the November 2014 meeting entitled 'Exploring future academic leadership' is considered/tabled in conjunction with the RKE strategy review.

3. Convener's Communications

- NM attended College Research Committee (CRC) last week on behalf of LF. Issues discussed included use of Open Access Facilitators; HEFCE deadlines; College short-life Ethics Review Committee; the need for more grant applications to large funders and an acknowledgement of the fact that large scale funders, e.g. AHRC are increasingly focussing on cross-disciplinary research initiatives; notification that a special meeting of the CRC will be called to discuss REF results and, the need for Schools to nominate candidates for college-wide peer review positions (**Action-LF/OM to put out open call for volunteers**).



- LF reinforced the importance of early career researchers and the need for more research active people. ST raised the issue of Teaching Fellows not having PURE profiles (**Action-ST to seek clarification on College policy**).
- LF confirmed that the School Executive is considering its strategy in this area. She also confirmed that there is a need to look at the School's Impact Case Studies, and others, to create a uniform understanding of what is required.

4. REF 2014

Circulated as **Papers B to D** (Confidential reports on UoAs 25 and 26; REF 2014 comparisons and, REF 2014 data list showing those entered into REF and changes since).

- LF emphasised that 'confidential' only means *not in the public domain*.
- LF would like UoAs 25 and 26 analysis reports (authored by Lydia Plowman and Grant Jarvie/Nanette Mutrie respectively) put on the MHSE Intranet (**Action-ST to put information on Intranet – not for distribution outside of University of Edinburgh**).
- LF suggested that other institutions/UoA be looked at in order to identify good exemplars of 3* and 4* submissions across all three categories.
- NM spoke of this strategy being implemented in SPEHS for sharing across the School. Researchers will be encouraged to self-assess in the form of a written paper before submitting their work. The aim is to raise 2* publications to 3*, and 3* publications to 4* standard.
- LF reported that having attended a REF meeting in London recently, all types of research methodologies gave rise to 4* outputs, and CK warmly welcomed this insight.
- LF also confirmed that in terms of the status of Education research against other institutions, UoE was competitive. However, it was noted that levels of 1* and 2* submissions were higher, and percentage of eligible FTEs returned were lower than other disciplines.
- NM to run a workshop on self-assessment criteria in March.

5. Open Access update

- ST gave the Committee a brief overview of the situation. To-date, a total of 124 people have been contacted, with 42 either already seen or to be seen shortly. A total of 17 have yet to be contacted.
- ST also confirmed that Dominic Tate (Scholarly Communications) and Dawn Hibbert (Open Access Research Advisor) are to make a presentation on OA to staff in MHSE on 25th Feb.
- NM suggested that a local fund needs to be put in place to pay for gold access fees, in instances where publications insist on charging a fee for making publications Open Access.



6. Knowledge Exchange report update

Circulated as **Paper E** (Knowledge exchange and impact, February 2015 update).

- JeR spoke of implementing a process of draft impact case studies, for UoA 25&26 (e.g. in 2016 and 2018), though emphasised these would not be full impact case studies. LF suggested that this should be integrated into the overall research agenda of the School. She also emphasised that that process would not be viewed as competitive.
- JuR wondered if this would increase the burden on researchers, but NM added that it would be a case of several individuals contributing to one impact case study only. LF spoke of the need to avoid individual researchers being made to feel 'second class' if they are not selected. JeR asked for the agreement of the RKEC on the 2016 and 2018 initiatives. JuR confirmed that there will be an impact workshop on 22 April, and LF asked that the RKE Office keep files on all presentations from KE workshops run in the School (**Action-OM to update workshop information on School Intranet**).
- JeR introduced the subject of the Robertson Bequest to the Committee. This yields around £1000 per year and can be used to support a high profile lecture in the School. CK called for this to be advertised publicly, and LF suggested that a steering committee could be convened with members of the public (**Action-ST to speak to RG to ascertain how much money is available, and how it can be accessed**).
- JeR spoke to the Committee about the rationale for using the annual review process to capture KE information from staff. LF suggested that people should be asked to share their KE information once the annual review process has been completed.
- JeR wishes to establish an advisory group for KE in the School and asked for the support of the RKE Committee in this. CK questioned if this proposal could be streamlined with the process of research groupings and cluster implementation? CK also suggested that when the leadership of clusters is being considered, that the person chosen could be an early career researcher for example, and not necessarily a senior person, and LF stressed the importance of research-led KE in the process.
- Both LF and CK thanked JeR for her helpful paper.

7. RKE Strategy Consultations update

- LF acknowledged that the current Consultations are being welcomed by those attending and are proving valuable.

8. Research awards

Circulated as **Paper F** (New Awards for 2014-2015, and Applications for 2014-2015).

- ST introduced this paper, confirming that of 17 applications made since November 2014, 7 applications had been awarded to the value of £948,549



9. Conference Travel Committee update

Circulated as **Paper G** (Conference Travel Committee Report for RKE Committee February 2015).

- JuR asked if the threshold for awards could be reviewed and increased, and JeR suggested that it may be worth considering whether larger awards are made to a lower number attendees at higher profile conferences.
- LF asked for the sub-committee to make recommendations to the RKEC.

10. Ethics Committee update

Circulated as **Paper H** (Ethics sub-committee report to SRKEC).

- LF confirmed that a request has been made to her regarding Ethics sub-committee representation on the RKEC, but care needs to be taken as the newly constituted RKEC has not even been through one full cycle in its' current form. CK suggested that in light of the RKE Strategy review and a recognition of the transparent nature of the current RKEC, committee membership needed to be considered in that context.

11. AOCB

- Teaching Fellows
- Cuna Ekmekligiou request, the Senior Research Data Manager at the University library has requested whether she could attend a future RKE Committee meeting.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the RKEC will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 13 May 2015 in rm 1.05 SLH