



## Research Policy Group

Note of meeting Monday 17 April 2017

**Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Jeremy Bradshaw, Pauline Jones, Catherine Burns, Andy Mount, Lydia Plowman, Tracey Slaven, Brian Walker, Hamish Macandrew

**In attendance:** Charlotte Brady, Paul McGuire, Jacq McMahon, Dominic Tate, Lynn Forsyth

**Apologies:** Gavin McLachlan, Susan Cooper

### 1 Note of Last Meeting

**Paper A**

Approved

### 2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not addressed in the substantive items on the agenda.

### 3 Convener's Update

The Convener reported on:

- Recent success in attracting major grants for the MRC's Dementia Research Institute, NIHR funds associated with ODA requirements, Simon's Foundation funding for Brain Research
- The university's recent submission to the industry Strategy Green paper consultation
- The visit from Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clarke
- Possible Wellcome Trust call for 'Centres-lite'
- Update on City Deal

### 4 REF readiness exercise

**Paper B**

The Head of Research Policy reported on the outcomes of the University's REF readiness exercise. The exercise had shown that our open access processes were delivering good outcomes, and that in output and impact quantity most units are broadly on track. The group discussed a few of the report's recommendations in detail, and agreed:

- A mock REF should be carried out around November 2018. Knowing that this exercise was on the horizon would stimulate Schools and research colleagues to drive high quality outputs and impacts well in advance of this process. Much of the mock-REF exercise would remain college specific so would need to be coordinated with Colleges.
- Issues with staff data must be addressed well before this date.
- The University must ensure the resilience of the PURE system
- Impact support should remain at College level, to ensure that Schools and their academic leads continue to take responsibility
- RPG should continue to receive Open Access reports at RPG to maintain monitoring
- A REF board should be convened, beginning in September 2017 once the REF rules are known, with potential membership including Heads of College, Deans of Research, Directors of Finance, HR and Student Systems (or deputies), GaSP, Library Research Support, and the CEO of ERI.

<b>Action</b>	GaSP to: organise and arrange the REF board; develop plans for the mock-REF; and coordinate responses/solutions to the other administrative issues raised in the report. GaSP and the Convener to work with Colleges and HR to address staff data issues.
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### 5 Research income update

**Paper C**

Across the University, research applications, awards and income show a positive trend. In CSE the value of awards is growing but by less than in the other Colleges. Success rates appear to be down, though a system artefact may be contributing in part. Although continuing to increase application number and value remains a key target, the need for applications to be part of College/School quality control processes was emphasised to maximise success.

<b>Action</b>	RSO to continue to improve data on success rates.
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## 6 Annual UoE Research Ethics and Integrity Report

Paper D

The group discussed the report produced by Susan Cooper. It was noted that our reporting of investigations was modest, and it was agreed that future reports should count formal and informal investigations, and not only those relating to RCUK grants. This would give RPG better oversight of the level of challenge and exposure to risk.

<b>Action</b>	REIRG to include all research projects in the College and University reports for 2016-17.
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## 7 Researcher Surveys – Future Developments

The AP Researcher Experience asked for views on whether the University should continue to participate in the CROS and PIRLS surveys (detail in paper K). It has been established that few of our competitors take part so the benchmarking data are limited. RPG agreed that it was sensible to discontinue participation. Undertaking our own survey should only be considered if clear benefit would be derived.

<b>Action</b>	JB to convey RPG views to IAD and seek better understanding of use of survey data.
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## 8 College Reports

Paper E

CSE highlighted that the final CDT under review had successfully passed its interview.

CMVM outlined a Communications and Marketing plan to use a 'True' branding for schemes from the university to increase industry engagement, building on an initial branding from CMVM for 'Truemed', aimed at making the university more accessible to the pharmaceutical industry.

It was noted that the Industry Strategy PhD studentships would be relevant to all three Colleges, and that clear teams for delivering these would be required across the three colleges.

<b>Agreed</b>	Clear teams needed to deliver against the Industry Strategy PhDs.
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## 9 Library research support update

Paper F

The Head of Library Research Support highlighted that the University had agreed to work with other universities in the first round of the UK Scholarly Communications Licence. He also highlighted that RPG members had been asked for views to inform the review of the University's Research Analytics tool.

The University had a laudably high return rate to Researchfish of ~100%. The pilot programme feeding data from PURE had appeared to be successful though CMVM reported that some outputs had not synched. Colleges wanted automatic synch expanded to other types of data.

RPG gave detailed feedback on the prototype research management dashboard. While emphasising the need for brevity, the group also indicated a number of items that would be desirable for inclusion. These included: 5-year rolling stats; commercialisation metrics; information at Centre level for CMVM; information as a ratio of research/academic staff numbers; grant applications on the same graph as awards (two vertical axes); information on major grants, scaled to appropriate level for Schools; and a reflection of interdisciplinary work, potentially using data on Cols.

<b>Action</b>	RPG members to feed views on the Research Analytics tool to Library Research Support. Library Research Support to: work with CMVM to identify any issues with Researchfish interoperability; and to continue to develop the dashboard and present at June RPG.
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## 10 Research Support Office update

Paper G

The paper was noted.

## 11 AOB

On behalf of the Group, the Convenor thanked the Director of the Research Support Office for his many years of sterling service to the University, and wished him well for the future.

**The following papers for information and approval were noted:**

**12 For information and approval: Research Ethics and Integrity update** Paper H

**13 For approval: CMVM Research ethic and integrity report** Paper I

**14 For information: Snowball metrics briefing** Paper J

**15 For information: 2017 Researcher Survey – actions** Paper K