



Present: Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Jeremy Bradshaw, Pauline Jones, Gavin McLaughlin, Andy Mount, Lydia Plowman, Brian Walker

By invitation: Stuart Lewis (IS, Library), Lesley McAra

In attendance: Susan Cooper (Secretary), Lynn Forsyth, Paul McGuire, Jacq McMahon

Apologies: Tracey Slaven

Brian Walker was welcomed to his first meeting as incoming Dean of Research for MVM. Lesley McAra, who had been a member of the University’s Fossil Fuel Review Group was thanked agreeing to join the meeting for item 8.

1 Note of Last Meeting Paper A

The note of the meeting held on 16 October 2015 was approved.

2 Matters Arising

1.1 Implementing the Home Office ‘Prevent Duty’

Progress was being monitored by the Research Ethics and Integrity Review Group.

1.2 Open Access Update

An email to all academic staff would be sent stressing both the importance of compliance and also the personal benefits of having outputs in PURE within 3 months of acceptance.

1.3 Research Grants and Contracts update

Members were thanked for supplying information about the achievements of Chancellor’s Fellows. The use of the information was noted.

Agreed: College Research Officers would continue to monitor Fellows achievements and coordinate any future similar data collation exercises.

1.4 RPG-Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR had been approved by CMG on 10 November, subject to clarifying points about governance of research requiring a Home Office licence and RPG’s role in driving industrial engagement.

3 ERI Restructure Paper B

RPG noted the progress made to date. It was anticipated that ERI’s Research Administration staff would transfer to CSG in early 2016. After the transfer, 2016 would be a period of consolidation in which the delivery of existing services would be coupled with discussions about how best to develop the central research support arrangements and services so that, in partnership with Schools and Colleges, they support the breadth of the University’s current and planned research activity.

4 Recent and Expected Government Policy Developments Paper C

The Convenor reported on:

- Deputy First Minister’s Budget statement, which had been presented to Holyrood just before the start of the meeting;
- Chancellor of the Exchequer’s Autumn Statement and outcome of the UK Spending Review;
- Membership and Terms of Reference of the BIS review of REF2014, which would be chaired by Lord Stern;
- BIS Green paper ‘Fulfilling our Potential: teaching, Social Mobility and Student Choice’ which included questions relating to research and the next REF; and
- BIS commissioned review of UK Research Councils by Sir Paul Nurse, ‘Ensuring a successful UK Research Endeavour’

Action	RPG secretary to circulate a note of the ODA rules governing grant awards.
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5 Research Grants and Contracts Update Paper D

RPG welcomed recent successes in securing Horizon 2020 funding.

The analysis of research grant applications for 2014/5 was derived from Times Higher Educational Supplement (THES) reports. THES had attributed the whole value of several large ESRC grants awarded to a partnership to the lead HEI, thus undervaluing our contribution. The THES analysis also only included certain types of ESRC grants.

Taking both caveats into account, the University was doing well but as the stringency of grant application assessment was likely to increase, further improvements in supporting grant applications to maintain high success rates were needed.

6 Open Access Update

Paper E

The continuing upward trend of Open Access compliance was viewed as encouraging. Further improvement was needed before the April 2016 deadline for REF2021. The recent PURE update will be of help.

Action	Scholarly Communications to ensure that the Open Access reports reflect differences between Colleges in terms of what is within the scope of Open Access compliance.
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The RPG Open Access subgroup would consider the benefits of all relevant staff having an ORCID identifier and would also discuss the possible benefits of a UK Scholarly Communications licence.

Action:	Open Access Subgroup to consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) the benefits of all relevant staff having an ORCID identifier and propose action to RPG; ii) the initial position RPG should adopt if the Russell Group Research Directors should support a proposal to establish a UK Scholarly Communications licence
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7 Impact Generation – Colleges' Update

RPG noted the key aspects of impact activity in each College since the October meeting.

8 Fossil Fuel Review and Research

Paper F

It was noted that the University's public commitment recognised a place for continuing acceptance of funding to research ways of using fossil fuels that mitigate effects on the environment.

There would be very few circumstances in which it would be obvious that acceptance of funding for research would be contrary to the University's stated commitments on Fossil Fuel. Putative projects should be considered on a case by case basis through the University's ethical approval processes.

Agreed	That particularly complex research funding proposals that come within the scope of the University's Fossil Fuel Review policy would be escalated from College Ethics committees to be considered by RPG.
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9 Any Other Business

None

FOR INFORMATION OR APPROVAL

10 Research Ethics and Integrity Review Group Update

Paper G

RPG noted the summary of recent topics at meetings and the group's future plans.

11 WorkTribe Update

Paper H

RPG noted that the pilot study was underway. A training programme would be developed in January.

Action:	Deans should encourage staff in the Schools participating in the pilot to fully engage with the system so that the package was fully tested by users.
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