



Research Policy Group

Note of meeting
16 October 2015

Present: Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Jeremy Bradshaw, Margaret Frame, Pauline Jones, Hamish Macandrew, Gavin McLaughlin, Andy Mount, Lydia Plowman, Tracey Slaven,

By invitation: Stuart Lewis (IS, Library)

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

The Convener thanked Margaret Frame for her outstanding service as MVM Dean of Research.

1 Note of last meeting and matters arising Paper A (Closed)

Approved

2 Implementing the Home Office 'Prevent Duty' Paper C (Open)¹

Lydia Plowman advised members that the University would be able to comply with those aspects of the 'Prevent Duty' that applied to Research by establishing an ultra-secure file store for sensitive material that could only be accessed by staff and students carrying out research into terrorism or extremism which had been approved by University Research Ethics and integrity procedures.

Action	Deans to arrange for their Colleges' Research Ethics approval forms to be revised by incorporating relevant text taken from Paper C and its annex.
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3 ERI Restructure

Hamish Macandrew updated members.

4 Research Strategic Development Paper D (Open)

Pauline Jones outlined progress to date in developing the next Strategic Plan and the next steps.

Discussions so far showed that Excellence in Research was likely to remain a strategic goal and that the interdisciplinary nature of research at the University should be a key feature. There was considerable merit in the Plan being aspirational with detailed plans developed at College and School level. Reflecting the University's breadth and diversity the Colleges and Schools would, by working together, ensure the delivery of the next Strategic plan.

Action	All: Propose ideas for meaningful Research KPIs that could be easily be measured
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5 Open Access Update Paper E (Closed)

Stuart Lewis informed members that there had been considerable improvement in compliance levels since the last meeting. However more work was needed to ensure that PURE held searchable copies of all outputs within the scope of the Policy and that accompanying metadata was complete.

Action	Convener and Pauline Jones: Via Colleges to send an email from the Convener highlighting both the importance of Open Access compliance and that having all outputs in PURE should increase individual staff members' citation count.
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6 Wellcome Grants Update

Hamish Macandrew advised of the University's success and the next steps.

7 Research Grants and Contracts update Paper F (Closed)

Drawing on success in the most recent calls for applications for Horizon 2020 funding, the Convener congratulated members on the number of grants awarded and their value.

The University had also achieved considerable success in securing research funding from other sponsors, with targets exceeded in many cases.

¹ Paper B was withdrawn

The Convener noted that, at the midpoint in the Chancellors' Fellows programme, it was important to show that they were starting to realise their potential.

8 Impact Generation and Promotion Update

The Deans reported on impact generation activity in their Colleges that had taken place since July.

9 RPG – Terms of Reference

Paper G (Closed)

Pauline Jones advised members that having formal terms of reference would ensure RPG could focus on its core activities. The proposed link to Central Management Group would provide RPG with a means to develop and revise University wide policy with respect to research and have oversight over a number of areas including Research Integrity and Ethics, in place of the former University Ethics Committee.

Action	All to consider the draft Terms of Reference and propose any further revisions so that a final draft could be submitted to CMG for approval.
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10 Open Letter from Science Organisations re Scottish Government's GM Ban

Paper H (Open)

The Convener stressed that recent events and anticipated political developments showed how important it was that UoE researchers engage with the policy makers and the public.

11 Any Other Business

None

12 For information and approval

12.1 Teaching Only Staff and Inclusion in PURE

Paper I Closed

Agreed	Teaching only staff will be able to request to have a PURE profile created for them.
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12.2 Research Ethics and Integrity Review Group Update

Paper J (Open)

Noted

12.3 RMAS update

Paper K (Closed)

Hamish Macandrew updated members on progress to date.