



## Research Policy Group

Note of meeting on Friday 15 September 2017

**Present:** Jonathan Seckl (Convener), Catherine Burns, Pauline Jones, Gavin McLachlan, Andy Mount, Lydia Plowman, Tracey Slaven, Mark Stevens, Jeremy Upton

**In attendance:** Susan Cooper (secretary), Paul McGuire, Lynn Forsyth, Robin Rice (to item 6 inc.)

**Apologies:** Charlotte Brady, Charles ffrench-Constant, Jacq McMahan, Sara Shinton, Lorna Thompson, Dominic Tate

### 1 Note of Last Meeting

Paper A

Approved

### 2 Matters Arising

Paper B

Actions undertaken or planned were noted.

### 3 Convener's Update

The Convener reported on:

- Successful academic year 2016/17 in terms of securing research funding
- EU – UK BREXIT discussions and implications for research
- The research environment in Scotland

Members shared the Convener's view that further steps should be taken to enhance the visibility of the research on the University's webpage. Such a task will be beneficial to existing staff and students and support the University's Strategic Plan.

Action	Director of Research Support Office (RSO) to work with the Director, Marketing, Communications and Marketing and the Deans to develop proposals for action to bring to RPG
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### 4 REF2021 Update

Paper C

The next REF2021 document will be published in early November. It is expected to state the rules on staff eligibility, output portability and the relationship between the number of outputs and the staff FTE.

The REF2021 team had just launched a survey that asks Universities to estimate the number of staff they anticipate submitting to each UoA for modelling purposes. Universities will be able to participate anonymously.

Action	Deans to offer comments by 18 September to the University's REF manager on the draft response to the consultation launched by the REF2021 team on 1 September
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### 5 Monographs

Paper D

The REF2021 consultation indicated that by the following REF, monographs must be available on an Open Access basis. It would be advantageous to prepare for this now. This action will also bring benefits in terms of increasing the academic impact of those disciplines for which monographs are an important output.

### 6 Open Data

The Data Librarian outlined the recommendations in the UK wide concordat on Open Data, which has now been signed by SFC, the Wellcome Trust and RUCK. HEIs are expected to adopt the recommendations of the concordat. In July the EU had reaffirmed its Open Science commitment by adopting a declaration that member nations and academic communities should work together to establish a European Open Science Cloud.

The challenge is to secure funding for the active management stored data, including beyond the duration of the grant. The group recommended that all grants have a costed data management plan which should relate to the school or research centre's overall data management plan.

Action	Director of RSO to work with Deans and the Data Librarian to come up with a form of words and standard costings for inclusion in all grant applications for effective data storage that was consistent with the Open Data Concordat.
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**7 RCUK Governance of Good Research Conduct****Paper F**

The Director of the Research Support Office will attend a meeting of Russell Group Integrity Forum in mid-October at which the new RCUK policy on Research Misconduct will be clarified. The University policy on Research Misconduct will be accordingly updated.

Action	Director of the RSO and RPG secretary to work with HR to update the policy on Research Misconduct and with IAD to develop a plan to integrate the policy into relevant training courses.
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**8 Research Funding and Due Diligence****Paper G**

Members thanked the RPG secretary for the work she had undertaken so far.

Action	Director of the RSO and RPG secretary to recommend next steps to the Convener.
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**9 Research Grants and Contracts Update****Paper H**

Overall University performance in 2016/17 had been impressive. A number of areas had done outstandingly. The challenge is to build on that success so that it is sustained and widespread. Emphasis was placed on internal peer review and facilitating large interdisciplinary applications.

**10 College Reports****Paper I**

Deans were thanked for their informative reports.

The following papers for information and approval were noted:

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| <b>11</b> | <b><i>For approval:</i> Research Strategy</b>                                    | <b>Paper J</b> |
| <b>12</b> | <b><i>For information:</i> Open Access Survey Response</b>                       | <b>Paper K</b> |
| <b>13</b> | <b><i>For information:</i> Research Support Office Update</b>                    | <b>Paper L</b> |
| <b>14</b> | <b><i>For information:</i> Library Research Support Report</b>                   | <b>Paper M</b> |
| <b>15</b> | <b><i>For information:</i> Research Ethics and Integrity Review Group report</b> | <b>Paper N</b> |
| <b>16</b> | <b><i>For Information:</i> Research metrics update</b>                           | <b>Paper O</b> |