



## Research Policy Group

Note of meeting  
30 September 2016

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

**In attendance:** Susan Cooper (Secretary), Charlotte Brady, Catherine Burns, Catherine Lyall, Paul McGuire, Jacq McMahon, Dominic Tate, Jeremy Upton

**Apologies:** Lynn Forsyth

Catherine Burns and Lyall were thanked for agreeing to attend the meeting in respect of items 4 and 6.

### 1 Note of Last Meeting

**Paper A**

Approved

### 2 Matters Arising

Jeremy Bradshaw informed members of the progress made toward establishing the new Edinburgh PhD Scholarship programme.

### 3 Convener's Update

The Convener reported on:

- The parliamentary progress of the Higher Education and Research Bill;
- A potential interdisciplinary Data Science research opportunity that would bring together HE and industry;
- Discussions with key stakeholders since the publication of the Stern Review of REF

### 4 Global Challenges Research Fund

**Paper B and B-1**

The GCRF offered the University great potential opportunities for interdisciplinary working.

The scoping work carried out so far showed that to benefit most from Research Councils' funding calls University would need to support partnerships between staff in its Global Academies and research groups operating within and across Schools. These partnerships would have to be synergistic and to provide novel approaches to the challenges that the GRCF seeks to address. The partnerships would also have to have the capacity to identify the right partners in developing nations for GRCF applications. The identification of suitable partners in developing nations would complement ongoing strategic activity that the Convener and VP (International) were carrying out.

The approach taken so far by RSO, particularly the work of Catherine Burns, was commended by the Deans and offers a way forward for taking full advantage of future large multi-disciplinary funding opportunities.

**Agreed**

A GCRF steering committee should be set up as outlined in Paper B1 (tabled). The GCRF committee would report to RPG and would set up subgroups to inform its deliberations as necessary.

### 5 Research Strategy

**Paper C**

After the Deans had confirmed that the current draft of the Research Strategy articulated with College levels plans, a few suggestions were made about the order of the sections in the draft Research Strategy and how it related to the Strategic Plan. Members were invited to offer any final comments by Friday 7 October.

### 6 Stern Review and Implications for UoE

**Paper D**

The Convener opened the discussion by stating that overall the recommendations of the Stern Review were welcomed. He added that its impact would be dependent on how the Review was interpreted by the Funding Bodies and this would not be clear until the UK wide consultation was published.

The focus of discussion was on the following recommendations from the Stern Review:

- Portability of outputs and potential implications that may result for key groups;
- Loosening the relationship between individual staff and the number of outputs each would have to submit;
- Proposals to change the REF014 criteria for staff eligibility and implications for Schools which focus on CPD;

- The potential for the burden of work to move from output assessment to the generation of data for any additional metrics
- Proposals to introduce institutional level impact case studies and an institutional element to the environment template

**7 REF readiness exercise****Paper E**

The Deans agreed that at the midpoint in the REF cycle it would be beneficial to carry out a REF readiness exercise.

<b>Agreed</b>	The three Colleges would carry out a REF readiness exercise in early 2017 with reports presented at the April meeting of RPG.
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**8 Research Information Management and Support****Paper F**

Jeremy Upton outlined the plans that were being implemented to bring together management of all aspects of electronic Research Support, including PURE and WorkTribe under the aegis of IS Research Information Management team. He thanked Dominic Tate for stepping into the role of co-ordinating the enlarged team and before describing the development plans once the transition was over. Noting the recent and planned changes in personnel, RPG would need clear transition timelines.

<b>Action</b>	Jeremy Upton to provide an update on the implementation of the transition from RSO to IS
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**9 Open Access and Open Data Update****Papers G and H**

Dominic Tate advised members that the monthly REF Open Access compliance levels were averaged over 80%.

<b>Agreed</b>	Two types of Open Access compliance reports would be provided to RPG and OA contacts in schools: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A school level action report showing the outputs accepted for publication that were recorded on PURE were within the OA compliance period, the required action, and the time left to take action;</li> <li>2) A school level report showing both the absolute number of outputs that were OA compliant and those that were non-compliant.</li> </ol>
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In answer to a question it was noted that we expect the REF2021 audit would include checks on OA compliance.

After a further discussion about the number of outputs that were potentially within the scope of the OA rules but not recorded PURE, the Convenor requested further information about the scope of the available reports.

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

The Convener thanked the Deans for their enlightening reports which led to a discussion about how Colleges were assessing the performance of their Chancellor's Fellows.

**11 Research Income Update****Paper J**

Members considered the reports and what action would be most effective to boost the performance.

**12 Research Support Office Update****Paper K**

Hamish MacAndrew outlined the steps being taken to turn the organisational plan for the RSO into reality.

**13 Any Other Business**

<b><u>Outcome of JIS negotiations</u></b>	Thanks the UK HEI sector adopting a united position over a sustained period, JISC had been able to agree a better deal with Elsevier
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