1.ii Matters Arising

The Convener informed the Group about his imminent meetings with Heads of School to discuss the setting of research targets.

**Action**

| J Seckl to meet with Heads of Schools |

The Convener advised that he was proposing to handle the Research Vision discussions (agenda Item 5) in tandem with a broader discussion surrounding the University’s strategic approach to developing relationships with industry.

**Action**

| The Convener to take forward the discussions surrounding support for research and industry relationships with Hugh Edmiston and Kevin Collins. |

2. **Recording research impact beyond academia on PURE – report from RPG Sub-group.**

C Ward Thompson presented her paper, arising from a working group she chaired which focussed on recording non-academic impact. Changes to PURE would be introduced in spring 2015, as part of a new REF2020 module. She highlighted recommendations to ensure that impact is recorded and checked. Each School would be invited to nominate an Impact Editor who would authorise all impacts prior to publication on Edinburgh Research Explorer.

The Convener endorsed that the report’s recommendation and encouraged attaching appropriate evidence to impact. C Ward Thompson confirmed that this was crucial in the event of an audit.

P Jones added that this was important for the new UoE Strategic Plan.

A Jackson wondered about how the role of Impact Editor would fit alongside the Impact Champion roles which some Schools had, and whether there might be duplication of effort. While this was out of scope for the Working Group, C Ward Thompson reflected that the Impact Editor role was likely to be administrative whereas the Champions would likely be academics, though in smaller Schools the roles might merge.

A Mount recommended that Schools revisit their REF Impact statements to ensure that they deliver what they set out in the documentation.

C Ward Thompson was thanked for the work of her sub-group.

**Action**

| J Toon to issue new guidance along with the latest version of PURE in spring 2015. |
3. Bibliometrics

J Toon presented his paper.

He illustrated a number of questions which bibliometrics packages could be used to address. Edinburgh has Thomson Reuters InCites currently, although Elsevier’s new SciVal product was more advanced. These are costly tools, in the region of £30-50k, and their outputs need to be interpreted with care.

J Seckl advised that such tools need to be used carefully and in concert with other information.

It was agreed that this was not a priority for the moment.

**Action** J Toon to confer with the library

4. EU Horizon 2020

**Action** Deans of Research to instruct Directors of Research in their Schools to inform all staff that EU (and other) applications must be properly costed at the outline stage, and authorised as full applications.

A Noble expressed her concern at the very low number of ERC applications being submitted by female applicants, and their relatively poor quality. She is currently developing a programme to address this with some female colleagues who have been ERC panel members. A Mount advised that Judi Allen had been looking into this too, with the issue being related to quality rather than obvious gender-bias.

**Action** Deans of Research to encourage especially female staff to apply. Angela Noble with Research Deans to put together a support programme.

The Commission is looking for more evaluators from Edinburgh for the larger, collaborative projects. The Convener endorsed the value of colleagues becoming evaluators, as it gave valuable insights into schemes and how optimally to prepare proposals. A Mount suggested a personal approach might work best as opposed to a blanket email.

**Action** Deans of Research to encourage colleagues to become evaluators, stressing the benefits for them and their Schools.

The Convener reminded the Group that EU funding was crucial for Edinburgh. He was pleased to see the increase in EU awards last year and reminded colleagues of the newly appointed EU Proposal Coordinators to assist PIs with the preparation, drafting and coordination of their EU bids.

5. Vision paper: Governance of, and support for, research – the way forward

Oral update. The Convener advised that he was conferring with academic leaders in the next few months.

**Action** The Convener to confer with Heads of College and Deans of Research.
6. Integrity and ethics – business as usual for RPG

H Macandrew presented his paper.

It was agreed that integrity and ethics should become part of ‘business as usual’ activity for RPG.

It was also agreed that an operational review group be formed to review University compliance with the UUK Concordat to support Research Integrity, review policies and procedures, promote best practice and address learning and development. This group would comprise the Head of Strategic Performance and Research Policy, the College Research Policy Officers and the Head of Research Office at ERI. This group would report to RPG.

The Convener requested that RPG continue to receive reports from the Colleges and that there is a clearly articulated process for misconduct cases. He added that staff contracts should note the requirement for compliance with the Concordat and the University’s research ethics and integrity policies.

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<td>H Macandrew to confer with T Slaven as regards dissolution of current ethics committee. Operational Review Group to be formed and agenda/action plan scoped.</td>
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7. RMAS Project Update

The paper was noted.

8. Discussion about future direction for RPG

The Convener proposed that RPG should continue its forward-looking, strategic direction.

There was a collective view that the small size of RPG, with invited experts to help with specific topics/issues, worked well.

9. Presentation of REF results

P Jones requested to form a short-life working group looking at how we present the REF results.

The Convener advised that he would like Deans of Research and Heads of College to be notified as soon as the results come in. There are both reputational (positive messages to the outside world) and financial issues (how the funding is going to be distributed) to consider.

T Slaven advised that the funding formula is likely to be focussed on 3* and 4* publications, although no news received from SFC to date. The results are likely to come through on 16th and 17th December, so Deans of Research asked to ensure that they are available.

10. RCUK Research Outcomes data collation exercise

University’s concerted action was noted.

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 1st December at 9.30am, Old College.

Hamish Macandrew, Edinburgh Research and Innovation

16 October 2014