

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2014

PRESENT: Professor A. de Ruyter, Professor R. Emmanuel, Professor P. Flowers, Dr L. Gray, Professor B. Hughes, Professor S. Hutchinson, Professor K. Johnston, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, Professor B. Steves, Professor B. Stewart, Professor J. Tombs, Professor J. Woodburn

APOLOGIES: Dr. G. Cassidy, Professor C. Donaldson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M Anderson, Ms M. Miller, Mr. P. Woods (Secretary)

CARNEGIE TRUST

014.037 Considered: A presentation on the work of the Carnegie Trust in relation HE in Scotland.

014.038 Reported: By the Chair that he welcomed Professor Andy Walker and Dr Patricia Krus from the Carnegie Trust who would be delivering the presentation and answering any questions that members may have.

014.039 Discussion: The key elements of the presentation were:

- The Scholarships available for students
- Research Incentive Grants
- Collaborative Research Grants
- The Centenary Professorship to support visiting Professors of high calibre who can make a wider contribution to HE in Scotland

Professor Walker was asked if overseas campuses of Scottish HEIs were eligible for any of the support provided by the Trust. He responded that they would not be excluded.

014.040 That Professor Walker and Dr Krus are thanked for their presentation.

MINUTES

014.041 Considered: The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2014 (**REC13/19/1**).

014.042 Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record subject to minor typographical corrections.

MATTERS ARISING

Researchfish (Arising on RCM014.033)

014.043 Reported: By Professor Marshall that there were a number of registrations to do before RCUK's deadline and he would contact the individuals concerned.

CREDO (Arising on RCM014.013)

014.044 Reported: By Professor Marshall that an updated plan would be brought back to the Committee after consideration by the CREDO Steering Group.

CHAIR'S REPORT

014.045 Reported: By the Chair that following discussion at the University Executive Board, the Research Institutes would now continue as virtual entities and therefore there would no longer be Research Institute Directors or Research Institute staff. This would entail a new way of implementing the Research Strategy with commitment from Schools via the ADRs and a stronger central research infrastructure. He intended to convene a Research Strategy Implementation Steering Group to address the specific progress of the Research Strategy and this group would report to the University Research Committee.

014.046 Discussion: Some members expressed grave concern at the structural changes and the implications for implementing the Research Strategy. There was also concern that the change may send a negative message to the University community about the value of research which some members felt was already under pressure within the Academic Department/Academic School structure and would further disincentivise staff who may wish to pursue a research career. Members felt that there needed to be proper evaluation of research career pathways allied to recognition of research active staff, preferably within the PDAR process and to be able to realistically expect the possibility of promotion based on research achievement. Other members felt that research leadership is also a real concern with the senior positions in the Schools not being filled by research-oriented staff. As an example of this context one member cited the recognition given within the School structure to assistant heads of department contrasted to the lack of recognition for research leads.

014.047 Resolved: That the Chair would note the issues raised by members and would consider these issues further, particularly:

- Research time allocation across the University/Schools
- Recruitment/staff development
- Career pathways for research-oriented staff
- Research leadership and experience.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF RESEARCH METRICS

014.048 Considered: An update on the recent developments related to HEFCE'S Independent Review of Research Metrics (**REC14/14/1**).

014.049 Reported: By Professor Marshall that this related to a meeting about the review which he had attended at the University of Sussex earlier in the year. The contributions had been interesting and he felt that some recommendations for GCU could be derived. The gist of the debate was contained in the paper.

014.050 Discussion: Members referred to altmetrics and social media and what would be of use to GCU specifically. Professor Marshall stated that he thought these were interesting areas which we should monitor for developments, particularly in relation to the developing market for altmetric software.

014.051 Resolved: That issues monitored via social media group.

PURE DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

014.052 Considered: A paper outlining the Pure upgrades required in the next year (**REC14/15/1**)

014.053 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the requirements for research information in the UK higher education sector continued to increase, particularly in relation to open access and the RIOXX system. In order to be compliant with these developments it was recommended that a case be made in the planning round to migrate to PURE 5 early in 2015-16 and also to make the case to purchase the REF2020 module that supports the change. The key advances in PURE5 functionality are summarised in this paper, which included free bibliometric and student thesis modules, and fingerprint technology.

014.054 Discussion: Members asked about other support for open access in relation to validations. Ms Miller acknowledged that there was a backlog at present due to the Library being unable to provide devoted resource to the validation task.

Members were supportive of the recommendation and felt that the upgrade to Pure 5 would not only facilitate compliance but would be a valuable resource.

014.055 Resolved: That the recommendations be supported.

REF 2014 UPDATE

014.056 Considered: REF 2014 related issues:

HESA Return of staff
Return of Hardcopy outputs
Results analysis and communication (**REC14/16/1**).

014.057 Reported: By the Secretary that the paper tied up a few outstanding items relating to REF: a table showing the breakdown of percentage of staff by UoA submitted against the HESA staff return; the REF results publication schedule in December; and the process for the return of hard copy outputs

014.058 Reported: By Professor Marshall that a number of requests had already been made for the release of research impact case studies used in REF 2014 and whether or not the University should release information under embargo.

014.059 Resolved: That there should be no release ahead of 2015.

INTERNATIONAL REF SURVEY

014.060 Considered: A draft response to the HEFCE survey on views about international REF (**REC14/17/1**).

014.061 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the response signaled concerns with the concept particularly in relation to a potential compromise of the current REF process.

014.062 Resolved: That the responses be approved.

OPEN ACCESS IN THE POST-2014 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

014.063 Considered: Requirements for implementation of the post-2014 policy announced by the Joint Funding Councils in March 2014 (**REC14/18/1**).

014.064 Reported: By Professor Marshall that in the Joint Funding Councils' policy for open access in the post 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), certain outputs (journal articles and conference proceedings with an international standard serial number) must meet open access requirements. The policy applies to research outputs accepted for publication after 1 April 2016, but institutions have been strongly urged to implement it now by adopting the RIOXX metadata profile.

To implement this policy at GCU required: the enhancement of the Pure system as described under 014.046; Senate approval of the Open Access Policy approved by URC; the provision of a programme of staff training.

014.065 Resolved: That the recommendations be approved.

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

014.066 Considered: The Composition and Membership of the Committee (**REC14/08/2**).

014.067 Resolved: That the Composition and Membership is revisited following the structural changes.

HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

014.068 Considered: The Higher Degrees Subcommittee Annual Report 2013-14 (**REC14/13/1**).

014.069 Discussion: It was noted that the decline in PhD completions with 4 years had declined from 73% in 2012-13 to 54% in 2013-14 for full-time students but there was no comment or narrative to explain this decline. There was also a significant drop in part-time completions in the same period.

014.070 Resolved: That the Report is revised to supply a commentary on these statistics.

RESEARCH ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

014.071 Considered: The Research Ethics Subcommittee Annual Report 2013-14 (**EC14/4/1**).

014.072 Discussion: It was noted that there was an error in the numbers for SEBE applications.

014.073 Resolved: That a revised report is brought back to the next meeting.

HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE

014.074 Received: The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2014 (**HDC14/2/1**).

RESEARCH ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE

014.075 Received: The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2014 (**EC14/1/1**).

SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES

- 014.076 Received:**
1. Confirmed minutes of the SHLS Research Committee meetings held on 21 March 2014 (**HLSRC13/10/1**) and 11 July 2014 (**HLSRC13/15/1**).
 2. Confirmed minutes of the GSBS Research Committee held on 21 May 2014 (**GSBSRC/22**).

**3. Confirmed minutes of the SEBE Research Committee held on September 2014
(SEBE RC 14).**

Pwo/researchcom/agenda/12 November2014