

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY		
RESEARCH COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2015		
Present:	Mr S. Brown, Professor C. Donaldson, Professor R. Emmanuel, Professor S. Hutchinson, Dr L. Gray, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, Professor P. Shukla, Professor B. Steves, Professor B. Stewart, Professor J. Woodburn	
In attendance:	Mr M Anderson, Mr R. Ruthven, Mr. P. Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Dr. G. Cassidy, Professor A. de Ruyter, Professor B. Hughes, Professor K. Johnston, Dr P. Martin	
MINUTES		
014.113	Considered	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015 (REC14/28/1).
014.114	Resolved	That subject to the additional Professor Emmanuel to the list of those present, the minutes be approved as a correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
<i>PhD Studentships(Arising on RCM 014.090)</i>		
014.115	Reported	By Professor Steves that the PhD Studentships had all been allocated to Schools/Research areas. There were another 9 School studentships available so in total there were 25 studentships currently available. The Postgraduate Research Opportunities website had been revamped and now linked from the main University research page.
CHAIR'S REPORT		
014.116	Reported	By the Chair that the research income for period 7 was on target. He provided the Committee with details of the period 7 research income key areas. <i>Secretary's note: The chair circulated a handout extract of the period 7 Research Income data.</i>
REF2014 ANALYSIS		
014.117	Considered	A presentation by Professor Marshall, Director of Academic Research Development, of further analysis of the GCU REF 2014 results (REC14/29/1).
014.118	Reported:	By Professor Marshall that taking into account potential sector inflation there was some good news to take from the results. In relation to sector competitors GCU was positioned as the strongest post '92 institution in Scotland by power. There had been an

		<p>overall improvement in both GPA and power ranking and there was greater overlap in the submission portfolio with Universities outwith the post'92 group.</p> <p>Some key points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research quality improved from RAE2008 to REF2014 across all Main Panels and research impact assessment was judged to be successful • Equality and diversity of assessment validated by analysis of results. Increased numbers of ECRs outperformed all staff. • Staff appointments of 0.2 FTE staff seen as unsustainable if not embedded in research culture of submission • 100 word statements were not well used to support significance of outputs requiring Panels to review outputs to identify key contribution • Double weighting was effective where used and mostly 4*. • Cross referrals were at relatively low, apart from specific subject areas. • There was no hierarchy of output but journal articles were the most common • Impact templates describing strategy and implementation were generally not as good as case studies • Broadly, small units were fairly assessed on impact but in some cases the second impact case study was noticeably weaker • Larger units generally had better environments but care was taken to review in the context of the submission for smaller units. For GCU PGRS and research income were below average.
014.119	Discussion	<p>Members noted that 0.2 ftes had been highlighted and had not necessarily represented good value for money compared with ECRs. Professor Marshall reminded members that it was about demonstrating that 0.2 ftes' research was focused in the unit otherwise game playing may be assumed by panels.</p> <p>Members discussed the different type of rankings that were in the public domain. Professor Marshall stated that league tables would differ depending on the criteria and that HEIs would focus on the best outcome for them.</p>
014.120	Resolved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Professor Marshall is thanked for his presentation 2. That the presentation is shared with Schools/Research Areas via Research Committees and/or other local research groups.
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE GRANT (REG)		
014.121	Considered	An analysis of the Scottish Funding Council's notification of REG for GCU. (REC14/30/1) .
014.122	Reported	<p>By Professor Marshall that the change to the SFC formula for REG was outlined in the paper. The REG total was calculated from a formula based on the total of REGa (related to REF, volume and research quality) REGb (related to competitively funded research e.g. RCUK) and REGc (related to research income from charities).</p> <p>The University has received an increased allocation in overall REG with the increase phased in over three years.</p> <p>He informed members that the nature of formula made it advisable for the Committee to take an overview of the HESA data returns on research environment.</p>
014.123	Discussion	By the Chair that there was need to ensure the Research Postgraduate Grant was being used optimally to benefit the PGRS environment and experience, as evidenced in the REF and ELIR outcomes.
014.124	Resolved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the HESA overview recommendation is approved. 2. That the paper is now provided to Senate.

REF 2020 TIMETABLE		
014.125	Considered	A timetable of activity in the preparations for REF 2020 (REC14/31/1).
014.126	Reported	By Professor Marshall that the timetable was based on the normal 6 year UK HE research assessment cycle and summarized expected changes from REF2014 and the expected milestones.
014.127	Resolved	That the timetable is approved and provided to Senate for information.
OPEN ACCESS HORIZON POLICY		
014.128	Considered	Open access funding pilot for publications arising from European FP7/Horizon 2020 projects (REC14/32/1)
014.129	Reported	By Professor Marshall that the pilot highlighted ongoing developments related to open access, this time for projects under FP7.
014.130	Resolved	That the pilot scheme is noted.
CREDO		
014.131	Considered	1. CREDO Framework for Delivery and Forward Plan (CREDO14/2/2). 2. The minutes of the CREDO Steering Group meeting held on 12 February 2015 (CREDO14/3/1).
014.132	Reported	By Professor Marshall that the framework identified staff development needs related to the research strategy. The CREDO Steering Group had considered and approved this framework and forward plan across all contributing stakeholders of the University (Academic Research Development, Graduate School, Academic Schools, Directorate of People).
014.133	Discussion	Members welcomed the document. In general members found the framework and forward plan to be very helpful and were aware that the next step would be to secure engagement from researchers. Mentoring and coaching would be a challenge. Members discussed the definition of ECR as highlighted by the CREDO Group. The definition used in the Framework was as defined in the REF2014 guidance. This would provide consistency although if the definition for REF2020 was different we should adapt to reflect it. ECR status should be recorded and be demonstrable. "Senior" researchers had also been defined. Members also discussed the possibility of bringing ECRs into project teams to learn about project applications processes and good practice.
014.134	Resolved	That the framework is promulgated further through Assistant Heads of School Departments and Research Group Leads.
REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS		
014.135	Considered	1. Minutes of the Open Access Group (REC14/34/1). 2. Minutes of the Research Impact Group (REC14/35/1).
014.136	Reported	By Professor Marshall that technical issues with the Pure upgrade had limited progress but there was a validation time lag in processing publications separate to this.

014.137	Discussion	Members considered solutions to the backlog including devolving validation to Schools. Professor Marshall stated that this solution could be a possibility but training would be required.
014.138	Reported	By Professor Marshall that the impact group had resolved to develop a position paper relating to aspects of impact such as research Impact tools/ guidance/ training and research impact strategy, impact creation and curation.
014.139	Resolved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Chair would explore solutions to the backlog issue with relevant staff. 2. That the impact position paper is brought to the Committee when it is ready.
PURE UPDATE		
014.140	Considered	An update on the latest developments to PURE (REC14/36/1).
014.141	Reported	<p>By Professor Marshall that there had been some technical issues with the progressive upgrade of Pure which he was seeking a solution to in consultation with IT Services.</p> <p>A number of staff had raised queries about getting staff content derived from Pure onto School websites. He clarified that where School web pages had been removed this had been a School action and was unrelated to Pure or the repository. He also stated that it was straightforward for Pure trained staff to create their research profiles in Pure and make them visible.</p>
014.142	Resolved	That the update is noted.
RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL – TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES		
014.143	Considered	A brief update summarising GCU staff use of the tool, training opportunities and technical initiatives that may impact usage going forward (REC14/33/1).
014.144	Resolved	That members feedback on future usage to Professor Marshall.
UKCGE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION SURVEY		
014.145	Considered	A draft institutional response (REC14/37/1).
014.146	Reported	By Professor Steves that she presented the draft response for comment and she welcomed comments in relation to doctoral training programmes
014.147	Discussion	Members felt that there was greater scope to investigate non-standard routes to doctoral awards.
014.148	Resolved	That members feedback any further comments to Professor Steves.
URC REVISED COMPOSITION		
014.149	Approved	Proposed revisions to the University Research Committee composition (REC14/08/5).
PROPOSED COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A RESEARCH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE		
014.150	Approved	Proposed composition and terms of reference for a Research Implementation Subcommittee (REC14/38/1)
NURSE REVIEW OF RESEARCH COUNCILS		
014.151	Received	Information on the Review of Research Councils by Sir Paul Nurse (REC14/33/1).

PGRS TRAINING NETWORKS REPORT		
014.152	Received:	A report from the Graduate School Director on developments related to PGRS training networks (REC14/38/1).
RESEARCHFISH		
014.153	Received:	An update on the RCUK Researchfish outcomes system registration (REC14/23/1).
RESEARCH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION STEERING GROUP		
014.154	Received:	The minutes of the meeting on 23 January 2015 (RSISG14/11/1).
HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE		
014.155	Received:	The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014 (HDC14/ 95/1) and 4 February 2015 (HDC14/ 144/1).
SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES		
014.156	Received:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmed minutes of the SEBE Research Committee meetings held on 5 November 2014 (SEBE RC 14/05) and 23 January 2015 (SEBE RC 14/08). 2. Confirmed minutes of the GSBS Research Committee meeting held on 20 October 2014 (GSBSRC/14/02). 3. Confirmed minutes of the SHLS Research Committee meeting held on 10 October 2014 (HLSRC14/06/01)