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| RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE | | |
| Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016 | | |
| Present: | Mr C. Daisley, Mr R. Deogaonkar, Dr L. Gray (Chair), Professor B. Kumar, Mr S. Olaniyan, Professor P. Shukla, Dr B. Stansfield, Professor B. Steves, Dr E. Tulle, Ms M Yakova | |
| In attendance: | Mr P. Woods (Secretary) | |
| Apologies: | Dr L. Carey, Dr K. Halcro, Professor D. Harrison, Professor B. Stewart, Professor J. Woodburn | |
| MINUTES | | |
| 015.060 | Considered | Minutes of the meeting of the Research Degrees Committee on 4 May 2016 (RDC15/14/01). <i>Secretary's Note: The meeting was inquorate. It was therefore intended that the SPGRT/PGRT role profiles would be circulated to the ADRs again for comment before being taken to the PVCR for consideration of the next steps.</i> |
| 015.061 | Resolved | That the minutes be approved as correct record. |
| MATTERS ARISING | | |
| Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedure for RPABS (arising on RDCM 015.41) | | |
| 015.062 | Reported | By the Chair that the terms of reference and standard operating procedure had been approved by the University Research Committee. |
| Changes to Research Degrees Documentation (Arising on RDCM015.44) | | |
| 015.063 | Reported | By the Chair that this was still a work in progress. |
| RDC1 & Risk Assessment (Arising on RDCM015.48) | | |
| 015.064 | Reported | By the Chair that the risk assessment guidance would be factored into the overall update of RDC documentation. |
| Senior PGRT and PGRT Role Profiles (Arising on RDCM015.51) | | |
| 015.065 | Reported | By the Secretary that there had been some feedback from the ADRs which would entail minor amendments to the document. Thereafter the PVCR would take the matter forward. |

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| PGRS Report(Arising on RDCM015.55) | | |
| 015.066 | Reported | By the Chair that the report was welcomed by the URC and its ramifications will need to be taken into account in the ELISR review. |
| RESEARCH DEGREES – ELISR/REVIEW | | |
| 015.067 | Considered | An update on the processes and activities for the forthcoming research degrees ELISR. |
| 015.068 | Reported | By Professor Steves that the proposed process for the research degrees review included MRES and Prof D as research degrees programmes but the exact details were yet to be agreed with Quality Enhancement. The proposed methodology was intended to fulfil the requirements of the ELIR year-on-year reports and to encompass the review of research degrees and the PGR student experience. The QAA Quality Code for Research Degrees underpinned the proposed specification. The next steps would be to complete the specification and agree the process with Quality Enhancement. |
| 015.069 | Reported | By the Secretary that a folder had been put on the RDC Sharepoint page to allow for information sharing among RDC members and selected stakeholders. |
| 015.070 | Discussion | The Chair invited all members to contribute to the review process when it commenced and also to cascade this invitation to all relevant stakeholders, including the PGR students. |
| 015.071 | Resolved | The members provide feedback on procedural enhancements to the RDC Secretary ahead of/during the process. |
| REVIEW OF RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATORY DOCUMENTS | | |
| 015.072 | Considered | An update on processes for updating research degrees documentation and linkage to the ELISR process. |
| 015.073 | Reported | By the Chair that as noted above the process was ongoing and he invited all members to contribute to the process. The Committee Secretary was happy to receive any comments on documentation. |
| 015.074 | Discussion | It was noted that the regulations and guidelines had not been updated for some time and required a degree of modernisation to take into account institutional changes. Members agreed that it was a major task a wide input from stakeholders would be valuable. The update would include all regulations and guidance and include the RDC forms. The Graduate School website would be updated accordingly. |
| 015.075 | Resolved | That the update be noted. |

| PGRS LEAVER DESTINATIONS | | |
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| 015.076 | Considered: | A summary of information provided by the Careers Service regarding PGRS leaver destinations (RDC15/15/1). |
| 015.077 | Reported: | By the Chair about impetus for seeking this information was concern about the effectiveness of PDP for PGR students. However the data derived from the HESA return was not of any use due to very small numbers of responses in this summary. He asked members for their suggestions on how to take this forward. |
| 015.078 | Discussion: | Members thought there were various possible sources of information, both local and on a national level. This could include information gathered or held by external organisations, such as <i>Vitae</i> or the Royal Society, or local information in the Schools or departments. Alternatively a local survey could be undertaken of GCU PGR students. Other members raised concerns about putting additional pressures on supervisors by introducing an additional data collection exercise. |
| 015.079 | Resolved: | That there is further consideration of this issue and the appropriate approach to information gathering. |
| AOCB | | |
| Concept paper/Academic Case: Developing a Doctoral Framework in Applied Health and Wellbeing Psychology/Doctor of Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) | | |
| 015.080 | Reported | By Professor Steves that both of these proposals were approved in principle by APC but as research degrees required further oversight by RDC. |
| 015.081 | Discussion | By Dr Stansfield that the physiotherapy programme development team had consulted him as advised by APC. It was a slightly different programme to ones familiar in the UK. Professor Steves stated that where a programme required to conform to research degree regulations (i.e. was a research degree) RDC had a role in overseeing and approval. At this stage it may be most appropriate to factor these programme proposals into the overall research degrees review. |
| 015.082 | Resolved: | That the research degrees review Steering Group consider the concept paper and academic case. <i>Secretary's Note: due to the expanded timescale for the review the proposals would be brought to the next RDC.</i> |
| AWARDS AND EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED BY RPABS/RPAB CHAIR'S ACTION | | |
| 015.083 | Received: | A record of decisions taken since the last RDC meeting (RDC15/11/01). |
| RESEARCH PROGRESSION AND AWARDS BOARDS | | |
| 015.084 | Received: | The confirmed minutes of: 1. SEBE RPAB 30 March 2016 (RPAB/SEBE/15/56) 2. SHLS RPAB 23rd March 2016 (SHLS/RPAB/15/31) |

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| | | 3. GSBS RPAB 24 November 2016 (RPAB/GSBS/15/2) |
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