

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 May 2014

PRESENT: Dr. G. Cassidy, Professor A. de Ruyter, Professor P. Flowers, Professor D. Harrison, Professor B. Hughes, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, , Professor B. Steves

APOLOGIES: Mr. S Adegbite, Professor C. Donaldson, Professor S. Hutchinson, Dr L. Gray, Professor D. Greenhalgh, Professor S. McMeekin, Professor K. Miller, Professor Jacqueline Tombs, Professor V. Webster, Professor J. Wilson, Professor J. Woodburn

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

QUORUM

As the meeting was inquorate, the minutes would be circulated to members before any decisions were taken.¹

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Dr Cassidy and Mr Anderson to their first meeting of the Committee.

MINUTES

013.126 Considered: The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2014 (REC13/30/1).

013.127 Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

013.128 Reported: By the Secretary that there were no matters arising not otherwise dealt with on the agenda.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

013.129 Reported: By the Chair that there were a few outstanding issues relating to REF which would be dealt with at the REF Management Group meeting on 18 June. Audit queries were ongoing and it was expected that that there would be queries related to impact and/or the REF4 data.

¹ The University Research Strategy which had already been subject to extensive consultation among members and the wider University would be submitted to Senate on 13 June 2014.

The REF2014 results will be released to institutions on 16 December 2014 under embargo until 18 December 2014. On 18 December 2014, the REF team will publish the results on the REF website and in a printed publication. Internally it is intended to cascade the outcome to relevant staff although it is likely that the outcomes will be widely publicised shortly after the 18th. There would have to be some consideration in advance about the University's approach to communications related to REF results.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STRATEGY

013.130 Considered: The revised draft strategy (**REC13/31/1**)

013.131 Reported: By the Chair that the strategy had been revised following a consultation period and he had been advised, in particular, by the Associate Deans Research, Research Institute Directors, Research Centre Directors and the Director Academic Research Development. The main message was that the University would focus on its strengths within an increasingly competitive environment and uncertain funding landscape with a much greater emphasis on capturing and communicating research impact. There had been substantial feedback and it had all been considered. The recurring question was on the PGRS target and while the Chair acknowledged that the target was ambitious and would require different approaches to research degree management, the aspirational target was retained. The Chair informed members that he felt that the strategy was fit for purpose and he recommended it to the Committee.

013.132 Discussion: Members welcomed the strategy. It was acknowledged that there was lot of underlying work to do to enable the strategy but that this was a clear statement of the research strategy.

013.133 Resolved: That the Research Strategy is approved and recommended to Senate.

HEFCE CONSULTATION ON RESEARCH METRICS

013.134 Considered: The HEFCE consultation request on research metrics (**REC13/32/1**).

013.135 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the consultation encompassed potential metrics that could be used in future relating to outputs, impact and the research environment and sought views on the strategic use of metrics or "gaming".

013.136 Resolved: That the ADRs feedback to Professor Marshall to inform the consultation submission.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH PUBLICATION QUALITY

013.137 Considered: Proposed research publication quality enhancement indicators and process (**REC13/38/1**).

013.138 Discussion: Members welcomed the proposals. The Chair stated that it was important to note, in view of central funding being provided for external peer review, that internal peer review was a prerequisite in identifying publications that would qualify for external review. He added that he would, as PVC, be the final arbiter and that the methodology of internal peer review must be transparent.

Members asked if there was the intention to use a similar methodology for grant applications. Professor Marshall stated that the process had already been mapped out in a previous paper (**REC13/27/1**) but the view of the Committee at the time was to prioritise publications.

Professor Flowers stated that SHLS was using a peer review college methodology within the School to assess grant applications. He would be happy to share the model with others.

013.139 Resolved: That the proposals be approved.

CREDO

013.140 Considered: A summary of the CREDO Steering Group meeting (**REC13/39/1**).

013.141 Reported: By Professor Marshall that as part of the University's commitment to the HR Excellence in Research award the CREDO steering group was convened to consider the staff development agenda and confirm both the terms of reference and composition of the group. As the minute shows there were a range of views were expressed and, in particular, the definition of early career researcher was debated. The group decided that there was a need to scope the various definitions and for the University to come to a view on the definition.

013.142 Reported: By Professor Steves that staff development workshops had operated on a self-selection basis up till now and there was a need to target these better in future. She also informed members that the mentoring pilot was ongoing and that there would be a mid-point review.

013.143 Resolved: That the update is noted.

OPEN ACCESS POLICY

013.144 Considered: 1. HEFCE Policy on open access for REF (**REC13/34/1**)
2. A draft Open Access Policy agreed by the Open Access Working Group (**REC13/35/1**).

013.145 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the policy detailed eligibility criteria for the post 2014 REF. This is UK-wide policy now and the University must be compliant. The Open Access Policy developed by the Open Access Working Group addressed this and was consistent with main research funders (RCUK, Wellcome) and other HEIs. The Policy specified green access as default unless any resource became available for gold access.

013.146 Discussion: The Chair stated that there is no agreed resource for gold access at this stage and it would be necessary to produce a more robust costing in order to make any submission to University Executive Board.

Members discussed the confusion of the transition period with regard to publishers' costs, including various discounts being offered. They agreed that there was degree of REF-related tactics going towards the next research assessment and any resource that is made available must be targeted towards the best outcome for the University.

013.147 Resolved: 1. That the Open Access Policy is approved and recommended to Senate.
2. That the Chair consider further potential costs before making a proposal to Executive Board.

DATA PROTECTION ISSUES RELATED TO RESEARCH DATA

013.148 Considered: Data Protection issues related to the storage of research data (**REC13/36/1**).

013.149 Reported: By the Secretary that this issue had arisen at the Research Ethics Subcommittee as a concern and an issue that the University Research Committee should provide some guidance on.

013.150 Reported: By Professor Hughes that the area of concern was the University's potential liability in breaches of data protection through insecurely stored research data.

013.151 Reported: By Professor Marshall that research data storage should be considered in a wider context as the University is also obliged to comply with Research Councils' research data accessibility policies as condition of grants. The Open Access Policy referred to these conditions.

013.152 Discussion: Members discussed whether the University's current policy on Information Systems was sufficiently strong to cover any liability for the issues raised. Members also discussed effectiveness of any expense incurred for enhanced data security, e.g. encryption, would be redundant without an emphasis on individual responsibility and greater awareness of good practice.

013.153 Resolved: That there be further consideration of:

1. Identification and dissemination of good practice including a strong steer on anonymising personal details in research data.
2. A thematic audit of research data storage.
3. There is consideration of research data storage in a wider context – including security, IT provision and requirements for open access.

SCOTTISH SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL: REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE – GCU RESPONSE

013.154 Considered: Scottish Science Advisory Council: Review of Scientific And Research Infrastructure – GCU Response (**REC13/40/1**).

013.155 Reported: By the Chair that the response expressed concern at large capital expenditure reducing any expenditure on small or medium size infrastructure. It also expressed the commitment to the principle of equipment and facilities sharing amongst HEIs.

013.156 Resolved: That the response is noted.

RESEARCH ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

013.157 Approved: The 2012-13 Research Ethics Subcommittee Annual Report (**EC13/3/1**).

RESEARCH ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE

013.158 Received: The confirmed minutes of the Research Ethics Subcommittee meeting held on 12 February 2014 (**EC14/1/1**)

HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE

013.159 Received: The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2014 (**HDC13/ 152/1**).

GSBS SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

013.160 Received: The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 (**GSBSRC/18**).

UNIVERSITY STAFF SURVEY 2014

013.161 Received: A paper highlighting the process for the 2014 University Staff survey (**REC13/37/1**).