

## **GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY**

### **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2014**

**PRESENT:** Mr S.Adgebite, Professor C. Donaldson, Professor P. Flowers, Dr L. Gray, Professor D. Harrison, Professor B. Hughes, Professor S. Hutchinson, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, Professor S. McMeekin, Professor K. Miller, Professor B. Steves, Professor J. Woodburn

**APOLOGIES:** Dr G. Cassidy, Professor D. Greenhalgh, Professor D. Smith, Professor V. Webster, Professor J. Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr P. Woods (Secretary)

#### **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Professors Hutchinson and Miller and Mr Adegbite to their first meeting of the Committee.

#### **MINUTES**

**013.099 Considered:** The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014 (REC13/24/1).

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

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

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

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

##### **University Research Strategy**

**013.102 Reported:** By the Chair that the draft strategy would be circulated to the academic community for consultation prior to progressing to the Research Committee and Senate later in the trimester.

##### **GCU London**

**013.103 Reported:** By the Chair that he had visited GCU London and examined the environment for Postgraduate Research Students.

**013.104 Reported:** By Professor Steves that arrangements were strengthening at GCU London with a PGR tutor in place and opportunities organized by the Graduate School to bring supervisors together.

##### **GCU Annual Research Day**

**013.105 Reported:** By the Chair that the encouraged members to draw this to the attention of relevant stakeholders.

### **TRAC (R) RETURN 2012-13 SUMMARY**

**013.105 Consider:** A paper on the TRAC return 2012-13 by the Director of Financial Planning (REC13/25/1).

**013.104 Reported:** By Paul Queen that the TRAC(R) report was an indicator of research costs and was required by SFC, HECFE and RCUK. The report showed comparative costs from 2011-12 and 2012-13.

He asked members to note that the University had reduced its indirect cost rate and was now towards the lower end of the peer group benchmark.

**013.106 Discussion:** Members asked about staff costs listed in appendix 5. Mr Queen stated that this was an aggregate over 3 years by School. The data had been signed off by the individual Schools.

Members were concerned about the robustness of the data on staff time classified as research.

**013.107 Resolved:** 1. That Paul Queen would provide further clarification where requested.  
2. That ADRs and Heads of Research Centres consider further the way staff time allocated to research is classified.

### **RESEARCH PERFORMANCE – HALF YEAR REPORT**

**013.108 Considered:** A paper detailing research performance data (REC13/26/1)

**013.109 Reported:** By the Chair that the aim was to consider research performance data twice yearly in the round and examine trends. With reference to grant activity the aim was to encourage bolder activity and robust internal peer review to enhance quality and there was more to do on these areas.

**013.110 Discussion:** Members noted that in 2012-13 there was increased activity across the board but better numbers in the higher value grant categories and this was to be encouraged.

The mid-point 13/14 student data showed a decrease in completion rates compared to pro-rata end-of-year 12/13 data but Professor Steves told members that as there was no comparative data from previous years at the mid-point it was difficult to draw firm conclusions.

**013.111 Resolved:** That GCU London is separated out in the end of year PGR student report.

### **QUALITY ENHANCEMENT IN RESEARCH**

**013.112 Considered:** Proposals for Quality Enhancement in Research: research grants and PGR student data (REC13/27/1)

**013.113 Reported:** By Professor Marshall that the paper was an attempt to address the implementation of the proposed Research Strategy and contained a number of suggestions regarding assessment of publication quality, research application grant quality, academic research collaborations and esteem, research impact and targeting of funders.

**013.113 Discussion:** The Chair agreed that there was a need to bolster quality enhancement to achieve the KPIs as set down in the strategic objectives of the draft strategy. Members broadly agreed and felt there were lessons to be learned, particularly in relation to peer review, from the REF 2014 process.

Professor Marshall stated that CREDO was addressing a number of staff development needs but there was a need to have further consideration on interventions related to publications. Members agreed staff awareness of how publications are assessed (e.g. for REF) could be improved.

Guidance such as target publisher lists was discussed. Also better awareness of REF cycles and spreading publication activity across the cycle.

**013.114 Resolved:** That concise set of proposals is brought back to the next meeting.

### **PHD STUDENTSHIPS AND PHD PROJECTS PORTFOLIO**

**013.115 Considered:** PhD Studentship and Portfolio 2014: Summary Update (**REC13/28/1**).

**013.116 Reported:** By Professor Steves that there was one Yunus Centre studentship missing from the summary but that it was on the website. She was confident that the process would be completed within the deadline.

**013.117 Resolved:** That it is noted that no re-advertising of studentships will be allowed.

### **REPORT FROM URC WORKING GROUPS**

**013.118 Considered:** A summary of the 3 working group meetings: Research Impact; Open Access; Social Media (**REC13/29/1**).

**013.119 Reported:** By Professor Marshall that the three working groups had met and the CREDO group had also been set up. The initial meetings had taken place of the working groups and the paper summarized initial discussions.

With reference to open access it should be noted that the Open access policy in the post-2014 Research Excellence Framework had been published by HEFCE – the highlights were that journal articles and conference proceedings would required to be deposited in an open access repository for the next REF. Monographs and “long-form” outputs were not included in this requirement.

**013.120 Resolved:** That the open access working group consider the implications of the new REF policy in more detail and report back to the Committee.

### **CHANGES TO HIGHER DEGREE REGULATIONS**

**013.121 Considered:** Changes to the Higher Degree regulations approved by the Higher Degrees Subcommittee in order to ensure compliance with QAA Code of Practice for research degrees, Chapter B11 (**HD11/129/1**).

**013.122 Resolved:** That the word normally is removed at 5.3.

### **REVISED COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP**

**013.123 Approved:** The revised composition and membership of the Committee (**REC13/4/3**)

### **HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**013.124 Received:** The confirmed minutes of meetings held on 27 November 2013 (**HDC13/58/1**) and 5 February 2014 (**HDC13/ 144/1**)

### **SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- 013.125 Received:**
1. SEBE Research Committee minutes 6 November 2013(**SEBE RC 13/08**) and 29 January 2014(**SEBE RC 13/16**).
  2. SHLS Research Committee minutes 17 October (**HLSRC13/2/1**) and 13 December 2013 (**HLSRC13/07/2**).

Pwo/researchcom/agenda/3April2014