

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2012

PRESENT: Professor F. Cheater, Professor J. Craft, Professor C. Donaldson, Dr R. Emmanuel, Professor P. Flowers, Dr L. Gray, Professor D. Harrison, Professor A. McKay, Professor J. Marshall, Professor S. McMeekin, Professor S. Scott (Chair), Professor D. Smith, Professor B. Steves, Professor B. Stewart, Professor J. Stewart, Professor J. Tombs, Dr R Wheate

APOLOGIES: Professor B. Hughes, Professor R. MacDonald,

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Y Glover (RIE), Ms H Marshall, Ms M. Miller (Senior Librarians), Mr P. Woods (Secretary)

PURE DEMONSTRATION

011.108 Considered: A presentation by Professor Marshall of the key features of the PURE system.

011.109 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the key issues were:

- Definition of users and access
- Adding research active staff
- Configuring research groups within the agreed structures of PURE (i.e. Schools, Research Institutes)
- The repository function.

011.110 Resolved: That Professor Marshall implement a process for populating PURE with research active staff details and update the Committee on progress.

MINUTES

011.111 Considered: The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2011 (**REC11/xx/1**).

011.112 Resolved: That subject to the following amendments, the minutes be approved as a correct record:

At minute 11.86 be amended to read “and other synchronizations were still to be completed”.

MATTERS ARISING

011.113 Considered: Any matters arising on the above minutes not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

UKBA audit (*Arising on RCM11.77*)

011.114 Reported: By the Chair that so far no date had been provided by UKBA.

011.115 Reported: By Professor Steves that work was ongoing to collect data and embed procedures.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Centralised KT Office for Scotland

011.116 Reported: By the Chair that in spite of opposition from Universities Scotland Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee, HEIs, business and industry, it appeared that the centralized office would become a reality, primarily as a showcase and clearing house.

MQRG Posts

011.117 Reported: By the Chair that the interviews were now complete and she was satisfied that the new staff would be an impressive addition to the research community.

Social Innovation Event: Social Innovation: New Pathways and Alternative Solutions conference

011.118 Reported: By the Chair that the event had taken place on 27 January and had been very successful with a good range of speakers, including Geoff Mulgan of NESTA, and the event had given indicators towards both future activity and pulling together a range of existing activities.

PHD STUDENTSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

011.119 Considered: A draft pro forma and flowchart of the process for 2012 (**REC11/30/1**).

011.120 Reported: By the Secretary items were intended to structure the process as discussed at the previous meeting.

011.121 Discussion: The Committee discussed the parallel processes of gathering projects for the PhD project portfolio and for the studentship process and it was agreed that they should run concurrently with the ADRs as arbiters of which projects could be considered for a studentship. Projects would be uploaded to the studentship project website to synchronise with the THE advert. A rolling portfolio of projects would be identified for the portfolio site and it was anticipated that there would be crossover between the two.

011.122 Resolved: 1. That the pro forma template be revised as discussed and recirculated.
2. That the flowchart be revised to clarify timescales for decision making.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

011.123 Considered: The terms of reference and composition of the Higher Degrees Subcommittee (**REC11/33/1**).

011.124 Discussion: Members discussed the work of the HDSC particularly in relation to Graduate School processes. It was felt that there were a number of issues that required further discussion and clarification and that a subgroup should review these issues.

011.125 Resolved: That a subgroup be convened to consider issues relating to HDSC processes and this should consist of the PVC, Chair HDSC, Director of the Graduate School and Associate Deans for Research.

011.126 Considered: The terms of reference and composition of the School Research Committees (**REC11/34/1**).

011.127 Resolved: That each School's documentation is regularised based on the GSBS format.

011.128 Received: University Research Management and Governance Structures in diagrammatic form (REC11/37/1).

SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL GRANTS

011.129 Consider: Analysis of SFC indicative grants. (REC11/31/1).

011.130 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the paper provided an analysis of the indicative grants issued by SFC in December.

It was noted that post-92 Universities tended to have negative changes although there were some increases linked to increased PGR numbers. In general PGRs were more important to this funding stream than they had been previously.

011.131 Reported: By the Chair that the negative changes would not affect the investment in research.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK 2014 – Panel Criteria and Working Methods

011.132 Considered: Panel Criteria and working methods (REC11/32/1).

011.133 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the panel criteria and working methods were mostly consistent with the published REF *Assessment Framework and Guidance on Submissions*.

Other items to note were:

- Multiple submissions: considered on a case by case basis but some panels have indicated that they would expect requests.
- Co-authors: there is no need to justify using a co-authored output except in cases where it is used twice. In these cases a 100 word description of the distinct and substantial contribution of the co-authors. In panel 3 no additional information is required in outputs with less than 6 authors.
- Double-weighting: subpanels were approaching this differently
- Citations: used only in panels 3 and 11. It was noted that subpanel 11 would use the *Google Scholar* search engine.
- Impact: there was more detail in all areas and this would be of interest to the REF Impact Group.
- Equality: Training would be held at UK centres and, most locally, in Edinburgh.

011.134 Resolved: That Professor Marshall's summary be circulated to members.

GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE

011.135 Considered: Analysis of monthly grant applications (comparative 2007-2012) and main funders 2010-12 (REC11/33/1).

011.136 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the breakdown showed that applications were down. It was intended, as part of the raised University Research Strategy, to identify blue chip funders as primary targets.

011.137 Resolved: That a list of blue chip sources is identified for the next meeting.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

011.138 Considered: A paper describing public engagement in research in external and University contexts (REC11/36/1).

011.139 Reported: By Professor Marshall that the paper was largely self-explanatory and that he invited the Committee to consider appropriate activities. This was new to most so there was an opportunity to discuss.

011.140 Reported: By Professor Cheater that there was a lot of activity that could usefully be built upon e.g. NCCPE *Beacons for Public Engagement* projects.

011.141 Resolved: That the issue be revisited and explored in more depth at a future meeting.

SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES

011.142 Considered: Any matters to report from the School Research Committees.

GSBS

011.143 Reported: By Professor Tombs that there would be a report at the next meeting.

SHLSS

011.144 Reported: By Professor Cheater that the following issues had been raised:
Funds for personal development e.g. for sabbaticals and how this would link with the University's rewards and incentives scheme.

011.145 Resolved: That the issue be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting.

SEBE

011.146 Reported: By Professor McMeekin that following issues had been raised or dealt with:

New research groups had been fully signed off.
Loading on PhD supervisors had been raised.

011.147 Reported: By the Chair that the issue of supervisor loading was being given serious attention. She was undertaking a gap analysis and would discuss the issue further, with the ADRs in the first instance, and revisit the issue with the Committee.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES REPORT

011.148 Considered: Any matters to report by the Institute Directors.

011.149 Reported: By Professor Tombs that there was some discussion about the setting up of new research themes in ISSJ.

011.150 Reported: By Professor Cheater that discussions were ongoing with research leads in IHWR about research impact case studies and the current range of thematic groups was being reviewed.

GRADUATE SCHOOL REPORT

011.151 Reported: By Professor Steves that:

- The Graduate School had new staff including a new deputy director
- That both the MRes and Prof D programmes were now running.
- PGR tutors had been established in Schools.

- The Scottish Crucible deadline was on 22nd February and GCU would be running a Crucible workshop in May 2012.
- The UKGCE conference was taking place on March 8 at Strathclyde University and Professor Harrison would be a speaker at this conference.
- The QAA consultation on research degrees was due on March 14.

LIVE ISSUES

011.152 Resolved: That there were no other issues to report.

DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR NERC RESPONSIVE MODE FUNDING SCHEMES

011.153 Received: A paper outlining demand management measures to be taken by NERC from April 2012(REC11/34/1).