



Department of Governance

<b>GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY</b>		
<b>UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE</b>		
Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2016		
<b>Present:</b>	Ms J. Broadhurst, Dr G. Cassidy, Mr R. Clougherty, Professor C. Donaldson, Professor R. Emmanuel, Professor S. Hutchinson, Dr L. Gray, Professor B. Hughes, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, Dr P. Martin, Mr V. McKay, Mr S. Olaniyan, Professor P. Shukla, Mr M. Stephenson, Professor M Steultjens (vice Professor J Woodburn), Professor B. Steves, Professor B. Stewart, Professor O. Walsh	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mr M. Drummond, Ms M. Miller, Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Professor A. de Ruyter, Professor A. Morgan	
<b>MINUTES</b>		
<b>015.092</b>	<b>Considered</b>	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2015 ( <b>REC15/30/1</b> ).
<b>015.093</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the minutes be approved as a correct record.
<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>		
<b>Postgraduate Research Student Experience (<i>arising on RCM 015.076</i>)</b>		
<b>015.094</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<p>By the Chair that he was able to provide an update in relation to payment to PGR students for teaching/demonstration work, which had been the focus of investigatory work carried out by Professor Parker in recent months. He summarised the developments to date and follow up work signalled by People Services and a longer term plan for development.</p> <p>A consistent approach to paying PhD Students was discussed at the Dean's Group Meeting held on 5 October 2015 and particularly the inconsistency between the Schools on payment to PGR students undertaking teaching work while receiving a stipend. The Deans' Group agreed that the Schools would adopt a consistent approach and ensure all PGR students are paid for teaching/demonstration work.</p>

		<p>People Services have stated that this approach will follow the same guidelines as those for employing individuals on a flexible basis through the Casual Hours Payment Process (i.e. occasional lecturers, demonstrators etc.) and ensure students will be paid appropriately for the type of work they carry out at the agreed rate of pay.</p> <p>People Services had also indicated that they would add details to the current guidance available on GCYou (by the end of February) regarding how PhD Students should be selected and paid in order to provide greater transparency and mitigate any issues about equal pay or equality of opportunity. This will be communicated appropriately to Schools/Directorates by People Services. In the longer term People Services have commenced a project to establish a career path for PhD students and a viable succession plan for the University.</p> <p>At the same time it was noted that there was inconsistency in providing PhD students support for personal development including conference attendance.</p>
<b>015.095</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Members were primarily concerned about the communication of this outcome and the change to the development monies available to PGR students. They noted that the Deans Group had made the decision in October 2015 but awareness of it was not widespread. There required to be a transparent process in all Schools and clear communication channels with the students.</p> <p>Members also cited the difference between in fees for EU/Non EU students as an issue that had been raised in the RPEC, although members also considered that this was largely a matter of being clear in University communication so that applicants were fully aware of what was on offer. The Chair stated that these matters would be taken into consideration when reviewing the stipend.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that the Director of the Graduate School and the ADRs/Yunus Centre Chair agree any changes, in consultation with the Deans as appropriate.</p>
<b>015.096</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That any proposals for changes to the PhD Studentship stipend and an appropriate form of words for studentship advertising be agreed by Director of the Graduate School and ADRS.</li> <li>2. That the Chair would consider an appropriate communication strategy, for information relating to the decisions relating teaching/demonstration work.</li> <li>3. Proposals for PGR fees/development support be developed by ADRs and Director of the Graduate School.</li> </ol> <p><b>Action: PVCRA/ADRS/Director of Graduate School</b></p>
<b>Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) (arising on RCM 015.079)</b>		
<b>015.097</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that the PRES outcomes would be considered at the first meeting of the new Research Degrees Committee and updated here next time.
<b>Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS)/Principal Investigators and Research Leaders Survey (PIRLS) (arising on RCM 015.083)</b>		
<b>015.098</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By Professor Steves that further analysis of the CROS/PIRLS outcomes would be

		considered by the appropriate People Services Board
<b>UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROJECT APPROVAL</b>		
<b>015.099</b>	<b>Considered</b>	A report on the changes to the research project approval process following the review of processes in 2015 – an oral update from Professor Marshall.
<b>015.100</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By Professor Marshall that a dialogue with Elsevier, the provider of the Pure information system, and other Pure users had provided feedback on the possible upgrade features (i.e. awards management, peer review, ethical approval workflows) and it was positive. The workflows for these features were straightforward and could simply involve attaching existing (electronic) documents. Elsevier could provide a webinar to provide further information and awareness.
<b>015.101</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Members asked if they could track applications and if signatures were always necessary on applications (in an electronic workflow).  Professor Marshall stated that signatories were not always required, depending on the application and often an email is sufficient. He agreed that there may be possibilities for enhanced tracking and flagging of applications.  The upgrade should be completed before the end of 2016.
<b>015.102</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the update be noted.
<b>REF UPDATE</b>		
<b>015.103</b>	<b>Considered</b>	1. Summary of key announcements relating to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) ( <b>REC15/32/1</b> ). 2. An oral update from the latest REF Managers Group meeting.
<b>015.104</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By Professor Marshall that the UK government had issued a green paper about teaching excellence with the proposals for REF buried within it. The University response was attached as a part C item.  There were a number of issues to highlight: problems with the “single organization” in a devolved spending system; increased use of metrics, which appears to be attractive to Government but is mostly seen by the HE sector as just as expensive, less accurate than peer review and subject to more games-playing; the option of submitting all staff to avoid equality and diversity issues.  The Stern Review report on REF would be expected in summer 2016.
<b>015.105</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Members were reminded of the previous research assessment exercise consultation periods where the widespread adoption of metrics is proposed. In general they were not convinced by the recurrent theme, particularly in view of the conclusions of the <i>Metric Tide</i> review particularly as costs would be escalated by metrics (due to IT infrastructure spend) not diminished.  Members were curious about the proposal to submit all staff. Professor Marshall stated that as some HEIs had split research/ teaching only contracts it may be more attractive to them. The peer review process of such an option overall it

		<p>highly likely to be unmanageable (unless there was a heavy use of metrics to assess quality.</p> <p>The REF Managers' Group had also met recently at Glasgow University and there had been long discussions about open access and the need for compliance by April based on HEFCE's policy. The most prudent approach was to comply and in GCU that meant sending full text publications to the repository inbox. Any questions or problems should also be reported to the repository inbox.</p>
<b>015.106</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the URL for Library guidance pages would be circulated to members ( <b>Action: Committee Secretary</b> ).

#### UNIVERSITY INNOVATION FUND

<b>015.107</b>	<b>Considered</b>	A paper providing background information on Government innovation funding ( <b>REC15/33/1</b> )
<b>015.108</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<p>By the Chair that the Knowledge Transfer Grant (KTG) will be replaced with a two strand Universities' Innovation Fund (UIF) where a Platform Grant of £250k per HEI per year is to be allocated.</p> <p>The second element of the UIF, the Outcome Grant, will be distributed on the basis of satisfactory contribution to the delivery of national priorities with universities working collaboratively where appropriate. The Council intends that in 2016/17 only £4M is allocated through this Outcome Grant process, with the funds remaining after distribution of the Platform Grant being allocated to institutions in proportion to their 2015/16 KTG allocations.</p> <p>In order to have an opportunity to access the outcome grant funds, the University would need to show that it is engaging with the national priorities set out in the SFC circular (Annex – University Innovation Fund Priorities for AY 2016-17). The University response was currently being drafted by the Chair and Professor Marshall and members had a brief opportunity to feed into that response (i.e. the response was due on 1 February 2016).</p>
<b>015.109</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By Professor Marshall that the 12 priorities had been agreed by all Scottish HEIs and although these were not new ideas, it was a renewed attempt to define national priorities sector-wide.
<b>015.110</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Members asked if social innovation would be a relevant to the national priorities. The Chair believed that it was now a part of SFC's thinking and it would certainly feature in the University response.</p> <p>Members asked if the funding would be a decrease in relation to the level of KT Grant. The Chair stated that he thought it was possible that funding may not match existing commitments.</p>
<b>015.111</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the briefing be noted.

AOCB

Research Themes

<b>015.112</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<p>By the Chair that he had taken a paper to the Executive Board detailing research themes and the relationship of theme leaders to ADRs and Research Centre Directors. The proposal was that these three roles would work together to build the research narratives.</p> <p>He also asked members to note that staff turnover since REF2014 was similar to the post RAE 2008 period; 33 REF 2014 staff had left the University post REF 2014. He encouraged members to ensure that in cases where researchers may have expressed thoughts of leaving the University that he and the relevant Dean be made aware.</p>
<b>Risk Register</b>		
<b>015.113</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By Professor Marshall that RIE would assess research projects in the same way as commercial projects. This process would be reviewed after three months.
<b>REF UPDATE</b>		
<b>015.114</b>	<b>Received</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extract from <i>Fulfilling our Potential</i> green paper dealing with research funding and REF (<b>REC15/34/1</b>).</li> <li>2. Formal Responses to research-related questions in the green paper (<b>REC15/35/1</b>).</li> </ol>
<b>RESEARCH &amp; ENTERPRISE INFORMATION 2015/16</b>		
<b>015.115</b>	<b>Received</b>	A briefing note providing an information update on Research & Enterprise activities ( <b>REC15/37/1</b> ).
<b>KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS (KTPs) UPDATE</b>		
<b>015.116</b>	<b>Received</b>	Summary information on the University's Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) ( <b>REC15/36/1</b> ).
<b>SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES</b>		
<b>015.117</b>	<b>Received</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SHLS Research Committee minutes 21 October 2015 (<b>HLSRC15/5/2</b>).</li> <li>2. GSBS Research Committee minutes 4 February 2015 (<b>GSBSRC/15/01</b>).</li> </ol>
<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
<b>015.118</b>	<b>Received</b>	Notification that the next meeting of the University Research Committee will be held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 in Room B024 (Britannia Building).