

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 May 2013

PRESENT: Professor J. Craft, Professor A. De Ruyter, Dr R. Emmanuel, Professor P. Flowers, Dr L. Gray, Professor V. James, Professor D. Harrison, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, Professor S. McMeekin Professor B. Steves,

APOLOGIES: Professor C. Donaldson, Professor D. Greenhalgh, Professor B. Hughes, Professor A. McKay, Professor D. Smith, Professor J. Stewart, Professor B. Stewart, Professor J. Tombs, Professor J. Wilson, Professor J. Woodburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Julie Fisher, Mr P. Woods (Secretary)

MINUTES

012.121 Considered: The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012 (**REC12/22/1**).

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

MATTERS ARISING

Pure and Pure Portal (*Arising on RCM012.98*)

012.123 Reported: By Professor Marshall that he was concerned that the support from IT Services was not adequate.

012.124 Resolved: That the Chair would raise this with the Head of IT Services.

GCyou (*Arising on RCM 012.110*)

012.125 Reported: By Professor Marshall there was a plan to have a research area with different sections. This could then link to other areas in the University and it would be helpful to look at what other areas involved in research were doing.

012.126 Resolved: That the progress be reported to the next meeting.

PhD Portfolio (*Arising on RCM012.96*)

012.127 Reported: By Professor Steves that the first tranche of projects was now live.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Universities Scotland Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee

012.128 Reported: By the Chair that the meeting attended had reinforced the concept of research pooling and there was a move to support the sector in various ways e.g. Graduate Schools. The resources available would be quite small.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

012.129 Considered: To Consider: Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) UoA summary report. (REC12/30/1).

012.130 Reported: By the Chair that the paper summarized the current position in terms of REF preparations. It had been a lot of work to get here and more work was required but the submission was taking shape.

012.131 Reported: By Professor Marshall that there had been external assessment of the impact case studies and there was more work required on the evidence base..

012.132 Resolved: That the update is noted.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT GOVERNANCE

012.133 Considered: 1. PGRS Student Experience thematic audit report (REC12/31/1).
2. Governance of Research Degrees (REC12/32/1).
3. Research Student Attendance Policy (REC12/33/1).
4. Changes to University Research Degree Regulations (REC12/34/1).

PGRS Student Experience Thematic Audit Report

012.134 Reported: By the Chair that the audit had been carried out against the principles of QAA Quality Code part 6 and led by Professor Gartland. Various stakeholders had been involved in the process.

012.135 Discussion: Members welcomed the audit report and discussed ways of taking the outcomes forward. Key areas highlighted were the linkage between the admissions service and the Schools and administrative resourcing in Schools dedicated to research students. The role of Associate Deans for Research in overseeing the postgraduate research student experience was also considered to be central. Professor Steves reported that many of the highlighted enhancements were already in the process of being implemented.

012.136 Resolved: 1. That the audit report be approved.
2. That the audit report be presented to Senate for consideration.
3. That the Chair further discuss implementation of the outcomes with Professor Gartland.

Governance of Research Degrees

012.137 Reported: By the Chair that the paper described the current position with regard to the activities of the Graduate School, including the research programmes (MRes, Prof D) now delivered by the Graduate School. The proposal was to establish a new governance structure in the form of an Academic Board of the Graduate School with responsibility for overseeing the academic governance of the postgraduate research student experience, replacing the current Higher Degrees Subcommittee. This was the beginning of the consultation process.

012.138 Discussion: Members discussed how the proposal would relate to the outcomes of the audit report and some felt that the audit actions should be addressed ahead of the proposed change. Members were also unsure how the proposal related to the running of the programmes within the Schools and how it would relate to the School's role in assuring a positive student experience. It was felt, generally, that more clarity on the proposal and how it would work in relation to the role of the Schools was required.

012.139 Resolved: That the Chair would consult further and bring a revised proposal to the Committee for further discussion.

Research Student Attendance Policy

012.140 Reported: By the Professor Steves that the taught student policy had been adapted to encompass research students. There had been wide consultation, including the Higher Degrees Subcommittee and the policy had been approved.

012.141 That the policy be approved.

Changes to University Research Degree Regulations

012.142 Reported: By Professor Harrison that the paper proposed a number of changes to Higher Degree regulations:

1. That PGRS register their research project within one month of matriculation
2. That a new progress and confirmation review be implemented.
3. That the maximum periods of registration are amended.
4. That programmes for PhD by previous publication are made available to non-GCU staff.

012.143 Discussion: Some members were concerned about the one month timescale. However it was generally felt that when the audit recommendations were implemented that this would be appropriate timescale.

Members were supportive of the progress and review mechanism with some minor amendments.

Members were supportive of the changes to maximum periods of registration as this was in line with the rest of the HE sector.

Members were supportive of the change to allow non members of staff to undertake PhD by previous publication.

012.144 Resolved: That the subject to the minor amendments discussed, that the changes be recommended to Senate.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STRATEGY

012.145 Considered: The draft University Research Strategy and consultation feedback (REC12/35/1).

012.146 Reported: By Professor Marshall that this was a draft consultation paper which had been circulated to Schools and would be consulted on further.

012.147 Discussion: The general thrust of the draft was welcomed by members. It was noted that there was some disagreement regarding University structures for governing research activity but the principles were largely supported by members.

One member commented that there should be a higher profile for research impact and the need for integration of impact in the University's research activities. Professor Marshall commented that he had envisaged that an operational plan underpinning the strategy would capture the processes for addressing impact but he accepted the general point regarding the centrality of research impact in the modern research environment and in particular moving towards REF 2020.

It was also noted that a strategic objective about informing the University learning and teaching curriculum was required.

There was some further discussion regarding linkage to knowledge transfer but Professor Marshall stated that the strategy was about research and engagement with beneficiaries and practitioners from the outset i.e. not as an afterthought to research.

012.148 Resolved: That Professor Marshall amend the paper based on the above discussion and that consultation continues.

REF MANAGEMENT GROUP

012.149 Received: REF Management Group minutes from the meeting held on 6 March 2013 (**REFMG/20/1 - attached**).

HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE

012.150 Received:

1. The confirmed minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012 (**HDC12/65/1**).
2. The confirmed minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2013 (**HDC12/92/1**).
3. The confirmed minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2013 (**HDC12/125/1**).

SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES

012.151 Received:

1. Confirmed minutes of GSBS Research Committee meeting held on 30 January 2013 (**GSBSRC/10**).
2. Confirmed minutes of SEBE Research Committee meeting held on 7th November 2012 at 2pm (**SEBE RC 12/11**).
3. Confirmed minutes of a meeting of the SEBE Research Committee held on 23rd January 2013(**SEBE RC 12/17**).