



Department of Governance

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY		
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2020		
Present:	Mr M. Anderson, Professor K. Currie, Ms. S. Docherty, Professor C. Donaldson (Chair), Professor R. Emmanuel, Professor L. Elliot, Dr L. Gray, Professor J. Harris, Professor B. Hughes, Dr D. Lukic, Professor M. Mannion (<i>vice</i> Professor Ole Pahl), Professor B. Steves, Dr J Thomson, Professor J. Woodburn	
In attendance:	Ms M. Daly, Ms D. Donaldson, Mr R. Ruthven, Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
MINUTES		
019.111	Considered	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2020 (REC19/29/01).
019.112	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as a correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
019.113	Reported	There were no matters not otherwise included on the agenda.
RESEARCH RESPONSE TO COVID-19 UPDATE		
019.114	Considered	A paper by the Chair on contingency actions for research in response to the Covid-19 pandemic (REC19/30/01)
019.115	Reported	<p>By the Chair that the paper provided an update for URC with regard to actions taken/being taken in response to the pandemic and remote working. These issues were being monitored by the Research Continuity Group which included a number of URC members. The main issues were summarized:</p> <p>PGR Students – the immediate issue was remote vivas and these had proceeded without major issues. A survey had been issued to collate information on the impact of remote working and a paper for the Executive Board by the PVCr and Director of the Graduate School would address the issue of extensions and financial implications</p> <p>Research projects- similar to PGRS, information was being collated to assess the impact of remote working. An additional complication was uncertainty with regard to funders intentions and these would be monitored. This will allow an</p>

		<p>assessment of any requirements to furlough staff who are unable to continue their work remotely.</p> <p>ECRs – a series of online meetings had commenced with a recent meeting focusing on potential applications to Carnegie Research Incentive Grants.</p> <p>GCU Researcher contributions to Covid-19 related research – a number of vignettes were outlined and the intention was to post these on the website from time to time.</p>
019.116	Discussion	Members discussed various scenarios for research staff whose work was not possible by remote means. It was hoped that SFC funding and furlough would mitigate some of these effects. As a priority it was important to identify those staff who cannot work and to continue to monitor funders intentions going forward.
019.117	Resolved	That the update be noted.
REF 2021		
019.118	Considered	Updates in relation to REF2021.
019.119	Reported	<p>By Mr Anderson that the intention was to have a draft submission ready for the end of May. At this stage the Library reported that REF1 and 2 were substantially complete.</p> <p>The emails regarding staff designated as <i>sigres</i> had been sent last week and there had been only one question received in response so far.</p> <p>A workshop for impact case study authors was due to take place next week with the aim of enhancing quality and consistency of the case studies.</p> <p>The institutional environment statement was still being drafted and would be circulated to UoAs as soon as possible to aid with their own statements.</p>
019.120	Discussion	It was noted that there was a possibility of a new final submission date of 31 March 2021 and the University would support this option.
019.121	Resolved	That the update be noted.
OPEN ACCESS FEES PAYMENT		
019.122	Considered	A discussion on process for open access fees payment.
019.123	Reported	By the Chair that a process had been agreed before but some issues had arisen more recently.
019.124	Discussion	<p>Professor Currie explained that the question was around the application of the agreed criteria and was there supposed to be a role for the ADRs. Mr Ruthven replied that there was a 5 step process, agreed by the URC, which was worked through with the Library as the gatekeeper. It had been agreed to do this via sessions for School Research Committees, but this had not happened as yet.</p> <p>In summary Mr Ruthven stated that there had been a spend of £14K, with £16K remaining. From that 9 articles had been published, 5 from SHLS and 4 from the Yunus Centre.</p>

		Members wondered if there was a lack of awareness of availability of funds. Professor Currie stated that it could reported to the next School Research Committee.
019.125	Resolved	That the update be noted.
RESEARCH INTEGRITY – draft annual statement and report		
019.126	Considered	The draft statement and report for 2019-20 (REC19/31/01).
019.127	Reported	By the Secretary that the draft report was presented to the URC for any final comments or amendments before submission to the University Court, as was required by the Concordat to support Research Integrity.
019.128	Discussion	<p>Members felt that the lessons learned section should be slightly revised to present a more high-level summary of actions being taken in the areas of co-authorship and similarity checking.</p> <p>There was a general feeling among members that the draft was overly skewed towards research misconduct and that although this required to be addressed in the report, there should be an attempt to provide a more positive focus.</p> <p>Members discussed other issues which may be require further consideration going forward, such as AI and ethics and safeguarding.</p>
019.129	Resolved	That the draft be revised in line with the comments of members before submission to the University Court (Action: Committee Secretary).
THE RESEARCH IMPACT RANKINGS		
019.130	Considered	A report on research in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings (REC19/32/01).
019.131	Reported	<p>By Ms Daly that the report detailed a strong performance by the University in the rankings. This year the University ranked 43rd in the world which was up one place, with more universities included in 2020. Other highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCU was ranked in the Top 20 in the world in three SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SDG 5 Gender Equality 12th in the world 3rd in UK 1st in Scotland ○ SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth =13th in the world 2nd in UK 1st in Scotland ○ SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities 20th in the world 7th in UK 2nd in Scotland • GCU was ranked in the Top 40 in the world in two SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production =32nd in the world =14th in UK =4th in Scotland ○ SDG3 Good Health and Wellbeing =40th in the world =5th in UK =2nd in Scotland
019.132	Discussion	Members asked Ms Daly about the methodology for the ranking process. Ms Daly explained that the metrics were compiled by Elsevier using <i>Scopus</i> . Members discussed the possibility of having a conversation with ADRs and Research Centre Directors around a more focused use of keywords, where not otherwise detrimental to the research as a possible way of improving citation

		metrics. It was also noted that the critical mass had doubled compared to last year's exercise and it was a positive outcome given the linkage with Scottish Government priorities.
019.133	Resolved	That MS Daly and School/Research Centre colleagues are thanked for their contribution to this exercise.
LIVE ISSUES		
PGR Students		
019.134	Reported	By Dr Gray that an issue had arisen involving PhD students invited to apply for a GTA by Outreach without consultation or knowledge of the DoS. This was potentially problematic for full time students.
019.135	Discussion	The Director of the Graduate School commented that while it was positive to have these opportunities it was important that recruitment of PGR students was conducted in a transparent way. It was likely that Outreach were not aware of implications. Clarification would be added to the guidance.
019.136	Resolved	That this clarification is added to the guidance (Action: Director Graduate School).
NMAP		
019.137	Discussion	<p>A member requested clarification on the status of NMAP. The Chair reported that CSO was withdrawing support and there was a plan to alternative funding. There was also lobbying regarding CSO funds and discussion with Aberdeen University who were also affected. There was consideration of events, potentially on campus or at the Parliament to highlight this situation.</p> <p>Members thought it would be helpful to understand the priorities of the CSO and whether NMAP fitted with these.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that it may be that there are other priorities.</p> <p>Professor Woodburn stated that he felt that there were various factors involved but also that there were key stakeholders that we could still work with.</p> <p>Members were supportive of the lobbying proposals suggested by the Chair.</p>
REF 2021 MANAGEMENT GROUP		
019.138	Received	The confirmed minutes of the meetings held on 12 March 2020 (RMG19/15/01).
RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE		
019.139	Received	The confirmed minutes of the meetings held on 12 February 2020 (RDC19/16/01).
SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES		
019.140	Received	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmed minutes of the SCEBE RC meeting 12 February 2020 (SCEBE/RC/19/17). 2. Confirmed minutes of the GSBS RC meeting 25 September 2019 (GSBSRC/19/02)

		<p>3. Confirmed minutes of the GSBS RC meeting 20 November 2019 (GSBSRC/19/06)</p> <p>4. Confirmed minutes of the GSBS RC meeting 12 February 2020 (GSBSRC/19/08)</p>
RESEARCH BULLETIN TRIMESTER B		
019.141	Received	The PVCR's trimester B Research Bulletin (REC19/28/01).

Pwo/researchcom/minutes/13 May 2020