



Department of Governance

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY		
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2016		
Present:	Ms J. Broadhurst, Professor I. Cameron, Mr C. Daisley, Professor C. Donaldson (Chair), Professor R. Emmanuel, Dr L. Gray, Professor J. Harris, Professor B. Hughes, Professor J. Lennon, Dr P. Martin, Professor O. Pahl, Professor B. Steves, Professor J Woodburn,	
In attendance:	Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Professor S. Hutchinson, Professor A. Morgan,	
MINUTES		
016.39	Considered	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2016 (REC16/12/01).
016.40	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as a correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
Stern Review of REF (<i>arising on RCM 016.025</i>)		
016.41	Reported	By the Chair that the Executive Board had had subsequent discussions about the potential contractual implications of Stern but no decisions had been taken as yet and discussions would continue.
Open Research Data Concordat (<i>arising on RCM 016.025</i>)		
016.42	Reported	That a mapping of GCU policies against the Concordat would be undertaken on publication of the final version.
RESEARCH STRATEGY REFRESH		
016.43	Considered	A paper outlining a refresh of the University Research Strategy (REC16/13/01).
016.44	Reported	By the Chair that a refresh would be prepared for the University Court with consultation from Senate and UEB. Feedback was being sought from URC at this stage and the paper was deliberately presented as a draft work in progress. Various stakeholders outwith the Committee had also received it for comment.

		A key point to note was that Research Institutes were no longer referenced and the Research Centres model is to be used.
016.045	Discussion	<p>Professor Woodburn stated that the draft had been largely welcomed by SHLS with some caveats. It was thought there was scope for a refresh of the relationship between Research Themes and Research Centres, more clarity over the role of research “groups”, a more outward facing/international dimension and a greater focus on supporting research excellence.</p> <p>An external advisory group was suggested although it was recognized this may sit more appropriately within Centre strategies not in the overall Research Strategy.</p>
016.046	Resolved	That further feedback will be welcomed by the PVCR during the refresh process.
REF (2021) MANAGEMENT GROUP		
016.047	Considered	Details of the re-establishment of the REF Management Group and its composition (REC16/14/01).
016.048	Reported	By the Chair that the proposal was to reconstitute and reconvene a REF Management Group to progress preparations for REF.
016.049	Discussion	<p>It was noted that for REF2014 the REF Management Group was PVCR (Chair), ADRs and the Director of Academic Research Development. Other aspects had been delegated to REF subgroups e.g. data management and research impact.</p> <p>Members suggested there should be inclusion of specific stakeholder input representing the research environment; inclusion of data management and research impact. Equality and diversity implications also needed to be taken into consideration.</p>
016.050	Resolved	That the PVCR convene a REF Management Group with the composition to include those members proposed and extended on the basis suggested by the comments above. (Action: PVCR)
RCUK OPEN ACCESS GRANT		
016.051	Considered	Notification of the receipt of an open access grant from RCUK and the process for distributing the funds (REC16/15/01) .
016.052	Reported	By the Chair that there had been a number of requests already but there was limited scope for further support.
016.053	Discussion	Members asked for clarification on what grants would qualify. The chair clarified that it must be a RCUK grant and GCU must be a named collaborator in order to qualify.
016.054	Resolved	That the process be noted.
IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PG RESEARCH STUDENTS AT GCU		

016.055	Considered	A proposal to establish an implementation group composed of selected members of RDC (REC16/18/01).
016.056	Reported	By the Chair that the proposal was to convene a group to take forward the recommendations of the report <i>Review of Employment Requirements for PG Research Students At GCU</i> . There was expertise and PGRS focus amongst RDC members so it was proposed that the Chair of RDC take this forward as an RDC project.
016.057	Discussion	Members made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a general need to strengthen PDP with supervisors having a stronger role. • Teaching should not be the only option available; • There was a need to show greater seriousness with regard to employability. • A tie in with skills training monitored by RDC • There was good potential for engagement with external stakeholders • There was an immediate need to ensure that People Services and AHods are all aware of current responsibilities
016.058	Resolved	That the Chair of RDC takes forward the establishment of an implementation group, co-opting relevant expertise/representation as necessary. (Action: Chair RDC)
ROLE PROFILES FOR SENIOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TUTORS/POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TUTORS		
016.059	Considered	Role profiles for the senior PGRTs and PGRTs in Schools (RDC15/8/02).
016.060	Reported	By the Chair that the DVC Academic had been consulted and was content with the profiles minus reference to WAM, which was currently under review.
016.061	Discussion	Members discussed whether the role profiles required any further approval from Executive/Resourcing Groups. It was noted that this was not a formal People Services role so it was not formal in that sense but had similarities with roles such as programme leader. It was also noted that the intention was to have sufficient PGRTs to support the students of each School and Schools should monitor the sufficiency of its provision and ensure replacements where any staff choose to relinquish the role.
016.062	Resolved	That the PVCR confirm agreement of the roles with the Deans. (Action: PVCR)
IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT ON RESEARCH		
016.063	Considered	A discussion paper on the implications for University research of the Brexit outcome (REC16/16/01).
016.064	Reported	By Mr Anderson that the paper attempted to summarise both where we are and current speculation.

		<p>The Treasury financial guarantee to HEIs involved in EU funding projects, such as Horizon 2020, removed some uncertainty regarding ongoing participation for UK based bids whilst UK is still in the EU. However this did not consider the non-funding benefits that may be lost in the longer term with regard to international co-operation in research and the concomitant loss of efficiency.</p> <p>Post Brexit there would be a period of renegotiation with Europe and many were hopeful that Scottish/UK participation in Horizon 2020 would continue. There was no guarantee however.</p> <p>Mr Anderson summarised a range of probable outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No change (Brexit rollback); 2. Third country status (i.e. where bids are accepted in some circumstances, subject to Government co-funding); 3. A UK Government International Research Collaboration funding model; 4. EFTA possibilities: Norway/Iceland model meaning essentially no changes (UK will still pay in to EU); 5. EFTA: Swiss model i.e. a hybrid of 2 and 3 above. 6. Independent Scotland within EU: essentially no change or possible enhanced advantages in EU terms. <p>In lieu of any certainty the key message to staff was to take advantage of the EU funding streams whilst still available.</p> <p>He also mentioned some discussion on establishing a European hub on mainland Europe dependent on the eventual outcome.</p>
016.065	Discussion	<p>Mr Anderson was asked if there was likely to be student recruitment impact. He responded that there was a possibility that ERASMUS might continue but in general recruitment terms there was an immediate and ongoing impact. Depending on the outcome fees may or may not be chargeable to EU students.</p> <p>Mr Anderson informed members that there would be a <i>Europe week</i> series of events at the end of November 2016 and that they should look out for more details.</p>
016.066	Resolved	That Mr. Anderson be thanked for his informative summary.
TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF URC		
016.067	Approved	The updated Composition and Membership and Terms of Reference of the Committee (REC16/7/1) with a view to refining the composition for 2017-18.
UNSATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY AND PROCEDURE		
016.068	Considered	A draft policy and procedure which aims to formalise a procedure and good practice in addressing cases of unsatisfactory academic progress (RDC16/04/02).
016.069	Approved	Subject to the following amendments:

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender neutral language is used throughout; 2. The timing of when the procedure can be instigated i.e. post RDC2 phase is specified in the procedural text; 3. Timings in all procedural phases are specified to ensure there is no dubiety over timescales. <p>(Action: RDC Secretary)</p>
RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT		
016.070	Received	The Research Degrees Committee Annual Report (RDC16/03/01).
RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE – COMPOSITION		
016.071	Received	Changes to the composition proposed by the Committee (RDC16/02/01)
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER IN THE SCOTTISH MODERN UNIVERSITY SECTOR		
016.072	Received	A paper including information relating to KT in the Scottish Modern University Sector (REC16/17/01) .
RESEARCH DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE		
016.073	Received	Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016 (RDC16/01/01)
SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES		
016.074	Received	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GSBS Research Committee minutes 17 February 2016 (GSBSRC/15/05). 2. SEBE Research Committee minutes 31 May 2016 (SEBE RC 15/16). 3. SHLS Research Committee minutes 22 June 2016 (HLSRC15/09/1)