



Department of Governance

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY		
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2016		
Present:	Ms J. Broadhurst, Mr C. Daisey, Professor C. Donaldson (Chair), Professor R. Emmanuel, Dr L. Gray, Professor J. Harris, Professor B. Hughes, Professor S. Hutchinson, Professor J. Marshall, Professor J Woodburn, Professor B. Steves	
In attendance:	Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Professor I. Cameron, Dr P. Martin, Mr V. McKay, Professor A. Morgan, Professor P. Shukla	
Opening Remarks The Chair welcomed new members, Mr Daisley and Professor Harris, to the Committee. He also thanked Professor Mike Mannion for his efforts as Chair of the Committee.		
MINUTES		
016.001	Considered	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2016 (REC15/46/1).
016.002	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as a correct record subject to noting that the CROS/PIRLS outcomes would be considered by the relevant People Services board rather than RDC.
MATTERS ARISING		
Postgraduate Research Student Experience (<i>arising on RCM 016.096</i>)		
016.003	Reported	By Professor Steves that this area was largely delegated to the Research Degrees Committee who would undertake a monitoring role on behalf of the University Research Committee. There would be communications to staff and students via Graduate School and the PGR networks.
STERN REVIEW OF REF		
016.004	Considered	The proposals of the Stern Review of REF (REC16/2/1)
016.005	Reported	By the Chair that there a couple of key points to note from the ongoing

		consultation in particular the staffing contractual implications that may be faced.
016.006	Discussion	<p>Professor Marshall stated that guidance arising from the outcome to the consultation would be available before next summer (2017) when HEFCE would produce guidance. He outlined the Stern proposed timetable which was: Summer and autumn 2016 - UK Governments and funding councils should work together to translate the principles outlined in this report into the structures and formulae for submissions. End of 2016 - A formal consultation should be issued so that the community can offer their views on the proposed process and the future REF formula. Summer 2017 - The decisions arising from this consultation should be published.</p> <p>Members asked if there would be discussion or decisions regarding staffing and contractual issues before the publication of guidance.</p> <p>The Chair replied that it would be a matter for Executive Board to decide how to approach. No discussions had taken place so far.</p> <p>Members also noted the Stern recommendation to balance the aims of REF and the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) as an ongoing commitment.</p> <p>Members acknowledged that the review posed some serious questions, particularly around the inclusion of all staff and strategies to manage this were not straightforward.</p>
016.007	Resolved	That the update is noted.
EFFECT OF BREXIT ON RESEARCH		
016.008	Considered	A discussion paper on the ramifications for research (REC16/4/1).
016.009	Reported	By the Chair that he had asked the Head of the Europe Office to prepare a paper for consideration at a future meeting.
016.010	Discussion	<p>Members were keen to avoid any knee jerk reactions and to focus on what is practically achievable e.g. lobbying for research funding to be spread to the research intensive institutions.</p> <p>Ms Broadhurst reported that from a PGRS viewpoint there was now uncertainty for some PGRs (from EU) but no major or specific issues had been reported.</p>
016.011	Resolved	That the implications of Brexit be revisited at a future meeting.
OPEN RESEARCH DATA CONCORDAT - CONSULTATION		
016.012	Considered	The RCUK Open Research Data Concordat (REC16/3/1).
016.013	Reported	By Professor Marshall that the Concordat was uncontentious in itself. He referred to the draft Data Management Policy which the Committee had previously considered and approved but which had been sidelined by unresolved technical issues reported by IT Services and suggested revisiting the draft Policy in the light of the Concordat.

016.014	Discussion	<p>Members queried how research data management would work in a practical sense and what procedures GCU could implement. Professor Marshall stated that Pure 5 would allow for the systematic management of data for the first time. Workflows, guidance and governance procedures would have to be developed but a revisit of the draft Data Management Policy would be expedient to review its suitability in terms of the Concordat and internal GCU policies (e.g. <i>Information Classification and Handling Policy</i>).</p> <p>Professor Marshall stated he would be happy to receive any further feedback from members.</p>
016.015	Resolved	<p>That the following recommendations be approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professor Marshall drafts a GCU response. 2. That the draft Data Management Policy be revisited.
UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PURE		
016.016	Considered	Update on developments in the PURE research information system REC16/5/1).
016.017	Reported	<p>By Professor Marshall that the PURE system has been substantially upgraded during the summer of 2016 and further work is planned. There had been some delays due to IT synchronisation and People Services database errors but these were now resolved.</p> <p>Among the Pure 5 enhancements were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new “REF2020” module (subject to adaptation on release of REF guidance) • Workflow support for Open Access policy compliance on outputs • New Student Theses content type • New Research Datasets content type • New C.V. content type • Enhanced Bibliometric support for importing from external publication databases • Enhanced reporting module accessing more PURE record fields <p>The new award management module (to replace the paper-based PAF) covered applications, awards, projects and allowed for peer review and ethical review.</p> <p>Some project planning would be required to test and roll out new workflows.</p>
016.018	Discussion	<p>One member mentioned the backlog of outputs being uploaded to the Pure Portal. Professor Marshall reported that according to the Director of Library Services, this was now not so much with historical publications but new publications and should nevertheless be improving.</p> <p>Professor McMeekin asked if there was any reason not to give AHods access to Pure, primarily as a PDAR function. Professor Marshall said that the issue on access was largely one of defining management structures across the University but in principle there was no objection to AHods access.</p>
016.019	Resolved	That there be further discussion on the implementation between Professor Marshall and the ADRs in the first instance.

RCUK DEVELOPMENTS		
016.020	Considered	RCUK developments including open access compliance, JE-s changes and Researchfish changes (REC16/6/1).
016.021	Reported	<p>By Professor Marshall that RCUK had a new CEO this appeared to signal a new approach. One outcome of this would be that the new RCUK system, replacing JE-s, would, supposedly, integrate with local systems.</p> <p><i>Researchfish</i> research outcome reporting system would also be revised and made more user friendly.</p> <p>The RCUK annual open access report required numbers of compliant outputs relevant to RCUK funded projects.</p> <p>There were also reminders about the RCUK open access report and noting of activity related to research collaboration with India and China, which was being given a higher focus.</p>
016.022	Resolved	That the update be noted.
CARNEGIE REPORT		
016.023	Considered	A report on interaction with the Carnegie Trust (REC16/11/1).
016.024	Discussion	Members whilst noting the number of applications was small, thought that the proportion of “not eligible” applications was the key headline (i.e. 3 out of 4). It was suggested that this was possibly a matter of insufficient prescreening of applications. It was also noted that membership of the Committees did not appear to be harmful to applications.
016.025	Resolved	That members consider the possibility of putting themselves or colleagues forward for panels.
AOB		
016.026	Reported	By Professor Woodburn that availability of risk management training was causing difficulties in the School.
016.027	Reported	By Professor Marshall that training had been delivered and was available from the Finance Office.
TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF URC		
016.028	Considered	The updated Composition and Membership and Terms of Reference of the Committee (REC16/7/1).
016.029	Discussion	<p>Mr Daisley asked if it was appropriate to co-opt further student representation from each School.</p> <p>Members calculated that this mean an increase of 3 student members (to include GCU London). Wider representation was welcomed by some members but others thought the Committee was already too big.</p>

		Members proposed a review in a wider sense, including a look at the external HE environment.
016.030	Resolved	That there is an initial review of research committees in the sector before final decisions on the composition of the Committee.
RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT		
016.031	Considered	The draft Research Committee Annual Report 2015-16 (REC16/8/1).
016.032	Approved	The Report is approved to Senate subject to required amendments of the sederunt table.
RESEARCH ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE		
016.033	Received	Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 (EC15/12/1)
RESEARCH DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE		
016.034	Received	Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2016 (RDC15/14/1)
SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES		
016.035	Received	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SHLS minutes (i)13 January 2016 (HLSRC15/7/2)and (ii)20 April 2016 (HLSRC15/8/2). 2. SEBE (i) 8 September 2015 (SEBE RC 14/19) (ii) 4 November 2015 (SEBE RC 15/05) (iii) 3 February 2016 (SEBE RC 15/09) (iv) 23 March 2016 (SEBE RC 15/13).
SFC - STUDENT PLACEMENT INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME		
016.036	Received	Update on the Student Placement Innovation Voucher Scheme (REC16/9/01).
RESEARCH-LED TEACHING THRESHOLDS		
		Senate approved research-led teaching thresholds (REC16/10/1).
DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
016.037	Received	Notification that the next meeting of the University Research Committee will be held on Wednesday 2 November 2016 in room CEE2.