



Department of Governance

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY		
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2019		
Present:	Mr M. Anderson, Professor K. Currie, Professor C. Donaldson (Chair), Professor R. Emmanuel, Professor J. Harris, Professor B. Hughes, Professor O. Pahl, Professor B. Steves, Dr J. Thomson	
In attendance:	Ms M. Daly, Ms D. Donaldson, Mr G. Steele, Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Professor L. Elliot, Dr L. Gray, Dr D. Lukic	
MINUTES		
019.001	Considered	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2019 (REC19/01/01) .
019.002	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as a correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
Research Integrity (arising on 018.115)		
019.003	Reported	By the Chair that the assistant Vice Principal Research had agreed to take on the role as institutional research integrity contact.
School Research Committees' Terms of Reference (arising on 018.118)		
019.004	Reported	By the Secretary that the terms of reference had been updated and agreed by the ADRs.
REF 2021		
019.005	Considered	Update on the REF 2021 preparations including <i>Invitation to complete the REF survey of submission intentions (REC19-01-01)</i> .
019.006	Reported	By the Chair that feedback on the Code of Practice had been received. There were a some areas that required amendment i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To remove reference to the delivery of outputs in the criteria for identifying significant responsibility for research.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include an appeals process for determining research independence. • To explicitly confirm that staff agreement has been received for the processes established to identify staff with significant responsibility for research. <p>These were relatively minor in respect of amendments to the text and would be implemented along with seeking letters of support from Trade Union representatives and staff members on the University Court.</p> <p>The survey of submission intentions was a mechanism to allow funders to plan for the REF assessment exercise. It was also useful to us in moving on to the next stage of planning. The information required was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of CAT A submitted staff (headcount). Total number of CAT A submitted staff (FTE).1 Whether the HEI is involved in a joint submission The total number of outputs to be submitted. The approximate proportion of submitted outputs that will be in each output collection format. The approximate number of interdisciplinary research outputs The approximate number of impact case studies to be submitted under each impact type, along with a supporting statement (150 words). Further details about the research specialisms of the outputs to be submitted. More information on research specialisms is in paragraphs 14-16.
019.007	Discussion	Members welcomed the update from the Chair. As a general point, it was noted that the workload burden of the REF process did not appear to have reduced from any previous research assessment exercise.
019.008	Resolved	That the update be noted.
CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF OPEN ACCESS FUNDING		
019.009	Considered	Recommendations for allocation of open access funding (REC19-03-01).
019.010	Reported	<p>By Mr Steele that open access was an ever changing landscape. Drivers for change included REF, open access journals, funders open access policies.</p> <p>The “Open access publication policies and payment” working group was established to review and agree the criteria for the allocation of funding from REG funds for Open Access publications at GCU.</p> <p>The group’s recommendation was that the REG Open Access funds be treated as a last resort after all other options have been explored e.g. if green access was available, use that. The Green Open Access route was currently still acceptable but would not be under Plan S.</p> <p>Other alternatives would be journals covered by the SHEDL and JISC “transformative” deals. These deals were currently being negotiated and driven by Plan S.</p> <p>Thereafter REG funds could be used but any REG funded publication should be</p>

		<p>fully Plan S compliant.</p> <p>There was a wider piece of work to be done with the Library administering funds and engaging with publishing academics. The Open Access Policy would have to be revised but it made sense to await the stated position of funders regarding Plan S.</p>
019.011	Discussion	<p>Members referred to models they had experience of and cited the Chief Scientist Office model.</p> <p>PhD students were discussed and what guidance we can give. In theory the green route could be used currently for students but further clarity would be needed ahead of the review of the Open Access Policy.</p> <p>Mr Steele informed members that there would be further consultation with School Research Committees.</p>
019.012	Resolved	That members can provide feedback to Mr Steele on the additional questions.
URC ANNUAL REPORT		
019.013	Considered	The draft report to Senate on URC business during session 2018-19 (REC19/02/01).
019.014	Approved	That, subject to minor corrections for accuracy, the report be approved and recommended to Senate.
URC COMPOSITION, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SESSION 2019-20		
019.015	Approved	The URC Composition, Membership and Terms of Reference for Session 2019/20. (Doc REC19/04/01).
RESEARCH DEGREE APPEALS PROCESS		
019.016	Approved	A proposed update to the research degree appeals process (REC19/05/01) subject to consultation with SAGE and inclusion of an Equality Impact Assessment before consideration by Senate.
019.017	Resolved	That guidance for students surrounding the appeals be developed (Action: Director Graduate School/RDC Secretary).
LIVE ISSUES		
Research Project Procedures Review		
019.018	Reported	By Mrs Donaldson that the 3 Schools were working on refining School processes to achieve better consistency. The revised approach is dependent on the update to Pure but this is expected to allow PAFs to be submitted via Pure. The approach will be piloted by research administrators in the first instance but if implemented the PI would be responsible for the submissions. It was hoped to pilot in December 2019 and implement circa March 2020. Workshops for staff would be run ahead of this time.

Research News Report for Court		
019.019	Reported	By the Chair that he was circulating the Trimester C Research News Report for Court (UC19.13) to the Committee. Highlights included details of grants awarded during the period, a GCU PGR student selected as one of 12 UK semi-finalists from the 2019 Vitae UK 3 minute thesis competition, and the ESRC Safepod award.
RESEARCH INTEGRITY		
019.020	Received	Annual report for information and possible activity for 2018-19 (REC18/24/02).
REF 2021 MANAGEMENT GROUP		
019.021	Received	The confirmed minutes of the meetings held on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 29 January 2019 (RMG18/05/01). 2. 29 April 2019 (RMG18/07/01). 3. 23 May 2019 (RMG18/09/01)
RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE		
019.022	Received	The confirmed minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2018 (RDC17/23/01).
DEVELOPING ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS IN EXCELLENCE STEERING GROUP		
To Receive:		
019.023	Received	The confirmed minutes of the meetings held on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 18 January 2019 (DARE19/10/01) 2. 25 April 2019 (DARE19/11/01)