



Department of Governance

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY		
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2015		
Present:	Dr L. Amrane-Cooper, Professor I. Cameron, Mr R. Clougherty, Professor C. Donaldson, Professor R. Emmanuel, Professor S. Hutchinson, Dr L. Gray, Professor B. Hughes, Professor M. Mannion (Chair), Professor J. Marshall, Dr P. Martin, Professor J Woodburn, Professor P. Shukla, Mr M. Stephenson, Professor B. Steves, Professor B. Stewart, Professor O. Walsh	
In attendance:	Mr M Anderson, Mr R Ruthven, Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Professor A. de Ruyter, Professor T. Hilton, Mr V. McKay	
By Invitation:	James Parry, Chief Executive UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)	
MINUTES		
015.051	Considered	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2015 (REC15/14/1).
015.052	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as a correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
015.053	Reported	By the Secretary that the revised composition of the Committee had been approved by Senate.
CHAIR'S REPORT		
015.054	Reported	By the Chair that he had asked Professor Caroline Parker to investigate the PGR student experience issues. The details of this and timescale were to be discussed under item A8 (Postgraduate Research Student Experience: Delayed Completion and Other Issues).
RAPID REVIEW OF CROSS-GCU IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UUK CONCORDAT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY		
015.055	Considered	A paper outlining the rapid review of implementation of the principles of the

		Concordat on Research Integrity (REC15/17/1).
015.056	Reported:	<p>By Professor Donaldson that overall picture for the University was mixed but he was also reassured to an extent and he outlined the key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no overarching policy statement; • There are a number of contributing policies, some of which require updating; • There is a need to identify any gaps and to join up disparate policies; • In general more training and raising awareness is required for researchers; • School/research area specific guidance (in some areas) would be useful; • There is a need for greater transparency. <p>He stressed that the University was doing many things right but there was some work to do in terms of joining up existing policy and regulations under an overarching research integrity policy.</p>
015.057	Discussion	<p>In terms of tying these aspects together members agreed that an overarching policy would be of great help.</p> <p>In terms of raising awareness linking this to induction, holding workshops etc. awareness</p> <p>Members were pleased to note that greater cohesiveness would be achievable through communications, training, web development.</p>
015.058	Resolved	That Professor Donaldson will report on progress in April 2016 (Prof. Cam Donaldson).
REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECT APPROVALS PROCESS		
015.059	Considered	A paper proposing a review of the Research Project Approvals Process (REC15/18/1).
015.060	Reported	<p>By Professor Marshall that The University had undertaken a review of research support provision in the wider context of preparing the institution to deliver Strategy 2020. Research active staff at the institution has provided feedback identifying institutional processes that could be made more efficient. The two most frequently mentioned were:</p> <p>a) adapting an electronic PAF system for approvals b) reviewing the number of required signatories to approve a research project bid</p> <p>As part of the Pure upgrade, it was possible to buy the PURE award management module, which would enable an electronic approval process as well as an ethical approval workflow.</p>
015.061	Discussion	<p>Members discussed the priorities related to the Pure upgrade and the timescales for it. Professor Marshall stated that the upgrade should be completed in the first quarter of 2016.</p> <p>Professor Marshall also pointed out that Elsevier could provide a webinar on the</p>

		award management module.
015.062	Resolved	That the Chair would discuss possible project team with Professor Marshall (PVCR/Director ARD).
RESEARCH PROJECT APPROVALS: NEW RISK REGISTER		
015.063	Reported	By the Secretary that the Finance Office had not provided a written synopsis so this was a discussion item only.
015.064	Discussion	By Professor Marshall that it is a new process and he felt that it would be useful to know what is expected of us. The Chair stated that he thought it was primarily about encouraging good habits. Other members related how they had created risk registers for projects, normally for bigger grants although others pointed out that size of grant was not necessarily linked to greater risk.
015.064	Resolved	That the above be noted.
OPEN ACCESS IN RESEARCH		
015.065	Considered	The following items related to open access: 1. Springer Gold Open Access policy change (REC15/19/1). 2. Pure deposition guidance in relation to REF Open Access revised policy (REC15/20/1).
015.066	Reported	By Mr Ruthven that the list attached was not the list of eligible journals but of the exclusions. list was available on the Springer website.
015.067	Discussion	Members felt that this was potentially of interest to certain subject areas and should be publicised widely to the research community.
015.068	Resolved	That the Library makes the relevant data widely available to the research community (Library).
015.069	Reported	By Professor Marshall that the deposition guidance showed the relative simplicity of the deposition process. The checking undertaken by the Library was more complex and he recommended that academic staff should deposit their publications now. The ability to deposit was not affected by the Pure upgrade.
015.070	Discussion	Members asked for clarification of the REF requirements and some definitions. 1. What is the “author final version” The author’s final, accepted manuscript is the one that has been accepted by the editor at that point, not journal proofs 2. What is the publication date? This the date on which the publication first appears in public domain (by whatever medium).

		<p>3. What is the position on translated publications? The date would relate to the original publication (non-English outputs were eligible in REF).</p> <p>Professor Marshall informed members that there was further guidance available on GCYou's Research Hub.</p>
015.071	Resolved	That the guidance is noted.
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT EXPERIENCE: DELAYED COMPLETION AND OTHER ISSUES		
015.072	Considered	An update on action since the last meeting of URC (REC15/28/1).
015.073	Reported	By the Committee Secretary that Professor Caroline Parker would be leading an investigation into issues raised by postgraduate research students in relation to various factors impinging on their student experience. The investigation was expected to be concluded in Spring 2016 with an interim report to the Committee in January 2016.
015.074	Reported	By Mr Stephenson that he welcomed the clarification of a timeline for the investigation. He added that there was a need to investigate widely and noted that the PRES survey indicated that there were matters that required to be addressed.
015.075	Discussion	<p>Members asked if the timescale set out meant that there would be no action until the conclusion of the investigation.</p> <p>The Chair replied that the situation was complex and not all of the issues would be able to be resolved quickly. The aim was to put in place long term solutions although that would not rule out any interim actions if they were required.</p>
015.076	Resolved	That the update is noted.
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY (PRES)		
015.077	Considered	A preliminary analysis of the PRES 2015 results (REC15/22/1).
015.078	Reported	By Dr Gray that this was a brief highlight and the detailed results were being analysed before presentation to the Research Degrees Committee in the first instance.
015.079	Resolved	That the analysis of the results is brought to the Committee when completed. (Chair RDC).
CAREERS IN RESEARCH ONLINE SURVEY (CROS)/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND RESEARCH LEADERS SURVEY (PIRLS)		
015.080	Considered	The CROS 2015 results (REC15/25/1) and PIRLS 2015 results (REC15/26/1).
015.081	Reported	By Professor Steves that these were high level summaries of the responses of GCU PIs and research leaders to the UK CROS and PIRLS surveys and the responses were benchmarked against the 2013 survey results and the 2015 UK

		survey results. She commented that there had been a decline in the recognition and value research leaders feel for core research activities.
015.082	Discussion	Some members felt that the overview presented an overly negative picture and more analysis was required. It was noted that the response rate was down (from 40% in 2013 to 30% in 2015 for PIRLs and from 79% to 41 % in CROS) so members were also uncertain about the significance in relation to the benchmarks.
015.083	Resolved	That further analysis of the data is undertaken to inform any recommended action (Graduate School).
HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT		
015.085	Approved	That, in principle, the updated Composition and Membership and Terms of Reference of the Committee and recommended to Senate (REC15/02/1).
HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH DRAFT SUBMISSION FOR BIENNIAL REVIEW		
015.086	Received	The draft biennial review for HR Excellence in Research (REC15/24/1).
SENIOR PGR TUTORS		
015.087	Received	Notification of the creation of a senior PGRT position (also to be chair of new Progressions and Awards Boards for research students) and changes to the PGRT positions to align more closely with research themes (REC15/23/1).
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS (KTP) @ 40		
015.088	Received	KTP@40 - 40 years of the Knowledge Transfer Partnership Scheme at GCU (REC15/27/1).
RESEARCH ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE		
015.089	Received	Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 April 2015 (EC15/1/1).
HIGHER DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE		
015.090	Received	The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015 (HDC15/2/1).
SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES		
015.091	Received	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SHLS Research Committee minutes 19th May 2015 (HLSRC14/08/2) and 19th June 2015 (HLSRC14/11/2). 2. GSBS Research Committee minutes (GSBSRC/14/03). 3. SEBE Research Committee minutes 20 May 2