



Department of Governance

<b>GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY</b>		
<b>UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE</b>		
Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020		
<b>Present:</b>	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 O. Pahl, Dr J. Thomson, Professor J. Woodburn	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Ms M. Daly, Ms D. Donaldson, Mr R. Ruthven, Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
<b>Apologies</b>	Professor B. Hughes, Professor B. Steves	
<b>By Invitation</b>	Dr J. Wark (Knowledge Exchange Manager –RIO)	
<b>MINUTES</b>		
<b>020.001</b>	<b>Considered</b>	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2020 <b>(REC19/29/01)</b> .
<b>020.002</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the minutes be approved as a correct record.
<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>		
<b>020.003</b>	<b>Reported</b>	There were no matters not otherwise included on the agenda.
<b>PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SUBCOMMITTEE/SUBGROUP OF URC To</b>		
<b>020.004</b>	<b>Considered</b>	A proposal to establish a Knowledge Exchange Subcommittee/Subgroup of the URC <b>(REC20/05/01)</b> .
<b>020.005</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By Dr Wark that the UK Knowledge Exchange Concordat was currently being reviewed by the Scottish Funding Council. The Concordat covered eight core principles of KE this proposal was to establish a forum for the discussion and promotion of KE opportunities and to address the principles of the Concordat.
<b>020.006</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Members broadly welcomed the proposal to focus on KE opportunities and to develop a KE plan and to establish a cross-University forum for consideration of KE. It was noted that the SFC had not yet committed to the Concordat.</p> <p>Members felt there would be benefits for KTPs and other KE activity. Internal resourcing was an important part of the commitment and the UIF was discussed as a source that required to be unlocked. The KE plan was an important step in</p>

		<p>securing Executive Board commitment.</p> <p>Members commented further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community and Public Engagement Officer should be added to the composition.</li> <li>• The membership was too large.</li> <li>• Currently KPi is KTPs – there was a need to diversify to other funding streams.</li> </ul>
<b>020.007</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the proposal be approved, subject to the amendments described above and review of the membership.
<b>CHAIR'S REPORT ON RESEARCH-RELATED MATTERS</b>		
<b>020.008</b>	<b>Considered</b>	An update by the Chair on research-related matters and the latest Research Bulletin (Trimester C Report) prepared for the University Court ( <b>REC20/04/01</b> ).
<b>020.009</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<p>By the Chair that the report was a draft of the bulletin prepared for the University Court. This report referenced Covid-related impacts but, following a more detailed update to Court in June, this reflected a more business as usual picture.</p> <p>The maintenance of research performance was described in relation to the successes in large and small grants as well as some aspects of esteem and funding for postgraduate research students. Funded COVID-related research was also referenced.</p> <p>The Chair informed members that currently there was some ambiguity around safe return to campus for PGR students and that he and the Director of the Graduate School would be meeting with the Chief Operating Officer to clarify plans.</p>
<b>020.010</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the update be noted.
<b>REF 2021</b>		
<b>020.011</b>	<b>Considered</b>	Updates in relation to REF2021 ( <b>RMG20/02/01</b> ).
<b>020.012</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that the paper provided an update on revisions to the REF2021 guidance to take account of the effects of COVID-19. The changes had already been well publicised. There may be minor changes to the Code of Practice to reflect this.
<b>020.013</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<p>By Mr Anderson that as well as the Code there was an opportunity to add 500 words to the Institutional Environment Statement to describe the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>In terms of University preparations, he informed members that the census date had passed and there had been no appeals in relation to identification of staff with Significant Responsibility for Research (Sigres) had been received.</p> <p>A mock audit process had highlighted the need to have data relating to sigres/employment expectations on record and available. The august window for proposing new outputs had now closed but there would be another</p>

		window in November. Draft environment statements were currently being reviewed.
<b>020.014</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the Committee notes its thanks to the ADRs, UoA Leads and RIO for dealing with any concerns raised by staff.
<b>RESEARCH INTEGRITY UPDATE</b>		
<b>020.015</b>	<b>Considered</b>	1. The statement and report for 2019-20 as presented to Court( <b>REC19/31/02</b> ). 2. A Chair's action approving a change to the Code of Good Practice for Researchers to include provision for safeguarding ( <b>REC20/02/01</b> ).
<b>020.016</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Secretary that the report had been submitted to the University Court and had been approved. It would now be published on the University Research Integrity webpage.  The Chair's action related to an update to the Code of Good Practice for Researchers to explicitly reference safeguarding which had been required by the Scottish Funding Council.
<b>020.017</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Professor Woodburn informed members that he would like to operationalise the actions identified. For example he cited a need to draw actions from the lessons learned, investigate training requirements/opportunities and dovetail with Researcher Development Concordat and PGRS online developments. He felt that the Scottish Research Integrity Network had appeared to lose some impetus during the pandemic and he would be keen for the Network to be reinvigorated.  Mr Anderson referred to the safeguarding addition to the Code of Good Practice and informed members that it was important to ensure that procedures were robust.
<b>020.018</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That operationalizing of the action plan is revisited at the next meeting of URC.
<b>UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO SENATE</b>		
<b>020.019</b>	<b>Considered</b>	The draft report to Senate on URC business during session 2018-19 ( <b>REC20/01/01</b> ).
<b>020.020</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Secretary that the report was an account of the Committee's activity over the previous academic session and was prepared each year for consideration by Senate.  <i>Note by Secretary: subsequent to this meeting the Chair of Senate confirmed that annual reports from standing committees would be replaced by meeting reports. Chairs of individual standing committees could decide if annual reports would still be required for their committees' consideration.</i>
<b>020.021</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Members felt that there should be more detail and explicit reference to the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken to protect and enhance research. The impact of Brexit was another factor that should be referenced.  The implications of the various Concordats could also be foregrounded.
<b>020.022</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the report be revised in line with the above discussion ( <b>Action: URC</b>

		Secretary).
<b>URC COMPOSITION, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE 2020/2021</b>		
<b>020.023</b>	<b>Considered</b>	The URC Composition, Membership and Terms of Reference for Session 2020/21 (Doc REC20/03/01).
<b>020.024</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that due to Professor Hughes retirement at the end of the month he intended to seek nominations for Chair of the Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee.
<b>020.025</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Secretary that confirmation of Dean's nominees and the PGRS representative was still outstanding.
<b>020.026</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the membership issues be clarified ( <b>Action: URC Secretary</b> ).
<b>LIVE ISSUES</b>		
<b>PGR Student engagement</b>		
<b>020.027</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that following on from the engagement events for ECRs he was considering an event specifically for PGR students. He asked members for their thoughts and if there were any other events being held in Schools/Departments.
<b>020.028</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Dr Gray stated that he was aware of departmental events and Graduate School were running workshops but he agreed that a cross-University event would be welcome to increase engagement during remote working.  It was noted that there were ongoing and/or planned activities in the Schools and Graduate School provision.
<b>020.029</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the Chair discuss this further with ADRs/Director Graduate School.