



Department of Governance

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY		
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2017		
Present:	Professor C. Donaldson (Chair), Dr L. Gray, Professor J. Harris, Professor B. Hughes, Professor J. Lennon, Dr P. Martin, Mr C. Daisley, Professor O. Pahl, Professor J Woodburn	
By invitation:	Professor N. Andrew (Head of Academic Quality and Development)	
In attendance:	Mr G. Steele (<i>vice</i> R. Ruthven), Mr P Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Professor R. Clougherty, Dr D. Lukic, Professor B. Steves	
MINUTES		
017.001	Considered	The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2017 (REC16/29/01).
017.002	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as a correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT (arising on 016.xxx)		
017.003	Reported	By the Secretary that the matter was ongoing.
REF 2021		
017.004	Considered	Update on the REF Stocktake exercises 2017 (REC17/01/1).
017.005	Reported	By the Chair that there was still a great deal of uncertainty without the Funding Councils' guidance being published yet. However the feeling at RMG was that preparations should begin pending more concrete guidance. This paper presented the Stocktake process proposals, terms of reference and format.
017.006	Resolved	That the stock take proposals be approved.

THEMATIC REVIEW OF RESEARCH DEGREES		
017.007	Considered	<p>1. The Thematic Review of Post-Graduate Research Student Experience (2017-2018).(Doc LTSC16/53/1)</p> <p>2. Review of the PGR Journey (REC17/08/01).</p>
017.008	Reported	<p>By Professor Andrew that there was to be a review of PGRS experience, arising out of ELIR 3 which had highlighted challenges for GCU which were, to an extent, mirrored across the sector. PRES reflected some similar concerns as ELIR, particularly around PGR student community and identity.</p> <p>A thematic review was chosen as a more evaluative methodology than an audit-based approach. The final outcome report will be made public and will also feed into preparations for ELIR 4.</p>
017.009	Discussion	<p>Members welcomed the update and discussed themes, panel membership. Professor Andrew clarified that the Panel did not require external membership, necessarily but would aim for broad representation.</p> <p>The approach would be based on QAA principles.</p>
017.010	Reported	<p>By the Secretary that the review of the PGR journey was a summary of recent activity as part of ongoing research degree process refresh and this activity would feed into the thematic review.</p>
017.011	Resolved	<p>That the reports be noted.</p>
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY 2017		
017.012	Considered	<p>A report on the results of the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2017 (REC17/03/1).</p>
017.013	Reported	<p>By Ms Roden that Strategy and Planning were now managing the PRES survey. It was now under the student experience strategy and action plan led by the DVC academic. It showed a 35% response rate and that satisfaction had declined from the previous survey.</p> <p>She asked members to note that there were elements that were common across the sector e.g. perceptions of poor research culture but there also were specific aspects to address as a University. Aspects such as research culture and PGRS teaching have remained the lowest scoring metrics for GCU, as in previous editions of the PRES.</p> <p>Ms Roden informed members that the report will also go to the Deans Group and be circulated to Schools. Normal practice for taught programmes was to seek an action plan from each School.</p>
017.014	Discussion	<p>Members thought some additional commentary was required to drill down to the key areas before developing action plan(s). It was agreed it would be useful to get ADRs' views in that respect.</p> <p>One member noted that there were more non-responders than responders and</p>

		<p>highlighted the dangers inherent in basing broad-based action on that.</p> <p>Members were agreed that there was a need to increase the number of respondents as currently the outcome was likely to be skewed by respondent who were aggrieved for whatever reason. To this end members thought the format required to be simplified and provide a lighter touch experience. The current version was too time-consuming to complete.</p> <p>Ms Roden informed members the intention was to use the HEA pulse survey on an annual basis, moving on from the biennial PRES, which would possibly allow for students getting more used to a student experience survey and also be more light touch than PRES.</p> <p>It was suggested that the response to the PRES should be different to the NSS/taught student surveys and that a University-wide response could be co-ordinated by the Graduate School. Engagement by stakeholders could be more easily managed in that way.</p>
017.015	Resolved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be taken to RDC for consideration and comment. (Action: URC Secretary) 2. That there be further consideration of how to target conversations on the PRES outcomes. <p>(Action: Chair URC, Chair RDC, GCUSA representative)</p>
RESEARCH CENTRES APPROVAL AND RENEWAL		
017.016	Considered	An update on the Research Centres Approval and Renewal process (REC17/04/1) .
017.017	Discussion	<p>Members asked if what would happen if a Centre was not re-approved. The Chair stated there was the possibility that a centre could be disbanded but the main aim of having a process was prevent groups badging themselves as research centres without following formal procedure.</p> <p>The intention was to be sufficiently robust whilst remaining light touch.</p> <p>Another member suggested that there was a need to develop a recruitment policy to the centres.</p>
017.018	Resolved	That the update is noted and approved.
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS (KTP) UPDATE		
017.019	Considered	An update on progress towards KTP targets (REC17/05/01)
017.020	Reported	By Professor Lennon that University targets set had not been met so far. His impression was that other HEIs were prioritizing KTPs in ways which we were not.
017.021	Discussion	<p>Members reported feedback that researchers were either not aware of KTP opportunities or focused elsewhere. The perception was that researchers have been more comfortable with processes they know, i.e. grant applications.</p> <p>Professor Lennon informed members that fewer than 20 have applied and there was need to encourage greater engagement.</p>

		<p>Members from health related subject areas cited difficulties with NHS related research as not being particularly open to research and development. Also research and development had been limited in SMEs and even big companies had reduce budgets, particularly since the 2008 financial crash.</p> <p>Whilst it was noted that it was a challenge in some subject areas there was further encouragement to make greater efforts, possibly by working with business development managers to target activity.</p> <p>It was also suggested that KTPs offered good potential for development of impact.</p> <p>Members discussed potential areas where KTP may have impact e.g. vision sciences, biosciences, fashion and lifestyle marketing, law. Another possibility raised was linkage to apprenticeships.</p> <p>It was suggested that perhaps training was required to help stimulate greater activity.</p>
017.022		Professor Lennon convenes a meeting for further discussion with ADRs and other stakeholders (Action: Prof. Lennon).
URC ANNUAL REPORT		
017.023	Reported	The annual report to Senate on URC business during 2016-17 (REC17/08/01).
017.024	Resolved	That subject to a number of typographical amendments and any further feedback to the Secretary, the draft be approved. (Action: URC Secretary)
LIVE ISSUES		
017.025	Considered	Other issues to report not otherwise dealt with on the agenda.
017.026	Reported	By Professor Lennon that all eligible staff now had Pure accounts. Training provision was ongoing and being provided through the Library. He also noted that the backlog of publications to the Portal had now been substantially reduced.
017.027	Resolved	That the above update be noted.
URC COMPOSITION, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE 2017/18		
017.028	Approved	The URC Composition, Membership and Terms of Reference for Session 2017/18. (Doc REC17/02/01)
REF 2021		

017.029	Received	Announcement of REF Main Panel Chairs (REC17/06/01).
GLOBAL CHALLENGES RESEARCH FUND		
017.030	Reported	Notification of the SFC Global Challenges Fund (REC17/07/01)

Pwo/researchcom/minutes/August2017