York Graduate Research School
Awards and Funding Sub-Committee

Monday 4 December 2017, 09.00am

H/G/19, Heslington Hall

MINUTES

Present:  Professor T Stoneham (Chair, TS)
          Professor C Brown (CB)
          Professor M Festenstein (MF)
          Dr K Giles (KG)
          Mrs A Grey (AG)

In attendance:  G Kirk (Secretary, GK)

Category I

17-18/1.  Apologies

Professor J Buchanan
Professor D Smith

17-18/2.  Review Terms of Reference

Copies not provided at meeting.
Terms of Reference to be circulated for review and agreement at the next meeting.

ACTION: GK

17-18/3.  Minutes from last meeting [Encl. 1]

The minutes of June’s meeting were approved.

17-18/4.  Matters arising:
a) Update on AHRC DTP2 [Encl. 2]

TS confirmed that the bid went in for 48 studentships, but that the realistic expectation is not to receive more than 10% of pot, so the budgeting is for 37.5 of 375. Currently, all the Arts and Humanities departments are financing both the match funding and management costs and the departmental split is based on snapshot data from 2012. The proposal for DTP2 is for the RDF to take on management costs and departments to fund the matched studentships by putting into their MTPs a third against their historic figures over the last five years. If departments over-recruit, the additional funding would come from the AFSC budget so departments are not penalised for over-recruiting. Once the finer details are agreed, TS will present it to FEG.

b) Leverhulme update

TS reported that he had heard the preceding week that we did not get the Leverhulme doctoral scholarship. There was no feedback from Leverhulme other than to say it was a very competitive process.

c) MA & PG Cert in Social Research update

MF stated that the MA in Social Research programme is up and running as well as could be anticipated, considering the involvement of 14 departments and three faculties. It recruited 25 students this year.

In terms of the PG Certificate, this is being developed as a way of attaching an award to advanced doctoral training. The model that was agreed at WR DTP level turned out to be in violation of HESA reporting requirements as the ‘modules’ would be running over all three years, exceeding the maximum module length of 13 months. The way around the issue is to run the training programme as three modules, one 20-credit module per year. MF noted that we don’t need to set it up if we can prove students have done the equivalent of 60 credits (600 hours) across the course of their PhDs but it would be easier for reporting if it could be done in a more formal, tracked manner.

d) Doctoral Training for Advanced Health Practitioners and Nurses update [Encl. 3]

TS reported that they have managed to get the consultation working properly and there is now an awareness of the major issues involved. There appears to be a solution whereby nurses won’t be seconded, they will be released to study and won’t be required to work more than 20 hours per week for the NHS Trust in order to meet the University’s rules on part time study. The NHS Trust is realising that they need to fund this properly and the University’s input would be in the form of a fee waiver.

e) Marshall Scholarships update

Hilary Layton, Andrew Brown and TS met with the Marshall Commission to investigate why York is not seeing any success in receiving Marshall scholars and challenging that they seem to have a partiality towards the golden triangle. Marshall denied this, stating they are very careful about how they get the committee to work and that success rates are very low, once candidates get to interview -- usually around 1 in 6. They stated it was simply due to the large numbers of applications to institutions like Oxford and LSE that they see some success, whereas for York there are around 6 or fewer candidates who reach interview stage. While their view is that it isn’t their problem, they are happy to support us publicising ourselves in the
States, including through NAFA.

Seeing as we are now going to keep this in the budget line, TS would like any unsuccessful Marshall applicants to be offered a part-scholarship or fee waiver to take up their place at York.

TS asked Marshall if we could contact applicants pre-interview. If we could help them present the strengths of York it would be beneficial to them. Marshall have no problem with this in principle but would need to open this up to all institutions, not just York.

**TS to check with departments if there are any students wishing to apply for this, then we could work with them pre-interview.**

**ACTION: TS**

KG suggested compiling a briefing sheet on the distinctive taught Masters programmes to disperse via NAFA etc.

**TS to liaise with Andrew Brown in Global Engagement to investigate how this can be developed.**

**ACTION: TS**

f) Overseas Research Scholarships update [Encl. 4]

TS confirmed that the process timeline and guidance is now complete. The panel is yet to be put together, but will consist of three of the associate deans and three of associate provosts plus one from External Relations.

**TS to arrange ORS Selection Panel.**

**ACTION: TS**

It was agreed that less time could be provided for the submission of departmental nominations (four weeks instead of six) to allow offers to go out sooner to successful candidates. The revised deadline for departments to submit their supporting statements by is thus Wednesday 28 February instead of Friday 16 March. All other dates thereafter will be brought forward by two weeks on the process timeline.

**ACTION: GK**

17-18/5. **YGRS Conference Fund update [Encl. 5]**

TS noted that a quantitative and qualitative report on Conference fund expenditure for 2016/17 had been put together by GK. GK confirmed that £417.10 was also spent on the ‘Life beyond the PhD’ conference for one student, offered via a competition, as the budget was underspent. Following all claims, the 2016/17 underspend was recorded at £2,601.45.

**GK to update report with the additional ‘Life beyond the PhD’ conference expenditure.**

**ACTION: GK.**

**GK to send out an edited version of report without second, detailed table, but to include student**
reports to Graduate Administrators.  

ACTION: GK

TS to have a first consideration of the 10 applications that came in by Friday and will seek further input from AFSC members if required.  

ACTION: TS

17-18/6.  ESRC DTP match funding summary [Encl. 6]  

MF submitted a paper on match funding arrangements for the ESRC. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the complexities of match funding. The wish is for some uniformity of process across the faculties, with collective oversight and risk management, as well as the sign-off of all match funding agreed.

TS noted there is a major review of this planned and he will feed back the discussion to DS to trigger the review more quickly.  

ACTION: TS

17-18/7.  Faculties update  

There was no further update from the Faculties.

17-18/8.  Scholarships management [Encl. 7]  

TS reported that there is a bid in for some funding to scope a Student and Academic Services project on scholarships management. There is a gap in knowledge currently, with no central system or database, creating a problem for both internal and external reporting as well as a potentially inconsistent approach to PGR scholarship offer letters and agreements, amongst other concerns.

17-18/9.  Wellcome Trust Masters scholarships  

TS flagged up that last year there was no process in place. The Wellcome Trust required a single institution nomination from York for a Masters student. A student put in for it and got the Student Financial Support Unit to submit it to Wellcome without asking if there were any others and then the student withdrew.

TS will be implementing a process for this for 2018/19 and circulating in January.  

ACTION: TS

TS confirmed MF and KG to be involved in selecting institutional nomination.

17-18/10.  HEFCE Catalyst Fund [Encl. 8]  

TS confirmed this is tabled for information purposes. It is a £150k project with a £150k match to be released for 20 December bids on PGR mental health. The proposal is to do some hard research and get a cohort built up that we can start doing some trials with. A large amount of the £150k will come in in kind. TS has proposed that we put in one studentship which would run beyond the length of the HEFCE funding to show commitment to the project, but also to provide someone to complete the data analysis.
TS requested any feedback on the proposal to be sent to him.

**ACTION: ALL**

### 17-18/11. Scholarship Budget update [Encl. 9]

**2017/18:**

- All figures have been updated to 2017/18 RCUK actual rates.

- The second floating match funded studentship for IGGI has been removed from the 2017 budget as unused and has been rolled over to 2018 at Jo Maltby’s request (approved by TS).

- Two of the four WR networks for a 2017 start have been removed from the 17/18 budget and will instead be deployed in 2018 and 2019 respectively, along with the standard deployment of 4 networks per year.

- The budget line for Marshall was removed for 2017 as unrecruited.

**2018/19**

- There is the re-addition of a match-funded Wolfson studentship for a 2018 start. Wolfson have granted us £252,000 for three studentships of £28,000 per student per year so we will be recruiting 4 scholars to begin in October 2018.

- 2018 sees the start of a match-funded studentship for the CAPHRI joint-degree collaboration (Care and Public Health Research Institute at Maastricht University), which will see York gain 4 PhD students.

- This year’s projected spend now includes the a fifth WR Network rolled over from 2017/18.

- There is also a new line for the Overseas Research Scholarships, roughly budgeted at £390,000 for new and continuing students.

**2019/20:**

- As before, this year’s projected spend now includes a fifth WR Network rolled over from 2017/18.

**2020/21:**

- No significant changes to note beyond those mentioned above.

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### 17-18/12. For information: YGRS Annual Report 2016-17 [Encl. 10]

TS put in a version of the annual report, reporting against key objectives, that went to YGRS Board last
week. He confirmed he will put a slightly revised version into URC in January and will also put it into UEB as a Category 2 paper.

TS pointed out that the YGRS Annual Report makes reference to an ‘Innovation Fund’, similar to one that the HRC offers, which is a small pot of money to bid into to develop creative research. The idea is that the fund would be available to PGRs who identify potential research areas that are underdeveloped and wish to build up some momentum behind them.

**TS to consider how we might best organise the funding scheme.**

**ACTION: TS**

17-18/13. **Dates of 2017/18 meetings [Encl. 11]**

Included as an enclosure for information, but it has since been noted that April’s meeting has been timetabled on Easter Monday. April and June’s meetings are being rescheduled for May and September accordingly, as proposed in April 2017’s minutes (16-17/28 iv).

17-18/14. **Any other business**

None.

17-18/15. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 19 February 2018, 9.00am in H/G/19