York Graduate Research School
Awards and Funding Sub-Committee

Wednesday 22 February 2017, 10am – 12 noon

H/G/17

MINUTES

Present: Professor T Stoneham (Chair; TS)
Professor C Brown (CB)
Professor M Festenstein (MF)
Dr K Giles (KG)
Mrs A Grey (AG)
Mr S Willis (SW)
Mr D Lean (DL)

In attendance: Mrs H Poyer (Secretary; HP)

Category I

16-17/19 Apologies

Mrs S Mountain, Professor D Smith, Dr A Kirby, Mr J Stokoe

16-17/20 Minutes from last meeting [Encl. 1]

The minutes were approved by the Committee as an accurate record.

16-17/21 Matters arising:

i) AHRC DTP2 process [Encl. 2]

The group considered a paper from the Director of the WRUC proposing three scenarios for the AHRC DTP2 bid. The group discussed the options and all agreed that Option 1 ((10% of AHRC pot) was not a viable option as it would show a distinct lack of ambition. It was agreed that option 2 or 3 (or possibly something in-between) were preferable. The Chair thanked the group for their consideration and will take a revised paper to UEB in due course.

ii) HEFCE letter and briefing note for departments

The Chair reported that he and AG had agreed it was prudent not to forward a further memo regarding the HEFCE briefing so as not to confuse departments further. It was suggested that
departments in need of advice could contact the Planning Office and AG agreed to discuss the issue with DL further.

**Action: AG & DL**

iii) PGR programme approval process [Encl. 3,4]

The Chair invited feedback on the proposal to move PGR programme approval responsibility from FLTGs to AFSC. The following comments were made:

- Departmental research strategies are not well known at FLTGs and this is crucial when planning approval is required for PGR programmes.
- Would the members of AFSC feel informed enough about financial planning for making such decisions?
- It was unclear as to under whether AFSC or FLTGs had the authority to make decisions on business plans.
- Planning Committee had moved responsibility for programme planning approval to FLTGs and this may not be the best place for such decisions but does it necessarily mean AFSC is?
- It was agreed that neither FLTGs nor AFSC had the authority to approve University resource.
- It was agreed that FLTGs may not have the necessary expertise with regards to the particular needs of the PGR market.
- It was agreed that the current system was in need of revision but that the specific issues which need to be addressed needed to be identified first.
- The group also recommended that UEB be approached to re-assess the decision and fit of PGR programme approval resting with FLTGs.

**Action: Chair to take the issue back to UEB for further discussion**

iv) Department of Education Consultation on PGR Loans [Encl. 5]

There was no comment received from the group, for information only.

v) Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships [Encl. 6]

14 expressions of interest had been received for the Leverhulme grant. Feedback had now been given and the bids would be resubmitted to an internal panel and the successful one submitted to the Trust in July 2017.

vi) YUFund scholarships

The Chair reported that FLTGs will now take responsibility for administering the YUFund scholarships.

**16-17/22 Scholarship Budget Update [Encl. 7]**

The Chair reported that there was a new entry on the scholarships budget for James Chong in 2018. AFSC was funding two studentships as part of the grant. The group were also reminded that the YGRS Conference Fund deadline was on 1 March and that currently there were no
applications. Members were asked to please promote the fund and deadline in their faculties.

16-17/23 Overseas Research Studentship (ORS) changes [Encl. 8,9]

The Chair reported to the group that International Committee had approved the proposal for ORS to move to AFSC. RSAT would handle the administrative process and would check with Paul Armstrong in SRA as to the average number of applications received per annum.

**ACTION:** RSAT

16-17/24 Faculty Update

**Arts and Humanities**
KG raised the issue of workload modelling and the Chair stated he was happy to talk to any department who needed guidance on this.

**Social Sciences**
There was no further update.

**Sciences**
There was no further update.

16-17/25 Any Other Business

The Chair requested that the frequency and length of meetings be reviewed.

**Action:** Chair & JS

16-17/26 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 06 April 2017. 10am – 11am (H/G/17)