York Graduate Research School
Awards and Funding Sub-Committee

Friday 9 December, 2016, 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)
Dr A Kirby (AK)

In attendance:  Mr J Stokoe (Secretary; JS)

Category 1

16-17/8 Apologies

Mr D Lean, Mrs S Mountain, Professor D Smith, Mr S Willis

16-17/9 Review of the Terms of Reference [Encl. 1]

These were approved by the committee.

16-17/10 Minutes from last meeting [Encl. 2]

These were approved by the committee, subject to a change in wording re item 16-17/6:

Sciences

CB reported that EPSRC will be conducting a mid-term review of existing CDT’s over the winter. The EPSRC have indicated that they expect the majority to be renewed but that there may be some headroom for a call for additional CDT proposals in 2017. Around 10 outline bids are currently under discussion in anticipation of this call and work is ongoing with academic leads to develop the ideas further and assess each against metrics developed from the two existing EPSRC CDT’s. The YGRS AFSC 16-17 (01) ambition is to have two renewed bids, and a third new CDT.

The NERC CDT bid to the call on mathematics/ecology/evolution was not successful.
Whilst this was the second successive NERC CDT bid that had reached interview stage but not been successful, in each case the PI had indicated that the successful consortium had been particularly strong.

16-17/11 Matters arising:

TS informed the committee that the AHRC DTP2 call has been announced. The key features are:
- AHRC will require a minimum match spend of 50% on scholarships from consortia. On current numbers this would require an additional investment of up to £950,000 per cohort from York alone (there will be five cohorts).
- The funding is now for 4 years instead of 3.5 years.
- The training requirements are more explicit. No new programmes will be required.
- Collaborative Doctoral Awards will be ring-fenced

TS informed the committee that HEFCE are changing the maximum Research Degree Programme (RDP) supervision fund per student, to a maximum of 3 years at 1.0 FTE. HEFCE will also allow co-supervision at other institutions to share the RDP.

ACTION
TS and AG to send HEFCE letter and briefing note to departments.

TS noted that PGR programme approval was currently going to YGRS Policies and Programmes Sub-Committee for academic consideration, and Faculty Learning and Teaching Groups for planning approval.

ACTION
TS to discuss further with Planning Office

16-17/12 Scholarship Budget Update [Encl. 3]

JS reported that the N8 Policing Research Partnerships (HEFCE) was now in the budget as a full fee waiver and stipend, rather than 50% funded by AFSC.

TS noted that the Overseas Research Studentships were likely to move from SRA to AFSC. Discussion of this is ongoing.

The committee discussed and accepted a proposal from Craig Walker (Director of White Rose University Consortium) to change the schedule of 2017/8 Networks to spread the recruitment over three years, so that a review of the use of the Networks could take place.

ACTION
JS to contact Craig Walker to confirm acceptance of the proposal.

It was noted that the Marshall Scheme had not been utilised for a number of years.

ACTION
Faculty representatives to pass on advice to talk to Andrew Brown in Global Programmes to departments interested in applying to the Marshall scheme.

16-17/13 Department of Education Consultation on PGR Loans [Encl. 4]

The Committee discussed the consultation, and the proposed response. The committee particularly noted:
- It was not clear whether the existence of PGR Loans would increase PGR population, or just provide additional finance to self-funding students that would study regardless of the loan.
- It is important not to discourage students from studying a PGT course first, then a PGR course.

**ACTION**
TS to consider discussion when submitting formal response, and send the reply by 16 December.

16-17/14 Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships Paper

The Leverhulme Trust will open for applications to the Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarships in January 2017. These are awards worth £1m for 15 students over three intakes. TS is leading a meeting to provide further information, and will triage applications with REO. A proposed triaging procedure was tabled.

MF commented that the 'pitch' element of the application process may advantage the charismatic, so suggested a paper submission alongside the pitch.

TS noted that he was looking to put together a panel to consider applications. There will be representation of each Faculty, but the panel will not necessarily have complete balance of Faculty representation.

**ACTION**
TS to consider comments, and distribute details of application process.

16-17/15 YUFund update

OPPA had provided a memo that included a breakdown of all studentships awarded by OPPA.

**ACTION**
JS to circulate OPPA memo.
TS to contact FLTGs to ask whether they would consider awarding YUFund scholarships.

16-17/16 Faculty update

**Arts and Humanities**
There was no further update.
Social Sciences
MF reported that the new Master’s course that runs alongside the ESRC DTP, is now open for applications. The new Pathway Director roles are being advertised.

Sciences
There was no further update.

16-17/17 Any Other Business

TS asked the Associate Deans to highlight the YGRS Conference Funding deadline of 1 March 2017.

16-17/18 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 22 February, 2017. 10am – 11am (H/G/17)