York Graduate Research School
Awards and Funding Sub-Committee

Monday 13 June 2016 (2.30pm)

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: Mrs S Broom (SB)
Mr D Lean (DL)
Mr G Sheen (GS)
Mr J Stokoe (Secretary; JS)

Category I

15-16/34 Apologies

Professor D Smith
Mr S Willis

15-16/35 Minutes from last meeting [Encl. 1]

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

15-16/36 Matters arising:

i. YuFund scholarship update

TS reported that the six YuFund scholarships have been offered and accepted. They have been awarded to students in: Centre for Medieval Studies; Computer Science; Maths; Music; Politics; Social Policy and Social Work.

ii. Mapping of internal funding deadlines

To be held over until the next meeting.
iii. Conference funding update (15-16/28(iii))

TS reported that Conference funding had been awarded to all new applicants to the scheme, capped at £500. The cost of this is £5,013.82. Two applicants, who had previously received YGRS Conference funding, did not receive awards.

iv. Departmental scholarship support figures update (15-16/29(i))

GS presented a paper detailing total spend, and projected spend on PGT and PGR funding, broken down by department, and faculty.

**ACTION**

Total projected spend on PGR funding for 2017/8 to be calculated for the October meeting. This will be used for an advert.

- GS to collate this information for departments from Management Accountants.
- Note added after meeting: Music have an endowment fund for PGR which will need to be included in the total as well
- RSAT to collate this for RCUK and other training grants.

15-16/37 Scholarship Budget Update [Encl. 2]

SB presented an updated version of the budget document, including:

- Updates to the 2016/7 budget to reflect actual fee and stipend rates
- Moving of the ACCE-related (Unilever) scholarship to 2016 (subject to meeting approval – see 15-16/37(i))
- Jon Pitchford’s application to NERC with 1:3 matched funding
- From 2016/7 onwards, the removal of PSS

It was noted that there will be an underspend in 2016/7. The committee was to consider how to use the remaining funds by October.

**ACTION**

MF to provide a proposal for the AFSC budget to cover set-up costs for the ESRC DTP for the October meeting.

**ACTION**

JS to circulate a Development Fund governance memo from February 2016.

i. Request to hold over ACCE-related (Unilever) scholarship to 2016

The committee accepted a request from Biology to hold over ACCE-related (Unilever) scholarship to 2016/7 entry. The request was made as the student originally recruited withdrew on medical grounds after one month. Unilever are happy with the arrangement.

ii. House scholarships
TS reported that DARO had secured £12,000 of funding from an alumnus, Mr House. This funding will make two awards each of £5,000, and £1,000. The awards will be made on Widening Participation grounds; both financial, and for students with special educational needs. Sharmila Gohil (Student Financial Support Unit) will be managing these awards.

iii. Temporary withdrawal of external sponsorship

TS reported that a proposal was being written to provide fees support to students who temporarily lose access to external funding, through no fault of their own. This would be underwritten by the AFSC budget. The committee urged caution and wanted to avoid setting a precedent, but supported this broadly, and advised that the proposal should be aligned with the University’s Internationalisation Strategy.

iv. Pursuit of reimbursements from withdrawn students

SB requested a steer from the committee as to how far to pursue students who withdraw without repaying stipend payments. The committee agreed that students should initially be asked to repay their stipend, and if there is no response, or inadequate response within four weeks, the case should be taken to Special Cases Committee to decide how to proceed.

15-16/38 Innovative Training Network application success

The University was unsuccessful in all applications for which the University was the lead institution. Four applications were successful where members of the University are partners. There has been no feedback yet on the applications.

15-16/39 Split site agreement with King Saud University [Encl. 3a & 3b]

TS informed the committee that Computer Science have an agreement with King Saud University to accept students onto the Computer Science PhD by Distance Learning. Should other departments wish to come to a similar arrangement, they will need to make a similar agreement, and run a Distance Learning PhD. TS noted that there was no requirement for staff to travel to Saudi Arabia as part of being a supervisor to these students.

15-16/40 Associate Deans' Updates

KG reported for the Associate Deans. KG stated that the Associate Deans were keen for more joined up thinking with departments on the MTP process, particularly emphasising assessing the value of PGR students to departments.

15-16/41 Any Other Business

i. Meeting dates after June [Encl. 4]
ii. Chinese Scholarship Council update [Encl. 5]

TS reported that the University were successful in five applications out of the 12 submitted to the CSC.

15-16/42 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3 October 2016, 10am – 12 noon (H/G/15).