



York Graduate Research School Board

Monday 25 February 2019, 10am

H/G/15

MINUTES

Present: Professor T Stoneham (Chair; TS), Professor John Robinson, Professor Brian Fulton, Dr Wayne Campbell, Sehrish Shafi, Nigel Dandy, Susanna Broom (SBr)

Apologies: Professor Stuart Bell, Dr Ambrose Field, Dr Jeremy Goldberg, Dr Sally Hancock, Charlotte Chamberlain

In attendance: Louise Bleakley (Secretary; LB), Maria Adlam, Nancy Baines (Faculty Employability Manager), Janice Simpson (Careers Consultant)

Category I Business

M/18-19/01 Apologies were received as above.

M/18-19/02 TS welcomed comments on the Minutes of the meeting of 26 November 2019 (YGRS/18-19/11). The Minutes were approved as they stand.

M/18-19/03 The Action Log (YGRS/18-19/12) was reviewed. It was **noted** that:

- M/18-19/09 - this action was now being taken up through Annual Programme Reviews and would be handled by the Policies & Programmes Sub-Committee. It could thus be closed for this Board.
- M/18-19/11 - WC suggested that this action needed to be closed within two weeks and SBr agreed to report to TS by then.

M/18-19/04 There were no matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

M/18-19/05 The Terms of Reference (YGRSB/18-19/13) were **reviewed** on the following basis:

- The Registrar has proposed that she be relieved from membership of the Board, given that the Academic Registrar attends on an ex-officio basis.
- When the Board was created, the Secretary was the Head of RSA and was in attendance rather than an ex-officio member. Since the restructure in Student Services, this role has become Assistant Registrar (Research and Financial Support) and it is proposal that she attend on an ex-officio basis.

These proposals were approved.

(Action - LB to update ToR wording)

- Possible student representation at Faculty level on the Board (in addition to the GSA President and Vice-President) was **discussed**. The Chair confirmed he will be meeting with Faculty Reps soon and will raise this to confirm if they feel they would benefit from attending the meeting.

(Action - TS to confirm with Faculty Reps if they are happy with the current representation of students at Board meetings)**M/18-19/06 TS reported that:**

- EPSRC Intelligent Games and Game Intelligence (IGGI) Centre for Doctoral Training collaboration was funded. Fusion was not funded in this round, and other funding routes are being pursued. The new Light Matters CDT was also not funded.
- In December we had our first full operation of the new assessment misconduct policy and processes. There was an accusation of plagiarism at first year progression. This was proven conclusively and the student withdrew. The process seems to be robust.
- The GCRF project on doctoral training in Africa, which TS is leading on, commenced in January and we will be holding a 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) final in the University of Ghana at the end of June with finalists from the University of Ghana and, hopefully, the University of Nairobi. We will be sending out support and training for this, as well as an international panel of judges and at least one of our students.
- We have put forward five supervisors (from Economics, English, Education, Computer Science and Chemistry) to the pilot of the UK Council for Graduate Education supervisor recognition scheme, where they will be assessed against 10 criteria relating to their supervision in practice. We will be supporting them through this process, with RETT leading.
- The University Research Committee has initiated a project looking at all University and Department funded studentships. TS and the PVC-Research will write a report for URC in June with some options for organising this spend effectively across the institution.

M/18-19/07 SS reported that:

- GSA drop-in sessions have just started across all three campuses to gather feedback from our students.
- With thanks to John Robinson, the GSA are working on a proofreading project to train students to do their own proofreading. GSA are in working with Writing Skills Centre to arrange a series of workshops for international students.
- VP-Academic is working on improving the representation system for PGR students, and working with departments to establish PGR rep. contacts. GSA are also working on a training system to separate PGR from PGT as it is recognised that PGT and PGR students have different demands.
- GSA proposed to the Library that there should be tablet loans for PGs and this has just been funded by an external donor. The PGR-specific laptop scheme has been operating all year, with laptops available on one month loans and with international travel insurance.

- VP-Welfare has been working with YUSU on a campaign highlighting sexual violence, which was successful with 120 students participating in a conference style campaign, with different sessions highlighting community, survivors, etc.

M/18-19/08 Janice Simpson **presented** the PG Careers Satisfaction Survey Report (YGRSB/18-19/14)

- The Chair welcomed the report and the recommendation for a PGR specialist careers advisor. He advised that if the proposal is not in this MTP round, that going forward further interviews could take place with some non-Russell Group institutions who are providing high levels of PGR support, such as Coventry or Portsmouth.
- Comments were made regarding the destinations of students and the breakdown of Home and EU/Overseas PGRs. It was noted that it not clear how many Overseas students are funded through their Government and may have a requirement to return home for work following their studies. It was confirmed that a separate bid is being proposed for a consultant to work solely with international students.

(Action - SBr to share ARC contact list with JS)

(Action - JS to share departmental breakdown as noted at the top of page 2 of the report and TS will feed this back to the departments)

M/18-19/09 The Board **received** the PGR Admissions Report (YGRSB/18-19/15)

As Sarah Kirkup was unwell, the Board agreed to postpone discussion of this report until the next meeting.

(Action - LB to add the report to the Agenda for the next meeting and contact Sarah)

M/18-19/10 The Board **received** the GSA Advice Service PGR Casework Report (YGRSB/18-19/16). It was **noted** that:

- Cases that have had GSA Support are more likely to be resolved quickly.
- International students are more likely to make a late appeal, as they do not see the 28 days as a hard deadline. This problematic for our processes and may cause significant problems with funders. It was **suggested** that information leaflets created by GSA could help students understand the process.

(Action - TS to speak with GSA regarding highlighting this issue)

- There has been a recent pattern of rejections on good cause. Many students are not revealing the exceptional circumstances behind their request, leading to an increase in appeals.

(Action - GSA will feed this back to students)

(Action - TS and SBr to discuss with Chair of SCC)

Category II Business

No Category II Business was discussed at the meeting.

M/18-19/11 PGR Aspects of the SCC annual report to Senate (YGRSB/18-19/17)

M/18-19/12 Minutes of the Policies and Programmes Subcommittee (YGRSB/18-19/18)

M/18-19/13 A.O.B. - None

M/18-19/14 It was **noted** that the date of the forthcoming meeting will be:

- Tuesday 28 May 2019, 10am - 12pm (H/G15)