Researcher Society Committee

Minutes of the meeting held 14.00, 10th September 2015 in J/P/004.

Present

- Ben Murphy (Chair)
- Paul Davies
- Lainne Scruton
- Sam Thompson
- Greg Melia

Apologies for absence

- Richard Evans
- Helen Miller

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2015. LS’s surname was spelt incorrectly. Otherwise the minutes were approved.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Assessment of committee balance: Balance was considered acceptable, it was agreed that all committee members would encourage interest from the more disparate sites. A meeting will be held at the YPI site once the building work has finished.

Career development:
A comment from RE on the mentoring scheme was read at the meeting

“Following an open forum meeting on the mentoring scheme it was decided to reformulate the scheme into a set of detailed notes/guidance and a less formal meeting where certain topics for discussion (perhaps prompted by the notes) are raised. Mentor/mentee pairing was discussed at length and it was felt that potential mentors be approached directly, with guidance from the mentoring coordinator. The notes could appear as part of a career section of the PhRS website so that they are easily accessible year round. At present I am rewriting the notes and planning a kick off event in the Autumn.”

Could any career development offered by PhRS fit into the PhD professional skills development programme? **Action: BM** to discuss with Phil Lightfoot.

How are decisions to be fed back to the department? **PD**: feedback is given directly to Sarah. **No further action required.**

Career-path talk. **Action: GM** to arrange a time and date for his contacts (23rd or 30th October?). **Action: PD & BM** to handle advertising through posters & email. **PD** suggested a talk from Kromek, possibly in the spring term.

Departmental Colloquia: PD stated that Matt Probert is revamping it. Wait until next meeting for further discussion. **Ongoing**.

BM asked if the department could offer a project management course. **Action: BM** to discuss with Phil Lightfoot.

**Support from the department for research staff:** PD stated that negotiations are in progress.
for a budget. Ongoing.

**Report from ST on web page development:** ST stated that the web page is up and running. Development to continue. Ongoing.

**Social activities:** tea and coffee morning was a success. Another to be arranged for the end of October that could tie in with the career path talk organised by GM. Action: LS & GM.

GM is waiting on more details on the financial side for the organisation of a movie night. Ongoing.

PD stated that new PhD students and PostDocs should be announced through Kat Dunn. Welcome and invitation to join will be done on an ad hoc basis. No further action required.

**Budget:** PD to report on other researcher societies’ budgets. Ongoing.

**Peer review panel discussion:** It was mentioned that the specific process is likely to vary from research area to research area. Action PD: send out an email asking academic of interest in attending or indeed chairing a session.

### 3. Any other business

It was unanimously decided that the chair and the secretary should be the same person and that LS should be the next chair. Action: LS.

### 4. To note the next meeting of the committee

19<sup>th</sup> November, somewhere in Market Square offices. Action: LS.