

**Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of University Teaching Committee York Graduate School Board Policy and Programmes Sub-Committee held on 15 February 2017**

**M16-17/34**

**Annual Programme Review (PPSC/16-17/21)**

The Chair asked the group if there were any examples of good practice or department specific issues in the departmental responses section that they wished to highlight followed by any concerns (the Chair informed the group that he would be going back to each department separately to alleviate any immediate concerns or issues that he could assist with or clarify). The following was noted for good practice:

- Archaeology was praised for their breakfast club idea, their annual progression day for first year PGRs (which other Departments also hold) and the amount of publications arising from their PGR community (again, also a feature of other Departments but not mentioned in the APRs).

The following were noted as concerns:

- Economics - issue of external examiners. It was noted that there was guidance available on nominating examiners to help departments and that there was always the possibility that a case could be made to mitigate any SCA concerns regarding perceived conflict of interests. Informal advice could also be sought from RSAT / SCA.
- Chemistry - issues re funding. The Chair commented that most of the big funders (RCUK, Wellcome) were now demanding match funding which had impacted on the central YGRS pot of money earmarked for helping match fund internal/departmental studentships. This was an issue which was to be part of an institutional review which is being managed by Prof. Debbie Smith, PVC for Research. The Chair remarked to the group that once departments had reached their recruitment target, fee waivers could be offered as it would then in effect be cost neutral to the department.
- The Office of Philanthropic Partnerships and Alumni (OPPA) had asked the Chair for any YGRS priorities for Alumni funding and the Chair reported that he had pointed to supplementing the new Doctoral Loans (from 2018) which only cover ~50% of the cost of to the student of a PhD.

The Chair then asked for any comments on the overview / report from ASO:

- The issue of PGR space (Issue 2.3 refers) was prominent and the Chair reported that Stuart Jolley, Operations Manager, was to undertake a review of space as it seemed likely that more was available since the last space audit.
- Tracking students (Action 2.11 refers) was an issue which resonated in particular with ResearchFish. The Alumni 'email for life' was not proving popular with PGRs. It currently bears no resemblance to the student's York email address and students are reluctant to sign up as they don't feel it is at all helpful to them. It was suggested that a more beneficial 'email for life' would be to retain the student's York username and simply add @alumni.york.ac.uk and then the student could enable forwarding from their primary York email address to the alumni address. The Chair agreed to contact Heidi Fraser-Krauss to explore this option. The Head of RSAT also suggested using the ORCID ID might be useful.

**Action: Chair**

It was agreed that the report could go out to departments and a full response would go out from ASO to each department in due course.