

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2014

Present: The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) (Chair)
Professor Michael Beaney
Professor Karl Claxton
Dr Jon Finch
Professor Timo Gans
Professor Paul Kaye
Professor Jennifer Potts
Professor Martin Smith
Professor Jo Swaffield
Dr Sarah Rees-Jones
Professor Stuart Bell (M13-14/59 onwards)
Professor Brian Fulton (M13-14/59 onwards)
Professor Mark Ormrod (M13-14/59 onwards)
The Director of Research and Enterprise
The Research Strategy and Policy Manager
The Research Grants and Contracts Manager (M13-14/58 onwards)

In attendance: Dr Alice Wakely (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Mellors.

13-14/54 New terms of reference and membership

The Committee **received** for information details of its new terms of reference and membership (RC.13-14/41). It **noted** that the three remaining meetings of the academic year would be organised as follows:

- 30 April 2014: ongoing business
- 11 June 2014: review of feedback from departments on proposals for the new Research Strategy
- September 2014 (date tbc): consideration of a first draft of the new Research Strategy.

The Secretary would contact Committee members in order to confirm availability for the September meeting.

13-14/55 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2014 were **approved**, subject to amendment of the action point under M13-14/44 to read: 'L&D to work with RSPO and ASO' (RC.13-14/42).

13-14/56 Matters arising

The Committee **noted** matters arising from its meetings held on 9 October 2013 and 15 January 2014 (RC.13-14/43). In particular it **noted** that Senate had approved clarification to the relationship between DRCs, Boards of Studies and Heads of Department in July 2011, as follows: DRCs have delegated responsibility from the Head of Department for co-ordinating research activity in the department, and the Chair of the DRC reports directly to the Head of Department and not via the Board of Studies (M13-14/43 refers).

In addition, the Committee **noted**:

- (a) M13-14/10: Academic Study Time: A draft policy would come back to the Committee for consideration in due course
- (b) M13-14/40: Research data management: The response from Science HoDs raised potential issues relating to the EPSRC's mailing list for surveys of this kind
ACTION: BF to investigate further
- (c) M13-14/46: Lessons learned from REF2014:
 - The Researcher Support Team in the Information Directorate would be undertaking a data checking role in relation to PURE
 - Issues relating to research performance management would also be picked up through the annual departmental reporting process
- (d) M13-14/47: Report of the working group on Embedding Impact in Research: A University statement on Impact would be incorporated within the new University Research Strategy.

13-14/57 Oral report from the Chair

The Committee **received** an oral report from the Chair regarding recent developments. The following points were **noted**:

- (a) The programme of reviews of interdisciplinary centres had recommenced, having been on hold during the REF exercise, as follows:
- A report on YESI was included on the agenda (M13-14/60 refers)
 - Reviews of the Nanocentre and YCCSA were planned for the following term
 - Reviews of CII and Medieval Studies would take place by the end of the calendar year.
- (b) Information on the web regarding the various research centres, units and groups at the University had been rationalised in order to provide greater clarity for external enquiries. The web listing had been discussed with the Academic Co-Ordinators: inclusion was on the basis of evidence of activity. Further work would be done in due course in relation to defining what the university understands by centres as opposed to units or groups, in order to provide clarity and consistency, and proposals would be brought to the Committee for consideration. The Chair thanked Ms Garcha for her work in this area.
- (c) The Registrar and the University's lawyers had reviewed the University's policy on using 'opt out' consent in relation to using data for clinical trials analysis, and changes had been made to allow this practice in particular circumstances
- (d) An Impact Conference would be held on 30 June between 12pm and 6pm in the Ron Cooke Hub, open to all involved in research, including PGR students.
- (e) The Research Priming Fund Committee was in need of a new representative from URC from any of the three subject clusters. The Committee met annually over the summer vacation. Interested members should contact the Secretary.

13-14/58 Update from the Director of Research and Enterprise (Sensitive Information)

13-14/59 REF Equality Audit report (Strictly Confidential and FOIA exempt)

13-14/60 Report on the review of YESI (Sensitive Information)

13-14/61 Development of the University's new Research Strategy (Sensitive Information)

13-14/62 Date of next meeting

The Committee **noted** details of its next meeting: Wednesday 30 April 2014 at 2.15pm in HG17.

March 2014

Alice Wakely

Research Integrity Project Officer