

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2014

Present: The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) (Chair)
Professor Stuart Bell
Professor Brian Fulton
Professor John Clark
Professor Karl Claxton
Professor Jason Edwards
Dr Jonathan Finch
Professor Timo Gans
Professor Martin Smith
Professor Jo Swaffield
The Director of Research and Enterprise
The Research Strategy and Policy Manager
The Research Grants and Contracts Manager

In attendance: Professor Paul Kaye
Mr David Hudson
Dr Nicola Meenan (M14-15/37 only)
Dr Alice Wakely (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professors Beaney, Ormrod and Potts.

14-15/29 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October were **approved** (RC.14-15/16). The Committee **noted** that a revised Impact Statement and papers on research funding opportunities and support, and supporting and managing N8 opportunities, would be considered at the January meeting (MM14-15/15, 17 & 23 refers). Information on the spread of research awards and knowledge of funders would be brought to the Committee at an appropriate point in the new year (M14-15/18 and M14-15/21 refers).

14-15/30 Federal Wide Assurance (US Funding)

Arising from M14-15/11, Dr Wakely **reported** that the second and final stage of the University's Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) registration had been successful. The first research proposal subject to this requirement in the University's name was due to be considered by the registered Institutional Review Board (the Health Sciences Research Governance Committee) in the coming week. It was **noted** that guidance for colleagues on meeting FWA requirements would be made available on the web shortly. Dr Wakely was thanked for her work in this area.

Redacted paragraph – sensitive information

14-15/31 Developments related to the University Research Strategy

Arising from M14-15/14, the Chair **reported** that the following had been approved by Senate (21 October 2014) and Council (14 November 2014):

- The draft University Strategy, including the Research Strategy. The proposal for the establishment of faculties, part of the University Strategy, had also been approved with some modification to the scope of faculties' responsibilities. The Academic Co-Ordinators were working with departments on implementation, and the new structures would be effective from 5 January 2015.
- The establishment of a York Graduate School, for launch in September 2015. It was decided that the School should have a virtual rather than a physical presence in the first instance. The post of Dean had been approved, and had subsequently been advertised, with interviews due to take place in early December and a start date as soon as possible thereafter.

14-15/32 Oral report from the Chair

The Chair **reported** the following developments:

Following consultation, NERC were establishing formal policy and procedures in relation to demand management, based on grant success data collected over a six year period. Full details would be circulated to Heads of Department and Chairs of DRCs on receipt (expected in January 2015), with changes to be implemented for NERC's July funding round.

Redacted paragraph – sensitive information

The Committee further **noted** the possibility that other research councils might introduce new demand management processes in due course, and **agreed** that this was a good opportunity to overhaul and refresh the University's own guidelines. It was acknowledged that a significant amount of responsibility would continue to sit with departments and that issues regarding effective decision-making would need to be addressed. The Committee **noted** that Research Grants and Contracts and the Research Development Team were reviewing research councils' guidance alongside current triaging methods and departmental peer review processes, and that proposals would be presented to Research Committee in due course.

A timeline for the release of REF2014 data would be circulated to Heads of Department shortly. HEFCE had indicated informally that the impact agenda was considered to have been a success, and that overall performance within the sector in relation to impact had been strong.

14-15/33 University Research Strategy

The Committee **received** for information a finalised copy of the University Research Strategy (RC.14-15/17). It **noted** that the Strategy had been approved by Senate (21 October 2014) and Council (14 November 2014), subject to minor textual changes following the Committee's meeting on 15 October.

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The Committee **noted** that the Strategy would be formally launched at a whole day YorkTalks style event on 7 January, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor with external chairs for individual sessions. Further details would be advertised shortly.

Redacted paragraph – sensitive information

The Committee further **noted** the intention to develop specific workstreams and devolve them for further development. The Dean for the Graduate School and the Research Champions would play a prominent part in this process, as would the Faculties and Departments. The Committee **noted** in particular that further detail would be needed relating to:

- the responsibilities of Heads of Department and Chairs of DRCs;
- the timescales involved;

and that the plan would also need to be aligned with implementation of the University Strategy.

The Committee **noted** that a more detailed plan would be presented for consideration early in 2015, prior to launching a finalised version to Faculties and Departments.

14-15/34 Annual departmental research reports (Confidential and FOIA exempt)

14-15/35 Research grant performance quarterly report (FOIA exempt)

14-15/36 Research income to end of October 2014 (FOIA exempt)

14-15/37 Research Priming Fund (FOIA exempt)

14-15/38 Review of the York JEOL Nanocentre (Sensitive Information)

14-15/39 Review of YCCSA (Sensitive Information)

14-15/40 Review of YESI (Sensitive Information)

14-15/41 Reports from the Academic Co-Ordinators (FOIA exempt)

14-15/42 Report from the Director of Research and Enterprise (FOIA exempt)

CATEGORY II BUSINESS

14-15/43 Centre for Immunology and Infection (Sensitive Information)

14-15/44 RCUK 2014-15 Final Funding Assurance Report (Sensitive Information)

14-15/45 Next meeting

The Committee **noted** details of its next meeting: Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 2.15pm in Room HG17, Heslington Hall. The Chair further **noted** that Professor Kaye's term of office had now come to an end, and formally thanked him for his contribution to the Committee over the past three years.

December 2014

Dr Alice Wakely

Research Integrity Officer