

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Senate

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2015

**Present:** The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) (Chair)  
The Dean of the York Graduate Research School  
The Dean of the Faculty of the Social Sciences  
The Dean of the Faculty of the Sciences  
The Dean of the Faculty of the Arts and Humanities  
Professor Karl Claxton (MM14-15/100 – 111 only)  
Professor Jason Edwards  
Dr Jonathan Finch (MM14-15/100 – 110 only)  
Professor Timo Gans  
Professor Jennifer Potts  
The Director of Research & Enterprise  
The Research Strategy and Policy Manager  
The Research Grants and Contracts Manager (Deputy Director of Research & Enterprise)

**In attendance:** Ms Liz Waller (MM14-15/100 – 104 only)  
Dr Karen Clegg (M14-15/109 only)  
Ms Josine Opmeer (M14-15/111 only)  
Dr Eszter Papp  
Dr Alice Wakely (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Beaney, Professor Clark, Professor Martin Smith and Professor Swaffield.

14-15/100 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2015 (RC.14-15/62) were **approved**, subject to:

- Minor changes to the wording of M14-15/84d;
- An addendum under M14-15/95a, noting a subsequent change to the date of the YGRS launch, which would now take place on 23 September 2015.

## 14-15/101 Research Committee action log

The Committee **considered** a progress report against its action log for 2014/15 (RC.14-15/63). The following points were further **noted**:

- 14-15/89: Departments had been notified of the ADRR 2015 question set and the timescale for submitting reports, and data workbooks would be sent out by 19 June at the latest;
- 14-15/68: Proposals regarding preparation of future REF impact case studies would be considered at the Committee's meeting on 4 November 2015.

## 14-15/102 Oral report from the Chair

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

- (a) As of 1 June, a full complement of Research Champions had been appointed as follows:

<i>Creativity</i>	Dr Damian Murphy, Electronics
<i>Culture and Communication</i>	Dr Mark Jenner, History
<i>Environmental Sustainability &amp; Resilience</i>	Prof Sue Hartley, YESI/Biology
<i>Health and Well-Being</i>	Prof Karen Bloor, Health Sciences
<i>Justice and Equality</i>	Prof Kate Pickett, Health Sciences
<i>Risk, Evidence &amp; Decision Making</i>	Prof John McDermid, Computer Science
<i>Technologies for the Future</i>	Prof Thomas Krauss, Physics

A press release would be launched shortly.

Start dates were as follows:

1 June	Hartley, Pickett, Krauss;
1 August	Bloor, McDermid;
1 September	Murphy, Jenner.

The work of the Champions would start over the summer and include meetings with the VC and the new Chancellor. Regular brain-storming sessions, for the development and exchange of ideas, actions and KPIs, would be chaired by the PVC-R and include the Deans when appropriate.

- (b) There were three vacancies for Committee members from 2015/16, one in each faculty. Eight nominations had been received by Senate (three each for the Sciences and Social Sciences and two for the Arts and Humanities). Senate

members were being balloted and the new members would be appointed by the end of June.

- (c) The Faculty Deans were in the process of developing proposals for the appointment of (i) Associate Deans for Research and (ii) faculty-level research managers.

The Committee formally thanked Professor Beaney, Professor Claxton and Professor Potts as outgoing members of the Committee for their contributions towards the Committee's work, which had been greatly appreciated.

### **14-15/103 Compliance with EPSRC research data management requirements**

The Committee **received** an update on compliance with EPSRC research data management (RDM) requirements (RC.14-15/64). Ms Waller attended the meeting to speak to the item.

The Committee **noted** that the University was broadly compliant with the EPSRC requirements, with further work to be done in the area of curation: this was in line with progress within the sector. The RDM working group overseeing work in this area was now focused on addressing the gaps which had been identified. The implementation roadmap established in 2014 was due to be reviewed over the summer period, and a revised version would be presented to the Committee in due course.

It was further **noted** that recent discussions within the sector had highlighted the resource needed to support processes associated with RDM, whilst acknowledging that costs associated with curation in particular were difficult to quantify. Although inclusion of RDM costs within grant applications was encouraged, the sector as a whole was encountering difficulties since costs were already captured within indirect costings and 'double-dipping' was not acceptable. In practice, only data intensive projects were specifically including these costs, which would have occurred regardless of RDM requirements. The importance of the test of reasonableness had been emphasised in relation to deciding which data to curate in light of the associated costs. The Committee **noted** the current Jisc-funded project to look at a curation operation as a central service.

The Chair thanked Ms Waller for the update. It was suggested that it would be helpful to receive updates in this area on a regular basis (e.g. every six months).

## 14-15/104 Harvard Model Open Access Policy

The Committee **considered** a review of the Harvard Model Open Access Policy (RC.14-15/65). Ms Waller attended the meeting to speak to the item.

The Committee **noted** the following:

- Research outputs from April 2016 onwards would need to meet open access requirements in order to be eligible for submission to the next REF exercise. The 'Harvard' Open Access Policy was one means of navigating the complexity of meeting this requirement, whereby academics grant their institution a licence to make their outputs open access through an institutional repository unless a waiver is agreed.
- The Harvard Policy would apply equally whether outputs were deposited at the point of acceptance or at the point of publication.
- The Policy did not constrain academics' choice of publication route.
- Embargo periods would still be honoured under the Policy.
- The Harvard Policy had been adopted widely and successfully in the US, and there was growing interest in the UK amongst the Russell Group in particular. HEFCE and Wellcome had also expressed support.

In the course of discussion, the following points were **noted**:

- (a) The Committee was broadly supportive of the Harvard approach, but **noted** concerns relating to authorial responsibility and liability in terms of determining where waivers were required and arranging subsequent copyright agreements with the publisher. The situation would be further complicated for outputs involving multiple authorship. The Committee **noted** that these issues would be addressed at institutional level; institutions would also need to provide practical support and advice in this area for academics in order to minimise the associated workload for the latter. It was further **noted** that there was a need for the Harvard Open Access Policy to go to legal test, and this would be investigated further by the Russell Group as a whole. The Committee **agreed** that no decision should be made until legal advice had been received, and that the University should act in concert with the Russell Group.
- (b) Clarification was needed regarding whether such a policy would apply to ISBNs as well as ISSN.
- (c) The implications of such an approach would vary from subject to subject. The Committee **decided** that the Harvard Open Access Policy proposals should be

circulated to faculties and departments, summarising the Committee's current position as outlined in point (a) above, and requesting comment.

**ACTION: LW**

**14-15/105 University Research Strategy draft implementation plan (CONFIDENTIAL)**

**14-15/106 REF2014: proposals for departmental review visits (CONFIDENTIAL)**

**14-15/107 Gender issues arising from REF2014 (CONFIDENTIAL)**

**14-15/108 Research grant income (FOI EXEMPT)**

**14-15/109 Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**

The Committee **considered** an annual report on implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (RC.14-15/69). Dr Clegg attended the meeting to speak to the item.

The Committee **noted** the following:

- (a) The University had received confirmation in January of its retention of the European HR Excellence in Research Award in respect of its support for exclusively contracted researchers for a further four years. The University's action plan for 2014-18 in support of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers was available on the web and was overseen by an implementation group chaired by the PVC-R. Actions plans were also in place at departmental level. There was some overlap with the work of the Athena Swan working group, and those involved were working towards alignment.
- (b) A review of the learning needs of those engaged in research, including PGRs, and those who support research would take place over the summer, chaired by the Dean of the YGRS.
- (c) The 40% response rate to the CRO Survey was comparatively good, and the data provided evidence of need to pick up with departments. The Committee **agreed** that it would be helpful to circulate the CROS 2015 data broken down by department/faculty and gender to departments, and **decided** that it should be presented to Faculty Research Groups in the first instance. Further discussion would take place with the Faculty Deans regarding establishment of a standing item on CROS.

## **ACTION: KVC**

- (d) The CROS finding that 77% of respondents wished to continue an academic/research role indicated the importance of learning and development to enable realistic career choices. The view was expressed that a formal mentoring scheme would risk being cumbersome: the key was for departments to encourage research staff to engage with provision.

The Committee thanked Dr Clegg for her report.

### **14-15/110 Review of participation in the EU research programme (FOI Exempt)**

### **14-15/111 Internal peer review of research applications**

#### **Redacted paragraph – sensitive information**

### **14-15/112 Calculating overheads on Marie Skłodowska-Curie training networks (FOI EXEMPT)**

### **14-15/113 Annual Statement to Council on Research Integrity**

The Committee **approved** the Annual Statement to Council on Research Integrity (RC.14-15/75).

### **14-15/114 Report from the Director of Research & Enterprise**

The Committee **received** an oral report from the Director of Research & Enterprise. The following points were **noted**:

- (a) Capital funding to support the SYGMA project had been approved by SMG
- (b) The Research & Enterprise Directorate was still facing pressures in terms of the volume of work, including that associated with the Research Strategy implementation plan. The vacancy in the Research Development Team relating to Environment had now been filled; the vacancy relating to IT was due to be re-advertised. There was additional work to be absorbed in terms of supporting the set-up of projects once funding had been awarded.
- (c) The Directorate's new Economic Development team was now in place, managing the completion of the last round of ERDF projects, and preparing for the launch of a new programme. The team would need to develop its

understanding of where it could support the research endeavour and coordinate with associated funding sources.

#### **14-15/115 Comparative performance in the HEBCI Survey**

**Redacted paragraph – sensitive information**

#### **CATEGORY II BUSINESS**

#### **14-15/116 YGRSB minutes**

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meeting of the York Graduate Research School Board held on 21 April 2015 (RC.14-15/76).

#### **14-15/117 YGRSB: membership and terms of reference**

The Committee **received** for information details of the membership and terms of reference for the York Graduate Research School Board (RC.14-15/77).

#### **14-15/118 Minutes of the Social Science Faculty Research Group**

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meetings of the Social Science Faculty Research Group held on 26 March 2015 and 14 May 2015 (RC.14-15/78). It was **noted** that the May minutes had inadvertently conflated the Biovale developments and the N8 AgriFood Catalyst development, and **agreed** that the Chair would draft a suitable amendment for clarification.

**ACTION: Chair & SB**

#### **14-15/119 REF2014: response and feedback to the Department of Chemistry (CONFIDENTIAL AND FOIA EXEMPT)**

#### **14-15/120 Meetings for 2015/16**

The Committee **noted** details of meetings in 2015/16 as follows:

- Tuesday 29 September 2015 at 2.15pm in HG17 Heslington Hall
- Wednesday 4 November 2015 at 2.15pm in HG17 Heslington Hall
- Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 2.15pm in HG17 Heslington Hall
- Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 9.15am in HG17 Heslington Hall
- Wednesday 9 March 2016 at 9.15am in HG17 Heslington Hall
- Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 2.15pm in HG17 Heslington Hall

- Wednesday 15 June 2016 at 9.15am in HG17 Heslington Hall.

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