

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Senate

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2018

Present: Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor D Smith (Chair)
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Partnerships & Knowledge Exchange),
Professor J Timmis
Dean, York Graduate Research School, Professor T Stoneham
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor S Bell (MM17-18/69
onwards)
Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Sciences, Professor C Brown
Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Social Sciences,
Professor M Festenstein
Acting Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts & Humanities,
Dr K Giles (MM17-18/62 onwards)
Professor D Barnett
Professor N Brown
Professor M Goddard
Dr M Leng
Professor J Steele
Director of Research & Enterprise, Dr M Mortimer
Associate Director: Research & Enterprise and Head of Research
Services, Ms J Gilmartin
Research Strategy and Policy Manager, Ms A Grey

In attendance: Dr K Clegg (MM17-18/70 only)
Ms K Dillingham (MM17-18/71 & 72 only)
Mr A Knock (MM17-18/73 only)
Ms R Fleming (MM17-18/73 only)
Mrs T Dancer (MM17-18/74 only)
Dr A Wakely (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Humanities (Professor J Buchanan), Professor M Evans, Professor W McGuire, Professor E Tyler and Professor P White.

17-18/58 Declaration of conflicts of interest

Potential conflicts of interest relating to the business of the meeting were **noted**.

17-18/59 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017

Paragraph redacted (CONFIDENTIAL)

Arising from M17-18/42: Revisions to the Research Data Management policy, the Chair **reported** that the changes requested to the policy relating to the definition of research data and the requirements of research data providers had now been approved by Chair's action.

17-18/60 Research Committee action log

The Committee **considered** a progress report against its action log for 2017/18 (RC.17-18/48). It **noted** that there were a substantial number of actions outstanding, but that the majority of these were in progress. TRAC briefings for HoDs via Faculty Executive Groups were still pending (M17-18/34 refers).

17-18/61 Report from the Chair

The Committee **received** an oral report on recent developments from the Chair, as follows:

- (a) Following the Strategic Review of Biomedical Research at York in 2017, UEB had recently approved recommendations proposed by a dedicated working group, towards establishing a virtual Biomedical Institute. This included buyout for a senior academic lead, with additional leads for each of the three main themes, and dedicated administrative support. Colleagues who had attended the consultation events had been updated in relation to developments.
- (b) The University's Policy on the Publication of Research had been amended by Chair's action to reflect the REF2021 Open Access requirement for outputs to be deposited as soon as possible after the date of acceptance, rather than the date of publication. The potential need to make this change in the light of REF guidance had been acknowledged when the Policy was originally approved in June 2014. The Committee further **noted** that this requirement was being flagged at REF consultation events.
- (c) Bulk upload capability from PURE to Researchfish was available for the first time for the forthcoming data collection period. Following an initial test upload, which had a 40% success rate, data cleaning was now underway. A further bulk upload would take place immediately before the start of the collection period, which would run from 5 February to 15 March. Awareness raising and drop-in support sessions were also planned. The Committee further **noted** that the OPPA database had been made available to departmental graduate administrators to enable them to contact PGRs regarding the action required of them.
- (d) Paragraph redacted (CONFIDENTIAL)

(e) In November, the University had been approached by Norman Lamb MP, Chair of the Commons Science and Technology Committee, as part of the latter's enquiry into research integrity. The University was able to confirm that it complied with the *UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity*, in particular through publication of an annual high level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct which had been undertaken. In 2016 it had been reported to the Science and Technology Committee that only one quarter of UUK members had published such statements, so the University was in a good position in this respect.

(f) **Paragraph redacted - CONFIDENTIAL**

(g) The University had been notified that in the next financial year, [REDACTED] of its QR funding allocation would be ringfenced for GCRF-related activity, and it would need to submit a strategy for expenditure.

The Committee **noted** that this was Dr Mortimer's last meeting of URC as Director of Research & Enterprise, and thanked him formally for his contribution to research at the University and to University Research Committee in particular.

17-18/62 Reports from the Associate Deans (Research)

The Committee **received** oral reports on recent developments from the Associate Deans (Research), as follows:

Social Sciences

- (a) The ESRC Research Centre application was due for submission in March.
- (b) **Paragraph redacted – CONFIDENTIAL.**
- (c) **Paragraph redacted – CONFIDENTIAL.**
- (d) The Social Sciences FRG had raised concerns regarding the impact of forthcoming GDPR legislation on research, in particular requirements for consent and subject rights in relation to data. These were likely to affect departments across all three Faculties. The legislation would come into force in May, which had immediate implications for undergraduate and Masters dissertations, as well as researchers. The Committee **noted** that the University's GDPR group was primarily focused on internal data management issues, although the Information Governance Officer had been briefed by the RSPO in relation to the implications for research and would be attending the next meeting of Research Forum. It **agreed** that a clear policy statement was needed as soon as possible, including consideration of the implications for ethics and for research data management.

ACTION: Chair to follow up

Sciences

- (a) NERC's DTP2 open call had launched. A town hall meeting was being held that day, and full submissions were due in May. It was currently expected that the University would submit renewal applications for the two existing DTPs.
- (b) The EPSRC CDT call had been launched. The University had been working on potential submissions over the past two years. There was institutional demand management, with York able to lead six bids. Submissions for those intending to lead would be considered over the coming week ahead of a deadline for outline submissions in mid-March.
- (c) An EPSRC institutional visit was being planned; the likely timescale was March.
- (d) The Faculty was updating its analysis of Impact case studies for consideration by the REF Strategy Group.

Arts & Humanities

- (a) Catherine Hardman was now in post as the Faculty-aligned RDM, based both in the HRC and in R&E.
- (b) Departmental first-round MTP meetings had all been undertaken, including research projections.
- (c) **Paragraph redacted – CONFIDENTIAL**
- (d) REF preparation and support were ongoing, through meetings between the Acting Associate Dean and REF leads in relation to outputs/environment.
- (e) The Chair of the Irish Research Council would be visiting the University on 5 February, with a focus on Arts & Humanities and the HRC. Colleagues from departments beyond the Arts & Humanities with a relationship with the Irish Research Council were invited to contact the Faculty Dean.
- (f) The appointment process for the Faculty's new Associate Dean (Research) was in train, to start in October 2018.

17-18/63 Report from the Dean of the York Graduate Research School

The Committee **received** a report from the Dean of the York Graduate Research School, as follows:

- (a) The University's Leverhulme bid had not been successful. Feedback had not been made available by Leverhulme.
- (b) The AHRC DTP submission was undergoing peer review. Feedback from past AHRC panel chairs would be helpful, and members were asked to suggest any contacts they might have.
- (c) The European Universities Association was conducting a Europe-wide consultation on the nature of the doctorate, focusing on the length of study, training provision and career outcomes.
- (d) UUK and the Department for Education were pursuing the establishment of doctoral centres with South Africa. The YGRS Dean had applied to attend a workshop in Pretoria.
- (e) The nomination process for Wellcome Masters scholarships was now overseen by the YGRS Dean: departments had been informed.

- (f) Another PGR case had arisen concerning failure to obtain local ethics approval for research overseas. All ethics committee chairs had been reminded of the need to ask as part of the ethics submission process whether local ethics approval was needed and had been obtained.
- (g) An announcement was expected in the next couple of weeks regarding PG studentships linked to the national Productivity and Investment Fund. These were expected to align with key areas of the Industrial Strategy: clean energy, artificial intelligence, ageing society and autonomous vehicles.

17-18/64 Annual report from the York Graduate Research School

The Committee **received** an annual report from the York Graduate Research School (RC.17-18/49). It **noted** that the School had made significant achievements and had clear plans in place for the longer term.

17-18/65 Report from the Director of Research & Enterprise

The Committee **received** for information an oral report on recent developments from the Director of Research & Enterprise, as follows:

- (a) Interim arrangements for management of the R&E Directorate: Ms Gilmartin would act as R&E Director pending the appointment of a successor to Dr Mortimer. An internal process was in train to appoint an Associate Director and Head of Enterprise via a temporary responsibility arrangement.
- (b) University Regulation 12, relating to IP, was under review. Draft revisions were under consideration by the PVC for Partnerships & Knowledge Exchange and would be sent out for further consultation via Faculty Deans and Heads of Department; the intended deadline for resolution was the end of February. The aim was for the Regulation itself to be simpler and clearer, supported by more detailed policy documents, which were more easily adjusted should the need for further changes arise in future. This included a requirement to review the existing supporting policies, and to set out the support available from R&E.
- (c) Professional Services were trialling a rapid improvement model to improve services and processes, introduced by the new Registrar. Representatives from R&E attended the first training workshop, and the first rapid improvement session would be in the area of improving efficiency in processing research contracts. A rolling programme of interventions was planned for Professional Services, which would include further work on streamlining grant operations.

17-18/66 Summary of the Industrial Strategy White Paper (FOI Exempt)

17-18/67 REF Strategy Group report (CONFIDENTIAL & FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/68 Matters arising from ADRR 2017 (CONFIDENTIAL)

17-18/69 Research Communications Strategy

The Committee **considered** a Research Communications Strategy and an update on the associated implementation plan (RC.17-18/54). It **noted** the following:

- (a) The finalised implementation plan would be considered for approval at the next meeting of URC, and would be taken forward by a Research Communications Operations Group, chaired by Professor Jean Grugel. It was clarified that the Operations Group would include representation from the RDM and BDM teams in order to co-ordinate approaches and clarify the relationship between communications and engagement.
- (b) Priorities for action would be decided by the Research Communications Strategy Group, with reference to the University Strategy. Key areas had been identified as follows: major institutional developments; REF2021; major areas of University investment; research funded by major funders.
- (c) Two full time content producers would be starting shortly in Marketing, dedicated to the research area.
- (d) Input from departments would be fed in at Faculty level, with reference to the framework of priorities.

The Committee **approved** the Research Communications Strategy subject to:

- Articulation of the two-way nature of engagement between the University and businesses;
- Re-ordering the list of stakeholders so that the focus was on external partners first.

ACTION: AG

17-18/70 Proposals for ECR Fellowships (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/71 Applications and awards to end November 2017 (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/72 Quarter 1 research grant forecast review (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/73 Departmental research income targets (CONFIDENTIAL & FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/74 Report on the University Impact Conference 2017

The Committee **considered** a report on the Impact Conference held on 8 December 2017 (RC.17-18/59). Mrs Dancer attended the meeting for this item. The Committee **noted** that

the Conference had been well organised, with excellent content prompting high quality discussion, and had received very positive feedback.

Regarding topics for the 2018 Impact Conference, it was suggested that ideas might be sought from departments via Impact leads. This in turn might help to improve the rate of attendance. The Committee further **agreed** that it was desirable to capture the richness of Impact rather than focus exclusively on REF.

Regarding the timing of the 2018 Conference, it was **agreed** that the winter scheduling should be retained, but that Fridays should be avoided.

CATEGORY II BUSINESS

17-18/75 Draft response to the KEF Consultation

The Committee **received** for information the University's draft response to the KEF consultation (RC.17-18/60).

17-18/76 Support for Research Data Management: progress report

The Committee **received** for information a progress report on implementation of a full support model for research data management (RC.17-18/61).

17-18/77 HEFCE Open Access requirements for REF: quarterly report on rates of deposit in PURE

The Committee **received** for information a quarterly report on rates of deposit in PURE relating to HEFCE Open Access requirements for REF (RC.17-18/62).

17-18/78 Allocation of remaining RPF funds

The Committee **received** for information a report on the allocation of remaining RPF funds subsequent to the main round for 2017/18 (RC.17-18/63).

17-18/79 Minutes of the GCRF Steering Group

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meeting of the GCRF Steering Group held on 30 October 2017 (RC.17-18/64).

17-18/80 Minutes of the Faculty Research Group for the Sciences

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Research Group for the Sciences held on 10 January 2018 (RC.17-18/65).

17-18/81 Minutes of the Faculty Research Group for the Arts and Humanities

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Research Group for the Arts and Humanities held on 11 January 2018 (RC.17-18/66).

17-18/82 Minutes of the Faculty Research Group for the Social Sciences

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meetings of the Faculty Research Group for the Social Sciences held on 27 October 2017 and 8 January 2018 (RC.17-18/67).

17-18/83 Minutes of the York Graduate Research School Board

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meeting of the York Graduate Research School Board held on 27 November 2017 (RC.17-18/68).

17-18/84 Minutes of the Research Communications Strategy Group

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meeting of the Research Communications Strategy Group held on 8 December 2017 (RC.17-18/69).

17-18/85 Next meeting

The Committee **noted** details of the next meeting: Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 9.30am in HG17, Heslington Hall.

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