

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Senate

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2018

Present: Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor D Smith (Chair)
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Partnerships & Knowledge Exchange),
Professor J Timmis (MM17-18/91 onwards)
Dean, York Graduate Research School, Professor T Stoneham
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor S Bell (MM17-18/91
onwards)
Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Professor B Fulton (MM17-18/86 - 97 only)
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
Professor M Evans (MM17-18/86 - 100 only)
Professor M Goddard
Professor J Steele
Professor P White
Acting Director of Research & Enterprise, Ms J Gilmartin
Research Strategy and Policy Manager, Ms A Grey

In attendance: Mr A Knock (MM17-18/96 & 97 only)
Ms R Fleming (M17-18/96 & 97 only)
Ms K Dillingham (MM17-18/98 & 99 only)
Ms J Colclough (M17-18/100 only)
Dr A Wakely (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor W McGuire, Professor E Tyler, Professor N Brown, Professor J Buchanan, Dr M Leng and Professor D Barnett.

17-18/86 Declaration of conflicts of interest

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

17-18/87 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2018

The Committee **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2018 (RC.17-18/70).

17-18/88 Research Committee action log

The Committee **received** a progress report against its action log for 2017/18 (RC.17-18/71), noting that all outstanding items were in hand.

17-18/89 Report from the Chair

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

- (a) Panel membership for REF was in the process of being approved, although details were not yet public. The University welcomed colleagues contributing to REF panels. Where several members of a department wished to engage in this way, the Head of Department would be involved in the final decision as to who would engage. The bulk of panel activity would commence in 2021, and the impact on colleagues' workload would need to be anticipated and managed.
- (b) Following review of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity in November 2016 by a national working group, the group's recommendation for the establishment of a National Research Integrity Forum was to be taken forward by UUK from the end of March. The Russell Group Research Integrity Group, which included members of the RSPO, had been approached to nominate a representative for integrity support practitioners on the national Forum. This would enable the University to keep abreast of and contribute towards developments in this area.
- (c) The recent internal audit had included a review of REF preparations; the report was not yet available for comment.

17-18/90 Reports from the Associate Deans (Research) (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/91 Report from the Dean of the York Graduate Research School (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/92 Report from the Acting Director of Research & Enterprise (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/93 Industrial Strategy (CONFIDENTIAL & FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/94 Interim review of the University Research Themes, August 2015-December 2017 (CONFIDENTIAL)

17-18/95 Report from the REF Strategy Group (CONFIDENTIAL & FOI EXEMPT)

It was **noted** that the REF Strategy Group would report again at the Committee's next meeting on 2 May.

17-18/96 Implementation of the Data Futures project

The Committee **received** an update on implementation of the Data Futures project (RC.17-18/77). Mr Knock and Ms Fleming attended the meeting for this item. It was **noted** that the requirement for the University's data to be correct at any point in time would also benefit the University.

17-18/97 Departmental research income targets (CONFIDENTIAL & FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/98 Applications and awards to end December 2017 (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/99 Application and award patterns: size bands and PIs to end December 2017 (FOI EXEMPT)

17-18/100 York Open Access Fund (YOAF) Protocol

The Committee **considered** a paper on options for managing RCUK Open Access funding 2018-2020 and York Open Access Fund (YOAF) eligibility criteria (RC.17-18/84). Ms Colclough attended the meeting for this item.

Paragraph redacted – CONFIDENTIAL

Paragraph redacted – CONFIDENTIAL

In relation to funding APCs for hybrid journals, it was **noted** that UKRI and Wellcome would be reviewing their open access policies: change was anticipated, and so the University's protocol would need to be kept under review.

17-18/101 ADRR process 2018

The Committee **considered** proposals for the Annual Departmental Research Review (ADRR) process for 2018 (RC.17-18/81). It **noted** the following:

- The RSPO had reviewed the documentation, in consultation with the Associate Deans (Research), the PVC (Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange) and the Dean of the YGRS. This had included the datasets provided, the question set and the addition of questions relating to Research Entity reporting. For Research Entities, it was proposed to have a tick list for Governance Model 1 for Departments to confirm the entity was still active; for Governance Model 2, a short question set had been developed. The proposed report form for Governance Model 3 would be approved by the Associate Deans (Research).
- Work had also been undertaken to ensure alignment with the proposed REF Check Exercise and avoid duplication of effort. Details of the REF Check Exercise were currently being developed and would be considered at the next URC, in time for the launch of the ADRR round.

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

(a) The Committee **considered** the relationship between the Impact Case Studies that would be submitted as part of the REF Check Exercise, and the information needed in response to the ADRR questions regarding Knowledge Exchange. It was **agreed** to amend the wording in the ADRR to ask about 'key partners for Knowledge Exchange', and to ask departments to signpost key Impact case studies as appropriate. There was concern that the term 'Knowledge Exchange' did not have an agreed definition within the institution, and therefore departmental responses might not be sufficiently full and focused. However it was **agreed** that, rather than change the terminology, this would be an opportunity to begin a dialogue with departments.

(b) Paragraph redacted – CONFIDENTIAL

(c) It was **agreed** that under the list of Research Entities, the Centre for Future Health should not be listed under Psychology but should report in centrally, and that CII and the Biorenewables Development Centre should be included in the list of Model 3 Entities.

Secretary's note: following the meeting, it was clarified with the Chair that the Biorenewables Development Centre should remain in the list of Model 2 Entities.

It was further **agreed** that HYMS entities should be included in the checklist for the sake of completeness, with a footnote explaining that these would be handled separately. The Committee further **noted** that Welfare Conditionality had been removed from the list as it was a specific grant rather than an entity.

(d) It was also **agreed** that, besides confirming that their ADRR reports had been discussed and approved by the HoD and DRC, departments should be also asked to list any other colleagues or groups involved in developing and reviewing the response, given the inclusion of questions relating to Knowledge Exchange and PGRs.

The proposals for the ADRR2018 process were **approved**, subject to the above comments.

17-18/102 Proposals for a new research entity: iGDC

The Committee **considered** proposals for a new research entity: the Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre (iGDC) (RC.17-18/82). It was confirmed that the Centre leads were aware of the relevant governance and communications requirements. The Committee **approved** the establishment of the iGDC as a Type 4, Model 2 entity, subject to clarification of:

- i. The appointment process and term of office for the Director; and
- ii. The membership and terms of reference of the steering committee.

ACTION: Chair & MF to sign off on behalf of URC

It was further **noted** that a series of meetings was taking place between the Centre leads and departments beyond the core contributors with a broad interest in 'international development' research, to promote engagement.

17-18/103 General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Bill

The Committee **considered** an update in relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Bill (DPB) (RC.17-18/83). It **noted** that the PVC(R) and the Research Strategy and Policy Manager had met with the Director of Information Services, Chair of the University's GDPR working group, to discuss the Committee's concerns, and had been informed that further work in relation to research data would be undertaken once the DPB had cleared Parliament.

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Paragraph redacted – CONFIDENTIAL

17-18/104 Research Communications

The Committee **considered** an implementation plan for the Research Communications Strategy (RC.17-18/76). It **noted** that implementation required an holistic and efficient approach across the University. In relation to 'Key publications', it was **noted** that a separate PGR prospectus was planned, and would be in place by December. The Committee **approved** the Research Communications Implementation Plan, noting that further work was needed to establish priorities.

CATEGORY II BUSINESS

17-18/105 Response to EC consultation on the future FP9

The Committee **received** for information the response from the University of York to a consultation launched by the EC on the future FP9 (RC.17-18/85) (*Confidential*).

17-18/106 Minutes of the GCRF Steering Group

The Committee **received** for information the minutes of the meeting of the GCRF Steering Group held on 26 January 2018 (RC.17-18/86).

17-18/107 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 26 February 2018 (RC.17-18/87).

17-18/108 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 15 January 2018 (RC.17-18/88).

17-18/109 Minutes of the RET Steering Group

This item was postponed, for consideration at the Committee's next meeting on 2 May 2018.

17-18/110 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 21 February 2018 (RC.17-18/90).

17-18/111 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 21 February 2018 (RC.17-18/91).

17-18/112 Next meeting

The Committee **noted** details of the next meeting: Wednesday 2 May 2018 at 2.15pm in HG17, Heslington Hall.

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March 2018