

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Senate

PARTNERSHIPS, ENTERPRISE AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Matters for note by Senate arising from the meeting of Partnerships, Enterprise and Engagement Committee on 20 June 2022

1. Knowledge Exchange Funding Review

The Committee discussed the Knowledge Exchange Funding Review and noted the following:

- (a) This was a valuable opportunity to give feedback to Research England, and as such a steer from members of UPEC was greatly appreciated.
- (b) Currently HEIF funding was allocated on a 5-Year funding cycle but given out annually (varying by no more than 10% either way). It was noted that the annual nature of the funding, combined with the spend deadline of 31 July, did not encourage long-term planning. The Committee noted potential internal solutions to this issue, which would be considered as appropriate.
- (c) The restriction on using HEIF funding for capital purchases over £20K was noted as a current obstacle; although there were other routes to such purchases, it was noted that this additional resource would potentially be useful for colleagues across the University.
- (d) UKRI had recently announced a commitment to operating a 3-Year budget; this could potentially prompt change from other funders.

2. Public Engagement in Research

The Committee considered a report on Public Engagement in Research at York. The six priority actions noted in the paper had been identified through the recommendation actions arising from the NCCPE review. The next steps of this work would be overseen by the KE Concordat Public Engagement Working Group, co-led by Natalie Fullwood and Helen Jones. Collective engagement would be sought through a scoping exercise to be undertaken from 18 July 2022. As part of this, consultation with FRGs would take place in the autumn and proposals brought to URC for approval as relevant. A brief paper had already been shared with FRGs to ensure they had prior knowledge of the plan.

The Committee emphasised the importance of giving departments the time and space to properly discuss the area, and suggested involving departmental impact leads in the consultation. Clear communication was key especially in relation to actions which fell on departments to implement. Involvement from the Access and Outreach team was also requested to ensure all stakeholders had the opportunity to participate, and the value of EDI in this space was noted.

Public engagement was difficult to capture due to the diverse range of activities involved. Some work might be needed to explain research to the public and articulate expectations. It was noted that public engagement often took place outside of the traditional research context. Further discussion as to how data might be collected beyond the planned survey - for example, utilising creative outlets - would take place following the meeting.

3. Update on ongoing work concerning research partnerships

The Committee received an update on ongoing work concerning research partnerships, including further information on the University Transformational Initiatives, proposals for a CRM system, Due Diligence procedures and the development of KPIs. The Committee requested that decisions regarding CRM opportunities be flexible enough to accommodate varying business models, to ensure workability for the creative sector.

4. University initiatives for Building Industrial Income and Engagement

The Committee received an update on the University initiatives for Building Industrial Income and Engagement.

Proposals for the surrounding framework had been approved by UEB. Approval from Planning Committee regarding revised figures had been sought. There was significant activity taking place in this area, including the first meeting of the working group earlier in June, which had discussed a framework for the project. A think tank event would take place in the last week of June.

Overlap with other areas of work was noted, and any issues would be addressed as they arose.

5. Update from the ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre

The Committee received an update from the ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre, and noted the following:

- (a) The work of the Centre was noted as exemplary for its innovation and thoughtfulness in establishing partnerships. The Centre had developed a range of partnerships with regional NGOs as well as police and local government. It was noted that the political space in which the Centre operated gave its work an increased relevance and urgency, and the leadership team was aware of the need to address such sensitivities. Currently the Centre had funding for the next five years, and it was hoped that further funding would be granted in the future.
- (b) Further conversation with colleagues from across the University, such as OPPA and the HRC, was invited.
- (c) The success of the Centre in terms of co-production was also commended, as was the consideration of vulnerable groups and EDI.

6. Other Business

- (a) The Committee requested that further information be brought concerning the management of HEIF and KE funding, in order to inform discussion around working groups for UPEC.
- (b) The Committee approved the proposed membership and Terms of Reference for the Knowledge Exchange External Advisory Board. The importance of diversity (both in terms of background and experience) was noted, as was the need to clarify stewardship of the group.
- (c) Colleagues from CITY College, Thessaloniki had recently visited the University. This visit had celebrated the partnerships established thus far as well as opened discussion on new potential areas of collaboration. This included the Enterprise for All initiative as well as the joint Impact Accelerator Account programme and institute. Further work on developing partnerships with regional businesses was underway.
- (d) The acquisition of the Guildhall in the centre of York was celebrated, and the value of academic and civic partnerships was emphasised alongside the financial benefits of such a space.
- (e) The University was in conversation with IntoUniversity and the University of Hull regarding the establishment of an open learning centre in Hull. Work was underway to develop a similar centre in Acomb, however it was noted that this would not be in collaboration with IntoUniversity. The Acomb centre was expected to open in September 2023. Further information on this would be brought to the Committee in due course.
- (f) Colleagues from York were in discussion with an institution in Uganda regarding enterprise initiatives, including co-creation practices surrounding training and capacity building.
- (g) The Committee recognised the impressive REF results achieved by the University, and acknowledged the role of all colleagues, including professional support staff. York had done particularly well in terms of Impact. Further discussion regarding disaggregated feedback on Impact Case Studies would be picked up outside the meeting. A series of workshops were planned for the autumn to assist in interpreting panel feedback.