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Research and Enterprise Committee

Open Minutes

Date of meeting: **Wednesday, 13 April 2016**

Duration of meeting: **13.30 to 15.00**

Location: **G5.05**

Attendance

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership
Tim Middleton	Senior Management Team	Chair
Sue Procter	Society & Health	Ex-Officio
Rebecca Chandler-Wilde	Society & Health	Ex-Officio
Piers Worth	Society & Health	Nominated member
Lauren Griffiths	Society & Health	Nominated member
Mark Stone	Society & Health	Co-opted
Jake Kaner	Design Media & Management	Ex-Officio
Hilary Mullen	Design Media & Management	Nominated member
Richard Mather	Design Media & Management	Nominated member
Phil Wood	Design Media & Management	Ex-Officio
Kath Dunn	Careers	Co-opted
Miriam Moir	Academic Quality Directorate	Ex-Officio
Mel Nakisa	Academic Quality Directorate	Minutes Secretary
Anne Evans	Academic Quality Directorate	Secretary

Apologies

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership
Geraldine Walters	Society & Health	Ex-Officio
Claire Harbord	Human Resources	Co-opted

Absent

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership

Apologies for absence

16.29 Two apologies were recorded.

Research and Enterprise Strategy (REC16.05)

16.30 The Chair presented the Research and Enterprise strand of the new University Strategy as the framework within which operational plans would be developed over the next few months. This is available on Blackboard.

16.31 The following points were raised in discussion:

- a) It was confirmed that there were no current plans to incorporate student enterprise within the central Research and Enterprise Unit but a close working relationship would be developed between these areas.
- b) The fine details of the 'Bucks Academic' were under consultation with SMT but it is expected that this framework will make clear that would not be appropriate for academic staff to undertake duties on a teaching only basis; a contribution to research and/or enterprise/professional practice would also be expected.
- c) The 'Bucks Academic' did not include professional service employees, but expectations of all employees would be incorporated within the University's new People Strategy.
- d) There has been a lot of investment in pedagogic research which should be visible within each of the research clusters, connecting with disciplinary specialisms.
- e) The distinction between innovation and research was noted with the former aiming to solve problems and scope solutions, rather than gather data. The considerable expertise at Bucks gave an opportunity to be distinctive through this approach rather than a pure focus on research in the traditional sense.

16.32 Priorities for the Research and Enterprise strategy were discussed as follows:

- a) Annual income was currently received from QR and Higher Education Innovation Funding. While QR funding was guaranteed to 2021, HEIF funding was currently under review. A new funding model would be developed to ensure support for research activity could be sustained. A new consultancy policy would be developed in the Autumn in line with the model and the Intellectual Property Policy would be revisited.
- b) It was noted that while a Doctorate would be helpful when developing research and seeking funding, this would not be a requirement for all academic staff, and the proportion of staff with Doctorates was not likely to be a key performance indicator for the Research and Enterprise strategy.
- c) The formation of a Graduate College was under consideration as a potential way of improving the experience of postgraduate students, many of whom were part-time and in employment.
- d) The next stage in the implementation of the Strategy would involve working with Faculties and Directorates to develop an operational plan. Academic staff would be co-opted to work with the central Research and Enterprise Unit.
- e) Key performance indicators would be developed with planning and reporting aligned to reduce bureaucracy.
- f) Primary themes for research clusters would be confirmed in the next few months which would have cross-disciplinary themes. Subject and faculty groupings may also exist which would be best placed to support specific practice-based issues requiring research and enterprise work.

- g) The central themes would provide further opportunities for the move towards a more challenge-based undergraduate education.
 - h) A process would be developed for the initiation and closing of Institutes and Centres with a new framework to give clarity about their role with clear long-term plans and targets.
- 16.33 It was confirmed that the agreed project initiation form for Research and Enterprise projects had been made available on Blackboard and staff would be encouraged to adopt the process.
- 16.34 It was confirmed that Prof Philip Martin would be attending the next Research and Enterprise Committee meeting to provide an external perspective. His extensive sector knowledge would inform the implementation of the Research and Enterprise Strategy.

Date of next meeting

16.35 Friday 20 May 2016