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Research and Enterprise Committee

Open Minutes

Date of meeting: **Tuesday, 07 March 2017**

Duration of meeting: **09:30 to 11:30**

Location: **S3.02b**

Attendance

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership
Tim Middleton	Senior Management Team	Chair
Paul Morgan	Society & Health	Nominated member
Florin Ioras	Design Media & Management	Ex-Officio
Rebecca Chandler-Wilde	RED Unit	Ex-Officio
Hilary Mullen	Design Media & Management	Co-opted member
Colin Martin	Society & Health	Ex-Officio
Richard Mather	Design, Media & Management	Nominated Member
Sofia Barbosa Bouças	Society & Health	Co-opted Member
Anne Evans	RED Unit	Secretary
Mel Nakisa	RED Unit	Secretary

Apologies

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership
Lynne Warwick	Human Resources	Co-opted Member
Mandy Chong	Finance	Co-opted for Finance items
Ceri Sims	Society & Health	Nominated Member
Phil Wood	Design, Media & Management	Nominated Member
Mark Stone	Society & Health	Nominated Member
Philip Martin	External	Co-opted external Member
Kath Dunn	Careers	Co-opted Member

Absent

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership

Apologies for absence

17.01 Seven apologies were recorded and accepted by the Chair.

Minutes of the previous meeting (18 November 2016)

17.02 The minutes from the meeting held on 18 November 2016 were confirmed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes not appearing on the agenda

17.03 There were none to report.

Status of actions from the previous meeting

17.04 The action sheet was noted. Attention was also drawn to the following:

- a) Use of the project initiation form was still inconsistent. This form is, however, being built into the new Finance and HR system which will enable more accurate tracking of projects being submitted for funding and ensure that income is coded appropriately.
- b) The developing Consultancy and IP Policy has been discussed at a previous meeting of the Research & Enterprise Committee and through a wider town hall meeting. Work is now ongoing led by the Director of Enterprise & Business Engagement with HR, Finance and the Deans to develop a draft document which would be discussed with the Vice-Chancellor's Steering Group (20 March 2017) before being presented to the Committee

Action: Rebecca Chandler-Wilde

- c) The status of the equipment.data spreadsheet would be confirmed.

Action: RED Unit

- d) An additional UOA Lead for Education would be appointed from Society & Health who had oversight of education related research.

Action: Colin Martin

Chair's report

17.05 The Chair noted that it was pleasing to see an excellent turnout for the Athena Swan briefing led by the Equality Challenge Unit. Achieving this award would be instrumental in demonstrating the commitment of the University to gender equality in relation to its work. Work is in progress to move this project forward.

Research and Enterprise grants in progress 2016/17 (REC17.01)

17.06 A list of projects in progress was noted although it was recognised that the list was incomplete as the project initiation form was not being completed for all projects.

17.07 Although a good range of activities and funding bodies was represented, a core problem was that not enough bids were being submitted to meet income targets in light of the low success rates in the sector associated with such bids.

17.08 Significant interest in bidding was demonstrated at a recent workshop with an external consultant who covered a range of aspects to consider when getting started in research funding. This interest needed to be translated into bidding. This will be addressed in the creation of the new research and innovation centres who will have three year targets to meet in relation to this work.

- 17.09 A number of bids were also reaching the RED Unit just before deadlines leaving no time to add value to the bids. Although there are occasions where this is unavoidable, the success rate of bids could be improved by more timely management by the principal investigators.

Research and Enterprise income to date 2016/17 (REC17.02)

- 17.10 The list of income to date in 2016-17 by project code was noted. The following points were raised in discussion:
- The figures under represented the actual amount of income as some activities had not been invoiced. The new Finance system should enable more timely invoicing through built in workflows.
 - The data suggested that it recorded income received but this was not reflected in the Month 6 management accounts which give a lower figure for research grants and related income – this is being followed up with Finance.
 - The original KPIs for research income were based on figures that had included European funding not intended to be returned as research. As a result it was unlikely that the targets would be achieved and new targets will be agreed
 - There was a disparity of income between the two Faculties with both research and enterprise income being much lower in Design, Media & Management than Society & Health.
 - A lot of funding opportunities were available that required multidisciplinary teams, hence the requirement for central oversight to facilitate stronger applications more likely of achieving funding.

Analysis of HEB-CI activity 2015/16 (REC17.03)

- 17.11 The Director of Enterprise & Business Engagement presented a report on enterprise activity at the University in 2015-16 looking at the strengths and weaknesses of current provision and presenting a set of recommendations for discussion.
- 17.12 The Higher Education Business Community Interaction (HEB-CI) survey is designed to measure knowledge exchange which includes collaborative research, consultancy and contract research but also non income related activities such as public lectures. The HEB-CI survey is important because it triggers Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) payment as long as the University meets the required threshold of activity.
- 17.13 The University has achieved some success in achieving HEIF income being placed 85th out of 131 reporting institutions in the last round.
- 17.14 A SWOT analysis demonstrated a strength in the University's history of applied, practical education with many academics having a professional background and experience. A weakness is the poorly developed research culture and a belief that teaching commitments leave limited time to undertake other activities.
- 17.15 Members discussed the opportunities and barriers of doing more work of this kind and raised the following points in discussion:
- The skill base to conduct these activities is available but people have limited time to work on additional projects.
 - There have been difficulties with teaching platforms that, once installed, have not worked as specified.

- Many opportunities require additional resources beyond those available at the University so collaborators should be sought.
- A holistic view is required of the University's collaborative activities with external partners to gain a full understanding of how partners may be engaged in different types of activities. A different approach would be needed to achieve this.
- There is limited expertise within the University for commercialisation activities although more advice would be available when the Innovation Hub is established.
- The creation of research and innovation centres would help to achieve the appropriate environment. These would be more resilient if they were multidisciplinary.
- The new centres could have physical space which would be conducive to informal meetings.
- There was a need to invest and free people from other responsibilities to enable them to engage in this agenda without the need for external consultants.
- A change of culture was needed to refocus priorities.
- A different approach was needed to enable a nimble response to opportunities.

17.16 The Chair confirmed that a 5 year Knowledge Exchange strategy had been forwarded to HEFCE who had queried the evidence base on which the strategy was based and how the University was working in conjunction with other universities. A number of challenges had been flagged up which could be resolved by adopting a different approach. The revised strategy is with HEFCE and we are awaiting approval (NOTE – this was given later that day).

HEB-CI data to date 2016/17 (REC17.04)

17.17 The University was utilising a different approach to optimising its HEB-CI return for 2016/17. Instead of retrospective data collection at the end of the year, this would be collected on an ongoing basis. A list of activity to date was presented and members asked to flag up any gaps to Dr Rebecca Chandler-Wilde and Justine Curtis.

REF update

17.18 The Chair noted that some work had been carried out by the Unit of Assessment Leads with different approaches being taken in different areas. The data were currently being reviewed. A limited number of impact case studies have been identified.

17.19 The HEFCE timelines were noted with the initial decision on the next REF being published mid-2017 and the guidance on submissions and panel criteria being available in 2018.

RDAP update

17.20 The recent internal reviews had now been concluded with 40% of the academic population having had one to one conversations with the RED Unit about their research activities. Most of the data had been analysed but there was still some 15% that needed to be considered in a more forensic way. An initial review of the results indicated that more development work may be required in order to give the University confidence of comfortably exceeding the criteria relating to professional practice equivalents of research with others.

- 17.21 As a side benefit of the exercise, some exciting innovative practice had been uncovered that the University has not celebrated and is not visible on the website. Consideration is being given to how such case studies could be utilised.

Ethical review of pedagogic research (REC17.05)

- 17.22 A paper on ethical review of pedagogic research was presented for note. The Chair explained that a recurring theme at University Ethics Panel meetings had been an inconsistent approach to research into practice and education. Many such activities commence as internal audits to reflect on and improve practice but, increasingly, staff wish to disseminate and publish outcomes outside of the University which, in line with best sector practice, would require ethical approval before the work commences.
- 17.23 In order to build consistency and shared understanding of ethical practices with regard to pedagogic research, a new dedicated educational research ethics sub-committee had been proposed and would be piloted.

Bucks Knowledge Archive

- 17.24 The Library are unable to continue to provide day to day support for the University's publication repository, although they would continue to provide technical support. The responsibility for working with the academic community has now moved to the RED Unit. The practicalities of this change were being resolved.
- 17.25 It was noted that there was still a need for user education as not everyone was aware of the REF Open Access Policy and the requirement to deposit articles on the repository within three months of acceptance and there is a danger that some articles would not be compliant with the policy. An emphasis on benefits to users would be expounded.
- 17.26 Alongside the work on Open Access publications was the work that was being taken forward through the JISC Research Data Management pilot. It was suggested that a champion with knowledge of systems was needed to attend JISC meetings on this topic.

Action: Richard Mather

ORCID update (REC17.06)

- 17.27 The Research Development Unit Manager explained that the University had joined the JISC ORCID® consortium in January. An ORCID identifier is a unique ID for an individual researcher that does not change even if the researcher changes their name or institution. Increasingly researchers are asked to provide ORCID identifiers when publishing articles or submitting funding bids.
- 17.28 As a result of joining the JISC consortium the University should be able to extract metadata of articles from some publishers using the ORCID Application Programming Interface and the JISC publications router to automatically populate the repository. Members were asked to provide the RED Unit with their ORCID identifiers which would be sent to JISC.
- 17.29 It was agreed that the ORCID paper would be taken to AFMTs and circulated to UOA Leads.

Action: RED Unit; Colin Martin; Paul Morgan; Florin Ioras

Research Centres and Groups

17.30 The Chair noted that some conversations had already taken place with regard to emerging research and innovation centres. Meetings would be arranged with colleagues to take this forward with three year business plans. In conjunction, areas where there is a supportive research culture where doctoral students could be admitted would be agreed.

Action: RED Unit

Public engagement

17.31 The Chair noted that a survey had been set up to capture current public engagement activities. The link would be circulated to members who were encouraged to participate.

Action: RED Unit

Minutes of Research Ethics Panel

17.32 The minutes of the University Research Ethics Panel meetings held on 21 October 2016, 25 November 2016 and 20 January 2017 were presented for note.

Minutes of Research Degrees Committee

17.33 The minutes of the Research Degree Committee meeting held on 8 February 2017 was presented for note.

Date of next meeting

17.34 The date of the next meeting is 11 May 2017.