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Research and Enterprise Committee

Open Minutes

Date of meeting: **Thursday, 11 May 2017**

Duration of meeting: **10:00 to 12:00**

Location: **G5.05**

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
Mandy Chong	Finance	Co-opted for Finance items
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
Kath Dunn (from 11am)	Careers	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
Rebecca Chandler-Wilde	RED Unit	Ex-Officio
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

Absent

Name	Faculty / Directorate	Category of membership

Apologies for absence

17.35 Six apologies were recorded and accepted by the Chair.

Minutes of the previous meeting (7 March 2017)

17.36 The minutes from the meeting held on 7 March 2017 were confirmed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes not appearing on the agenda

17.37 There were none to report.

Status of actions from the previous meeting

17.38 All updates on the action sheet were noted.

Chair's Report

17.39 The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of this Committee he would be chairing as he was leaving the University.

17.40 The Committee structure was under review to ensure that the number of Committees operating in the University was commensurate with the scale and range of activities being considered. The new structure would be in place by the next academic year.

Research and Enterprise grants in progress 2016/17 (REC17.07)

17.41 It was noted that the list of grants in progress contained a larger number of bids in preparation than previously which was a healthy sign. Some of these were a result of the grant camp workshops that had been held.

17.42 A query was raised about two bids that were listed as being undertaken by a member of staff who had recently left the University. An update on the status of these was requested.

Action: RED Unit

17.43 Funding awarded for the Digital Hub at University Campus Aylesbury Vale (UCAV) and the Health Science Innovation Hub on the High Wycombe campus would contribute towards achieving the HEIF funding threshold to ensure receipt of government funds. The majority of the funding that contributed to this previously at the University was derived from CPPD activities such as Advanced Practice courses. This contribution is now being reduced as Trusts are changing their funding models.

17.44 There are still issues with bids not being fully recorded but the new Finance system should reduce the error rate.

Research and Enterprise income to date 2016/17 (REC17.08)

17.45 The list of income to date in 2016-17 by project code was noted. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Some clarification was required with regard to how certain types of EU funding should be returned to HESA.

Action: Prof Florin Ioras

- Overall the income figure was noted to be lower than the previous year and that the volume of this activity needed to increase, particularly through consortium work.

HEB-CI data to date 2016/17 (REC17.09)

17.46 HEB-CI data was being captured on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

17.47 A clarification was requested about an item involving a company that had gone bankrupt.

Action: Mandy Chong

17.48 The funding with reference to the University of Cumbria would be checked to see if this was eligible for the HEB-CI return.

Action: Mandy Chong, Dr Rebecca Chandler-Wilde

Research & Innovation in relation to Transformation (see Research & Enterprise statement tabled at meeting)

17.49 The Chair reported on the positioning of Research & Innovation in relation to Transformation. The following points were noted:

- a) A number of changes were taking place at the University, including changes in Senior Management following the departure of Prof Middleton. However the University would continue to support Research and, in particular, the Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise activities arising from it.
- b) The University would continue to prepare and support submissions to the REF. Guidance for the exercise is not yet available but it is likely that all researchers will need to be returned so there is a continued need to support appropriate staff development.
- c) From next academic year, staff development will be centralised to ensure transparency and fairness in approach and enable more effective, targeted and strategic use of resources.
- d) The new model would be a central Research & Innovation Hub with thematic areas highlighting key areas of expertise.
- e) The importance of conducting applied translational research that can change practice was highlighted in the University Knowledge Exchange Strategy. The University's partnerships with the Imperial College Health Partners and Oxford Academic Health Science Network (OAHSN) and their networks are a key element of wider engagement with the region's research and innovation ecosystem.
- f) The Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP) data collection exercise provided some positive indicators of staff engagement with research activities but also indicated a requirement for further development in this area. The process would therefore be on hold whilst this work was done. There were a number of good models in operation at the moment, for example, staff with excellent writing skills teaming up with practitioners to more effectively disseminate their work.

17.50 A request was made for a communication to staff to inform them both of the current status of the RDAP submission and to provide clarity about the future availability of funding to support activities such as presenting at conferences.

Action: Chair

Innovation Hub

- 17.51 The Chair reported that the University has successfully secured funding for two innovation hubs. The Local Enterprise partnership (LEP)/European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funded Health and Life Sciences Innovation Centre is jointly supported by Bucks Healthcare Trust, the OAHSN, the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Bucks County Council with in-kind support from GE and Johnson & Johnson. The announcement of the Regional Development Fund award has been delayed as a result of purdah, but the University is confident that a recommendation for funding will be given by the Department for Communities & Local Government, later this summer. The precise location of the Health and Innovation Centre on the High Wycombe campus is under consideration with one possibility being to align it with current reception facilities at the Sports and Wellbeing Clinic. This would have the additional benefit of encouraging graduate startups through the Clinic. The second hub has a focus on digital technology including work in cyber security, IT and design. This has secured LEP funding and will be based at UCAV.
- 17.52 The University is currently working on the detailed business models for both hubs and is likely to go out to procurement to secure appropriate management to take them forward in the autumn.

The role of universities in supporting high-growth graduate startups

- 17.53 The Chair noted the publication of a report produced by the Centre for Entrepreneurs in April 2017 'Putting the Uni in Unicorn: The role of universities in supporting high-growth graduate startups'. This highlights the need for universities to set up graduate incubator programmes or to add a graduate track to existing hubs.
- 17.54 The report is a catalyst to ensuring that work through the University's Innovation Hubs includes student enterprise which would encompass not only the current undergraduate offer but programmes at taught postgraduate level. The University's Transformation curriculum planning team is currently considering the most effective way of developing a pipeline of student projects.
- 17.55 The University will be engaging the services of Prospects as part of the work to grow apprenticeships. This will create further opportunities as the business engagement will be targeted and take into consideration the full offer of the University, not just the apprenticeships.

Minutes of University Research Ethics Panel

- 17.56 The minutes of the University Research Ethics Panel meetings held on 17 February 2017 and 24 March 2017 were presented for note. The Chair noted that it was unlikely that the Panel would be rolled into another Committee as part of the reorganisation as it has very specific requirements to meet and needed to meet on a regular basis to ensure that research projects would not be unnecessarily delayed.

Minutes of Research Degrees Committee

- 17.57 The Research Degree Committee meeting had been held immediately prior to the Research & Enterprise Committee meeting so minutes were not yet available.

Date of next meeting

- 17.58 The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed as the Committee structure is under review.
- 17.59 On behalf of the Committee, Hilary Mullen thanked Prof Middleton for his positive leadership as Chair and noted that a considerable amount of progress had been made under his guidance.