



University of the
West of England

RKEC15.02.M

ACADEMIC BOARD

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

CONFIRMED

Wednesday 4 February 2015

14.00 – 16.30

Room Dartington Suite, Frenchay

Present: Prof Martin Boddy (Chair), Adediran Olaiya, Prof Jenny Ames, Richard Bond, Amanda Conway, Prof Myra Conway, Tracey John, Prof Nicholas O'Regan, Jane Newton, Prof Peter Rawlings, Mandy Rose, Dee Smart, Prof Mel Smith, Prof Jon Tucker, Dr Neil Willey.

Apologies: Liz Broadbent, Rachel Cowie, Dr Phillippa Diedrichs, Prof Olena Doran, Prof Julie Kent, Prof Glenn Lyons, Paul Manners.

In attendance: Dr Alistair Clark, Angel Lai, Alison Vaughton (Officer)

WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RKEC15.2.1 The Chair welcomed Mandy Rose to her first meeting of the Committee. All members introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Liz Broadbent, Rachel Cowie, Dr Phillippa Diedrichs, Prof Olena Doran, Prof Julie Kent, Prof Glenn Lyons and Paul Manners.

MEMBERSHIP

RKEC15.2.2 The Chair noted two changes of membership since the previous meeting. Liz Broadbent had joined the Committee to represent Marketing and Communications (replacing Julia Weston), and Phillippa Diedrichs represented Research Staff.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RKEC15.2.3 The minutes of the previous meeting (12 November 2014) were confirmed as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

RKEC15.2.4 RKEC14.11.14 – Student representation on UREC: The Officer reported that three PGR students had put their names forward for this position and that the Student Union would make the arrangements to appoint a representative.

RKEC15.2.5 RKEC14.11.17 – Code of Good Research Conduct: The Chair reported

that Academic Board, at its meeting on 17 December 2014, had approved the Code of Good Research Conduct with minor amendments, which had been made and signed off by the Vice-Chancellor. All faculties had developed improvements plans to take forward the implementation of the Code across the University.

RESEARCH REVIEW

Update by Chair

- RKEC15.2.6 The Chair updated the Committee on the Research Review. This was an ongoing process involving discussions in a number of fora, including at a strategic level with the Vice-Chancellor and at local level within faculties, and review of the recently published REF results, as part of the progress towards a revised University research strategy. The Board of Governors would be considering the emerging strategy for Learning and Research 2020 at an awayday in March. This may be an opportunity to press for financial investment to support the aim to develop UWE's research profile.
- RKEC15.2.7 It was noted that there had been recent changes in the emphasis of RBI support for research, and the Chair was asked if there may be scope for further enhancement. The Chair invited members to highlight areas where faculties would welcome greater emphasis or fine-tuning, but noted that there was little opportunity for additional resource, other than around research governance where the need for data management/security had been identified as a priority. Richard Bond explained that work was ongoing in Research Administration to evaluate possible central research information systems (CRIS), and noted that the structure of Research Administration (post One University Administration project) had provided opportunities for greater specialism.

Research Impact Strategy

- RKEC15.2.8 Professor Ames presented paper RKEC15/02/2 'Draft UWE Research Impact Strategy', noting that she would welcome comments at the meeting and from colleagues in other fora, and that she hoped to revise the strategy and bring a final version to the April meeting of the Committee. The final strategy should represent an initiative that people throughout the University would be able to work with and feel ownership of, and would be particularly important for driving forward impact with partner organisations. To achieve this, input from faculties would be particularly valuable. The strategic aim for the University was to be the best Alliance university (for impact) and also very strong within the region.
- RKEC15.2.9 Members of the Committee commented on the draft strategy. The increasingly multi-disciplinary nature of research should be reflected, as might the recognition of different types and sizes of partner organisations, eg Research Councils, SMEs. It was noted that this should not be a static document, and that while there may be a tendency to think of impact as being a result of research, it should be at the core. It was hoped that

further external guidance on impact pathways would become available.

RKEC15.2.10 It was suggested that it may be helpful to include faculty specific examples in the document. Some acronyms may need to be clarified. Further consideration might be given to including mechanisms to ensure connectivity between research and teaching, and involving students with activities leading to impact. The Graduate School Director welcomed the sections on postgraduate research. The PGR student representative stated that he would forward the document to PGR students to give them the opportunity to comment.

RKEC15.2.11 The Chair thanked Professor Ames for her work in developing the strategy and asked members to send their comments directly to Professor Ames by the end of February.

Action: All

REF

RKEC15.2.12 Richard Bond presented data on UWE's REF results (tabled paper RKEC 15/02/2) and explained the various ways in which the data were presented. The Committee also received sample information about UWE's results by unit of assessment (UOA), comparing 2008 and 2014. It was agreed that the full set of comparative data, for all UOAs to which UWE had submitted, would be uploaded to the Committee's SharePoint site. The Chair would be having meetings with individual Associate Deans in the four faculties to discuss the results and their implications going forward. Further detailed analysis was being conducted by Research Administration staff, including modelling of possible funding scenarios.

Action: AV

RKEC15.2.13 There was an expectation that there would be a further research assessment exercise around 2020, though no announcement was anticipated ahead of the General Election in May. REF panel feedback had generally been very positive about impact, and there were clear messages to discern and take on board for the future.

RKEC15.2.14 Professor Boddy noted the need to consider both volume and quality in submissions to future exercises. There were many lessons to be learned from detailed examinations of results at UWE and other comparative HEIs, and by looking across UOAs within UWE. Further thought would be given to benchmarking, and the possible reasons for variations in scoring across UWE's submissions, particularly for impact and environment. The Chair noted that the specific institutional feedback included some helpful information. Graduate School Director, Dr Willey suggested that it might be helpful to look again at the qualitative data in the PRES survey which had identified cultural issues as a concern.

RKEC15.2.15 Dr Willey welcomed the identification of excellence across the University

as strengthening the case for PGRs across the institution as a whole. The Chair confirmed that the REF data could be shared with colleagues.

- RKEC15.2.16 Work was continuing centrally and with individual faculties to analyse the REF 2014 results and identify opportunities for greater successes in future assessment exercises.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK

- RKEC15.2.17 Tracey John, Head of the Research and Business Development (RBD) Team in RBI, gave a presentation on business engagement activity and support and tabled papers on RBD partnership mapping 2012-2014 and details of RBI support currently offered. She invited comments from members on how best the team might progress their support in 2015, and asked for feedback on the RBI Hub (the online contact point for all parts of RBI).

Action: AV to send link to RBI Hub to all members

- RKEC15.2.18 The Chair noted the broad range and breadth of knowledge exchange activity, and engagement with the University's 2020 strategies. Some concern was expressed that there may be confusion amongst researchers as to where the support for developing strategic bids for funding, for example to the Research Councils and NIHR, now lay. Mrs John recognised that there were overlaps in some areas and that further thought needed to be given to ensuring that core research is supported and responsibilities clarified.

BIDDING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE DATA

- RKEC15.2.19 Angel Lai, Project Costing and Pricing Manager, presented paper RKEC15/02/5 Bidding Report, noting that the data included tender information in addition to research funding. It was encouraging to note that the trend was generally healthy and there was ongoing significant activity in bidding for EU funds. Research Council funding was noted to be down on the previous year though this was recognised to be a particularly volatile area of funding in terms of timings.

- RKEC15.2.20 The Committee received paper RKEC 15/02/4 'Successful Bids to 31 January 2015'. Of particular note was the arrival of Professor Angelika Peer, Professor in Robotics, who had brought significant EU-funded grants. Professor Ames requested that future bidding reports should show co-applicants in addition to project managers. Richard Bond responded that provided the information was available on PASS, this would be added to future reports.

Action: RB

LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE

- RKEC15.2.21 Amanda Conway presented paper RKEC 15/02/3 'Library Report', highlighting the current work on ensuring that the University is compliant with EPSRC data management requirements by the forthcoming deadline of 1 May 2015. Key requirements were around making metadata discoverable and preservation of research data for a minimum of 10 years. There remained issues around storage, preservation, access and security which needed to be considered further. Discussions were ongoing with EPSRC award holders to ensure compliance and Mrs Conway would be reporting the outcomes of the meetings to the Research Strategy Implementation Group.
- RKEC15.2.22 Mrs Conway reminded members about the availability of funds from the RCUK open access publishing fund. She reported increased uptake but there were still funds available, though only for Research Council-funded research.
- RKEC15.2.23 Library staff were continuing to raise awareness of the new HEFCE open access requirements and their implications for future research assessment exercises. Staff would be happy to discuss the requirements with individuals and groups.

FACULTY UPDATES

- RKEC15.2.24 FET – Dr Clark reported successful project bids of over £1.8 million, work to identify candidate impact case studies for future research assessment exercises, ongoing activity to develop an improvement plan for the Code of Good Research Conduct and a successful 'Research with Impact' New Starters Awayday.
- RKEC15.2.25 ACE – Professor Rawlings highlighted concerns over the availability of funding for research in the Arts and Humanities, and the need to diversify the range of staff bidding to the AHRC. He reported that the faculty would be holding an impact day in the near future. On the Code of Good Research Conduct, particular challenges were around monitoring undergraduate research activity, and the borders between undergraduate and postgraduate research (and the lack of resource to do this) along with the training needed to raise awareness of the requirements of the Code. The Chair noted that issues around compliance with ethical requirements, and research governance generally, had been flagged on the University's risk register and needed to be addressed by the Teaching and Learning side of the University.
- RKEC15.2.26 FBL – Professor O'Regan reported that there was much activity in the faculty including three forthcoming research events on impact, business models and advancing careers through networking. He also noted recent activity in the re-structuring of professional and executive development in

the Faculty.

RKEC15.2.27 HAS – Professor Ames reported that a faculty research governance group had been established to take forward the code of Good Research Conduct, which would be broadly driven by the Associate Heads of Department (R&KE). On research impact, six impact champions had been appointed, and a long list of potential impact case studies identified, the development of which Professor Ames hoped might be supported by HEIF funding.

RKEC15.2.28 Two new research groups had been set up, led in part by Senior Lecturers, thereby offering succession and leadership opportunities for the next generation of researchers. Other ongoing activity in the faculty included progress towards establishing a centre of excellence for patient safety.

HE-BCI DATA

RKEC15.2.29 The Committee received paper RKEC 15/02/6 'HE-BCI data', the annual HE-BCI (Higher education-business and community interaction survey) return by UWE. It was noted that its usefulness was limited, but that it was a statutory return, provided for information.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RKEC15.2.30 Jane Newton reminded members that the University's one-month trial to SciVal, a research management tool, was coming to an end and requested that feedback be sent to her.

Next Meetings:

*22 April 2015, 14.00-16.30, **4B21***

10 June 2015, 14.00-16.30, Dartington Suite

Actions:

RKEC15.02.11	All to send comments on draft Research Impact Strategy to Jenny Ames by end of February	All
RKEC15.02.12	Officer to upload REF UOA comparative data to SharePoint site	AV
RKEC15.02.17	Officer to send link to RBI Hub to Committee members	AV
RKEC15.02.20	Future successful bidding reports to include co-investigators	RB