



University of the
West of England

RKEC16.06M

ACADEMIC BOARD

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

CONFIRMED

Wednesday 8 June 2016

14.00 – 16.30

3A022, Frenchay

Present: Professor Martin Boddy (Chair), Professor Jenny Ames, Liz Broadbent, Amanda Conway, Professor Myra Conway, Professor Olena Doran, Professor Glenn Lyons, Jane Newton, Dr Chris Potter, Professor Jon Tucker, Professor Neil Willey, Dr Heidi Williamson.

Apologies: Richard Bond, Keith Hicks, Professor Julie Kent, Tracey Horton, Tracey John, Paul Manners, Professor Peter Rawlings, Professor Nicholas O'Regan, Mandy Rose, Professor Mel Smith

In attendance: Alison Vaughton (Officer), Donna Whitehead for items 1-5 and 8.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- RKEC16.06.01 The Chair welcomed Donna Whitehead, Executive Dean of FBL. Apologies were received from Richard Bond, Keith Hicks, Professor Julie Kent, Tracey Horton, Tracey John, Paul Manners, Professor Peter Rawlings, Professor Nicholas O'Regan, Mandy Rose and Professor Mel Smith.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- RKEC16.06.02 The minutes of the previous meeting (20 April 2016) with one minor amendment were confirmed as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

- RKEC16.06.03 RKEC16.04.3 The Chair reported that no student representative had yet been recruited for the Committee. The Officer would continue to liaise with the Students' Union on this. Members were asked to let the Officer know if they were aware of doctoral students who might be willing to join the Committee.
Action: Officer
- RKEC16.06.04 RKEC16.04.7 VC ECR Awards - Following the assessment of over 30 applications 18 awards had been made, committing funding of around £240K covering diverse and interesting subject areas.

- RKEC16.06.05 RKEC16.04.22 The REACT final report would now be brought to the October 2016 meeting of the Committee when it was hoped that both Jon Dovey and the newly appointed Associate Dean (RKE) for ACE would be able to attend.
- RKEC16.06.06 RKEC16.04.30 Professor Boddy stated that he would circulate details of the Science and Innovation audits when available.
Action: Chair
- RKEC16.06.07 All other actions had been completed or were discussed as agenda items at the meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

RKEC16.06.08 *Lean process review*

The Chair reported on the progress made to date. The review covers support for external bidding by all of the professional services, and undertaken by Jen Quah, Jane Newton and Lucy Scott. It is planned that the review will inform the business case for the PIS. A survey (aimed at identifying what has gone well and not so well and asking for suggested amendments to current arrangements) has been sent to all (400+) PIs on PASS in the past two years, and 57 responses have been received so far, with feedback returned to date proving to be useful. A summary will be provided for a future meeting of the Committee.

- RKEC16.06.09 Professor Boddy hoped that a full business case could be put to the September meeting of the Ways of Working Strategic Programme Board.

RKEC16.06.10 *EU SIF bidding*

Professor Boddy was very pleased to report that all three of the bids for EU SIF funding had been approved. Full business cases would now need to be put together.

RKEC16.06.11 *Marketing and Communications*

The Chair reported that he had met Tracy Chalk, the newly appointed Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications. As part of an overhaul of the University's marketing and communications activity it was hoped that research and knowledge exchange would feature strongly and would help to raise the profile of research.

FBL RESEARCH CENTRE PROPOSALS

- RKEC16.06.12 Mrs Whitehead presented Paper RKEC16.06.03, Research Centres in FBL. She explained the background to the paper and stated that the Faculty was now seeking the Committee's approval to appoint Directors for the three new proposed Research Centres and to put together business cases to bring to this Committee. There had been wide consultation within the Faculty and the proposed new Centres would bring together into more sustainable units the research activity in the Faculty.

RKEC16.06.13 Ms Broadbent stated that she would alert the account manager in Marketing to liaise with the FBL contact to create the webpages for the new Centres. The Committee stressed the need for the Faculty to give considerable thought to the names of the centres, noting the importance of appropriate names. The names will require confirmation from this Committee along with the business cases.

RKEC16.06.14 The Committee expressed some concern over the apparent overlap of the 'Big Data' research group with research activity in this area in FET. Mrs Whitehead reported that she had already discussed this with the Executive Dean in FET and would continue to do so. She was aware of the complementary research and happy to work together on this. The Committee was happy with the Faculty's proposed approach on this and the proposed Research Centres.

RKEC16.06.15 Professor Boddy advised members that the Research Strategy Implementation Group were planning to review the current criteria for Research Centres and Institutes in September and would also look at the criteria for Groups. The present criteria may be out of date, and the aim would be to have units that are more agile, flexible and collaborative.

FACULTY RESEARCH UPDATES FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS (RKE)

RKEC16.06.16 **FBL**
Mrs Whitehead directed members to the many highlights in Professor O'Regan's report (RKEC16.06.01b). These included some excellent examples of engagement – including television (appearance on Countryfile) and recognition in the Times Higher Education. There had also been significant work on business facing activity.

RKEC16.06.17 **FET**
Professor Lyons presented his report (RKEC16.06.01a) highlighting a recent writing retreat in the Department of Architecture and Built Environment which had given participants valuable time to progress their writing away from the demands of email and other distractions; a recent tranche of applications to the EPSRC's First Grant Scheme; and the approval of REACH (Robotic Engineering and Computing for Healthcare) – a new research group in FET led by Sanja Dogramadzi and Praminda Caleb-Solly.

RKEC16.06.18 **HAS**
Professor Ames reported (RKEC16.06.01c) on the HAS QR allocations competition, with investment of more than £300K and noting the very high proportion of women who had been successful; the list of research events which represented just a flavour of the many events held and upcoming; and noted that the Appearance Matters conference was this year being organised by CAR in London (indicating the high profile of the Centre). A workshop for staff who may be returned to Unit of Assessment (UOA) 22 had been led by a former REF panel member and had proved very helpful. The event had been filmed so could be used again. A new research group in the Psychological Sciences had been approved subject to minor amendments and chair's action.

RKEC16.06.19 **ACE**
No report was received for ACE.

RKEC16.06.20 **Hartpury**

Dr Potter was invited to give an update on research activity at Hartpury College. He reported that the College had held its first annual research conference on the previous day (7 June). This demonstrated the increase in research activity over the past three years, with research engagement by staff having increased from one third three years ago to 80% in the current year. This had been brought about through a deliberate change project, taking an institutional-wide approach which had included staff contracts, appraisals, resources, rather than one single action. Dr Potter had recently written a think piece on Developing Scholarship in the college higher education environment and would send to the Officer for circulation to the Committee

Action: CP/AV

UNIVERSITY ENTERPRISE ZONE (UEZ)

RKEC16.06.21

The Chair reported that the build is on schedule for a summer completion. The UEZ is being run by Oxford Innovation and is one of the first University Enterprise Zones (UEZ) in the country. Key staff appointments are now being made, including the recruitment of a Centre Manager and Innovation Director. A post is being funded in RBl to act as a link between UWE and the UEZ, and to support activity both for academics and for students. Although the facility has not yet been formally marketed, occupancy at start up is already 16% (with a target for the end of year 1 of 20%), and many expressions of interest have been received.

REF UPDATE

RKEC16.06.22

Professor Boddy spoke to paper RKEC16.06.02: REF Update. He reported that no further information was yet available on the next REF pending publication of the Stern report, which may be delayed until the autumn. He indicated that HEFCE were anticipating that the exercise would look very similar to REF2014 until anything to the contrary was announced. Once the Stern report is published there is expected to be a further round of consultation with the research community. If anything radical comes out of Stern it is likely to make a research assessment exercise by 2021 very difficult to achieve.

RKEC16.06.23

Reporting on the recent publication of the White Paper (Higher Education and Research Bill) Professor Boddy noted that the Research Councils survived as separate entities, and an additional layer of management had now been imposed. The inclusion of Innovate UK now brought innovation formally into the research arena.

RKEC16.06.24

Much good work was being undertaken by UOA Leads and impact champions and preparations are progressing well (albeit in an uncertain environment).

RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES – PROPOSED REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2015-16

RKEC16.06.25

The Committee discussed the proposal on annual reporting by Research Centres and Institutes (Paper RKEC16.06.04) which mirrored the process in the previous

- year. Members requested that the metrics in the reports should reflect the UWE research metrics.
- RKEC16.06.26 It was suggested that the time taken for PGR students to complete should be included, however this was not considered to be a particularly useful measure in this context and Professor Boddy noted that the Faculty Research Degrees Committees and the Research Degrees Awards Board do review the time taken by students at each stage of their studies.
- RKEC16.06.27 The proposed process, with changes to metrics, was agreed.
Action: Richard Bond
GRADUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
- RKEC16.06.28 ***Policy on PGRs who teach***
Professor Willey presented paper RKEC16.06.05 – Policy and Strategy for PGRs who teach. The paper had been discussed at LTSEC earlier in the week where it had been recommended for submission to Academic Board. The proposed policy is a significantly revised version of the policy and strategy currently in place and addresses the recommendation in the QAA's 2015 HE review.
- RKEC16.06.29 Professor Willey explained the key elements of the new policy. The distinction between learning support and teaching had now been removed with teaching only referred to throughout, and the approach now proposed falls in line with the approach adopted by most HEIs. A 1-day 'Preparing to teach in HE' course will be taken by all PGRs as part of their induction, and PGRs must have taken this or equivalent training in order to be able to teach. PGR students will also have the opportunity to progress to take the PG Cert in Teaching and Learning in HE. Professor Harrington, at LETSC, had assured Professor Willey that there would be no issue about faculties having to pay for the training, and HR would be able to record and monitor PGR training. PGR students with a more significant teaching load (more than 45 hours) will be required to take the 'Introduction to teaching and learning in Higher Education' course, however it was suggested that this was only likely to apply to 5-8 students per year.
- RKEC16.06.30 The Committee endorsed the policy and noted that this would be checked by the QAA in September. This appeared to be a very satisfactory outcome to the QAA issue.
- RKEC16.06.31 ***Amendments to PGR Regulations and Procedures for 2016-17***
Professor Willey took the Committee through the proposed amendments to the regulations and procedures (Paper RKEC16.06.06 Proposals for minor amendments to postgraduate research degree regulations and procedures for 2016/17). These had been discussed in detail and agreed at the Research Degrees Award Board.
The Committee endorsed the proposed amendments for submission to Academic Board.
Action: Officer

LIBRARY SERVICES

RKEC16.06.32 Mrs Conway presented the Library Services report (RKEC16.06.09). This included a further reminder about HEFCE requirements for open access and the REF, noting that these are now in force, but that there are still pockets of people who appear not to understand the requirements. For the next (October) meeting the Library will be running compliance reports, however there remained issues around compliance, and it seemed possible that issues may arise in the run up to the next REF.

RKEC16.06.33 Mrs Conway reminded members about the availability of funds for publishing in open access journals. The Chair reported that the possibility of establishing a central UWE fund using QR resources had been discussed at a recent meeting of RSIG and Professor Lyons had been tasked with developing a proposal, to include a pilot scheme.

RKEC16.06.34 The libraries (Frenchay, Glenside and Bower Ashton) have a number of areas which might be used to highlight research projects and staff. Further thought would be given to how these might best be utilised.

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

RKEC16.06.35 Professor Lyons gave an update on progress with the proposed programme of researcher development events. It was hoped that a full listing of training options would be available by September for 2016-17. The listing may include some training areas for which there is no specific course date, but will include contact details. Further events can be added in due course. RBI and HR had held discussions on the organisation and recording of the training and a colleague in RBI had been identified to support this activity in the short term. Professor Boddy noted that the initial driver for this activity had been the Code of Good Research Conduct, and that this proposed activity would meet many of the issues identified in the Code.

BIDDING REPORT

RKEC16.06.36 The Committee received reports RKEC16/06/07a (Research bids initiated between 01/08/2015 to 27/05/2016) and RKEC16/06/07b (Non-research bids initiated between 01/08/2015 to 27/05/2016). Jane Newton noted that there had been a dip in net funding, although this was not matched in the number of bids. It was agreed that it may be helpful to undertake some analysis of the reasons for this and the areas involved, including by funding body. In addition it may be useful to review subsidy levels. Professor Boddy remarked that £12M net income is healthy, even if the average value of each award has fallen.

KTP AND RESEARCH WITH IMPACT*

RKEC16.06.37 The Committee received paper RKEC16.06.08, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and Research with Impact. Professor Boddy noted that the shifted emphasis of Innovate UK had left UWE rather behind the curve, and conscious of the need to alter our focus and reinforce the research element in KTPs. The Chair proposed that Ms John and Mrs Rowson should be invited to present the report at the next meeting of URKEC.

Action: Officer

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- RKEC16.06.38 Professor Boddy noted that a health and safety audit of RBI was taking place in the course of this month, and would include researcher safety as well as RBI staff.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- RKEC16.06. There was no other business.
- RKEC16.06. The meeting closed at 16.15.

MEETING DATES FOR 2016-17

Wednesday 19th October 2016, 14:00-16:30
Wednesday 8th February 2017, 14:00-16:30
Wednesday 5th April 2017, 14:00-16:30
Wednesday 14th June 2017, 14:00-16:30

Actions:

RKEC16.06.03	The Officer would continue to liaise with the Students' Union to recruit a student representative for the Committee	AV
RKEC16.06.06	The Chair to circulate details of the Science and Innovation audits when available.	MB
RKEC16.06.20	The Officer to circulate Dr Potter's think piece on Developing Scholarship in the college higher education environment	CP/AV
RKEC16.06.27	Richard Bond to amend the Research Centre and Institutes reporting process and invite reports	RB
RKEC16.06.31	The Officer to arrange submission to Academic Board of the two Graduate School papers	AV
RKEC16.06.37	The Officer to invite Ms John and Mrs Rowson to present the report on KTPs and Research with Impact to the next meeting of the Committee	AV