

**Confirmed**



**RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**  
**11<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**PRESENT:** Professor A. Nagar (in the Chair), Professor G. Cuthbertson, Professor N. Donnelly, Dr S. Harrop, Dr N. Hodgson, Professor D. Jeyaraj, Dr Z. Kinsley, Professor O. Khaiyat, Dr A. Ranasinghe, Professor D. Reid

**By Invitation:** Mrs G. Smylie, Ms S. Murray, Mr Allan Bibby

**Secretariat:** Ms C. Bramwell

**1. Apologies**

The Chair advised that apologies had been received from Professor M. Brennan. The Chair confirmed that Dr N. Hodgson has recently left the university and advised that he will be seeking a nomination from the Vice-Chancellor for a replacement member.

**2. Terms of Reference**

The Chair confirmed that Members had received the Terms of Reference for University Research Committee 2021-22 (RC 1106) and asked if there were any comments. Members confirmed that the Terms of Reference did not require any amendments. Ms Murray advised that her job title will soon be changing to 'Director of Student Learning' and asked that this be updated in the membership section.

**ACTION:** Ms Bramwell to update Ms Murray's job title in the membership section of the Terms of Reference and send the updated document back to Mr Derrick Dykins.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (RC 1107), which were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising**

Ms Murray advised that she has been in touch with UKRI with regards to the Open Access query raised at the last meeting around monograph publications. Ms Murray confirmed that where an academic has an existing contract for a monograph publication, they would not be held to anything signed before the regulations came into practice. The Chair asked that Ms Murray ensures that all colleagues are made aware of this.

Ms Bramwell confirmed that feedback and comments on updating the Research & Scholarship Development Plan (R&SDP) had been requested from both members of this committee and from Chairs of School/Department Research Committees.

The Chair confirmed that he has received some feedback and will cover this later on in the agenda.

The Chair advised that once the teaching and marking rush is over, he will be visiting Schools/Departments with Mrs Smylie to take forward the development of the LHU Research Process document and Research as a whole. It was confirmed that this process will be covered later on in the agenda.

## **5. Update on REF2021**

The Chair advised that the REF results are now known but explained that as everything is still under embargo until midnight tonight, he is limited on what can be talked about at present.

The Chair said that there are some very good headlines and achievements within the results. The Chair noted that we can never predict how the REF Panels will assess and said that we should avoid comparing Units when analysing the results.

The Chair confirmed that once the embargo has been lifted we will be able to look more in depth at the data. The Chair said that as an institution we have moved forward and said that there is a lot of good news to celebrate.

It was noted that Psychology have come out very strongly in terms of both GPA and Impact. English Literature/Language have also done very well, as have Nutrition and Fine Art & Design who have both submitted for the first time.

The Chair said that as an institution we have submitted 96.5% of our eligible staff and advised members that in depth analysis will start from tomorrow.

The Chair asked members whether they had any comments. Professor Cuthbertson said he was pleased with the progress that has been made and said that going forward we should think about how to make improvements in the areas of Impact and Environment. Professor Donnelly also suggested that Environment was a key area for development.

The Chair explained that at this stage it is not known what the shape of the next Research Assessment will look like yet and advised that the consultation for feedback has recently closed. It is thought that most existing aspects will be there in some shape.

Professor Jeyaraj asked whether there was any update on Impact Case Studies.

The Chair advised that Theology have done very well in this area and advised that he would be contacting Professor Jeyaraj and Professor Donnelly for statements to be included in the press release that he is currently working on.

The Chair advised that going forward the REF Steering Group (REFSG) membership will be refreshed and regular meetings of REFSG will resume in the new academic year.

After the embargo has been lifted, the Chair will append a brief update on REF2021 results to the minutes of this committee meeting.

## **6. Reports from Research Centres**

The Chair had requested a brief report from the Centre Directors outlining the key activities and plans.

### **a. CCDS**

Members had received a summary report from CCDS (RC 1108) in advance of this meeting. Members noted the content of the report.

### **b. CEPA**

Members had received a summary report from the Centre for Education and Policy Analysis (RC 1109) in advance of this meeting. Members noted the content of the report.

**c. Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War & Peace Studies**

Members had received a summary report from the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War & Peace Studies (RC 1110) in advance of this meeting. Members noted the content of the report.

**d. Andrew Walls Centre for the Study of African and Asian Christianity**

Members had received a summary report from the Andrew F Walls Centre of the Study of African and Asian Christianity (RC 1111) in advance of this meeting. Members noted the content of the report

**e. SEARCH**

Members had received a summary report on SEARCH (RC 1112) in advance of this meeting. Members noted the content of the report.

The Committee recommended the continuation of the above Research Centres.

**7. Library Resources Update**

**a. Minutes of the Library Steering Group**

Members had received the previous minutes of the Library Steering Group meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (RC 1113) and noted the content.

**b. Library Update Report**

Ms Murray briefed members on the Library Update Report (RC 1114).

Ms Murray advised that as part of a restructure within SSWB there was a recognition for the need for dedicated librarian support for research students, staff, processes and systems. It is hoped that a Research Support Librarian will be appointed in the near future.

Ms Murray advised that following extensive consultation, UK Universities have now unanimously accepted the seventh proposal from Elsevier.

The Chair told members if they had any items related to research for consideration by Library Steering Group (LSG), they should be brought to the attention of Ms Murray or to let the Chair know so he can feed into the LSG.

**8. Research Funding**

**a. Quarterly reports on progress of research and grant income activity**

Mrs Smylie referred to the report on research and grant income activity (RC 1115). It was confirmed that so far to date, a total of £65K of funding has been awarded and we are currently awaiting outcomes for a further £507K. Bids for a total amount of £220K had unfortunately been unsuccessful.

Mrs Smylie advised that there was a lot of activity happening across the University and said that things were moving in the right direction and that progress was being made.

Mrs Smylie advised that she had recently run a workshop called 'desperately seeking funding' which was aimed at creating an environment to kick start research across the University as well as increasing staff awareness of 'Research Professional'.

Mrs Smylie referred to her report on Research and Innovation (RC 1116). Members noted the content of this report.

The Chair informed members that Mrs Smylie's role title has been amended to 'Research and Innovation Facilitator' after a discussion with the Vice-Chancellor. The Chair said that he will now formalise this with Personnel.

**ACTION:** The Chair to contact Personnel in order to ensure Mrs Smiley's role title is formally amended to 'Research and Innovation Facilitator'.

With regards to the development of the LHU Research Process (RC 1117), Mrs Smylie advised that she is trying to put some timescales to it as well as developing it further before putting it on the website.

The Chair asked that Mrs Smylie circulate the document to Heads of School/Department as well as Chairs of School/Department Research Committees so that they can provide feedback.

**ACTION:** Mrs Smylie to circulate the LHU Research Process document to Heads of School/Department as well as Chairs of School/Department Research Committees to obtain feedback to further develop/enhance the document.

## **b. University Research Funding**

Members had received the update on University Research Funding (RC 1118). Mr Bibby reported that to date on 15% of School/Departmental Research Budgets have been spent. Mr Bibby noted that this may be an inaccurate reflection as he does not have access to committed spending and therefore the data set is not complete.

Mr Bibby said that there appears to be a significant underspend and encouraged Schools/Departments to utilise their funding in a beneficial way.

Professor Donnelly suggested that it would be a good idea for staff training to be held to look at strategies to make best use of Research funding. The Chair said that Heads of School/Department should come up with spending strategies for the respective areas and advised that he will also have a think about this.

The Chair said that he will meet with Mrs Smylie and Mr Bibby outside of this meeting to look at a spending strategy and list of appropriate ways for funding to be utilised.

**ACTION:** Chair to meet with Mrs Smylie and Mr Bibby to develop a Research Funding spending strategy.

The Chair asked that School/Department Research Committees provide their spending information to Mr Bibby in a timely manner when requested so that he can produce the necessary accurate reports.

The Chair asked that members encourage all staff to apply for research funding so that funding is equally accessible to all our colleagues, instead of the same colleagues applying for funding every year.

Mr Bibby advised that he has recently sent out a template to School/Department Research Committees which will help to record spending information going forward.

## **9. Research Degrees Sub-Committee**

The Chair advised that there are no minutes of RDSC to consider as the meeting has been postponed to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

It was reported that Newman University has recently submitted documents for validation which will take place in the coming weeks.

The Chair explained that the University has started the process of teaching out Maryvale students, as we have done with St Mary's students (following their successful bid to obtain Research Degree Awarding Powers).

With regards to the University's own PGR Students, the Chair reported that many of our students are now back on campus following interruptions due to the Covid pandemic.

## **10. Research Ethics Sub-Committee**

Professor Jeyaraj advised that the updated version of the Ethics Policy has now been finalised and will be uploaded to the website in due course.

### **a. Minutes of Research Ethics Sub-Committee**

The Chair referred to the minutes of the meeting of RESC on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (RC 1119) and asked members if they had any comments. No comments were put forward.

## **11. Items for Note from School/Department Research Committees**

Members had received summary reports of the noteworthy items from School/Department Research Committees (RC1120-1125). Members noted the content of these reports.

The Chair noted that some of the reports were still outstanding (RC 1126–1129) and said that going forward we need a report from every School/Department in a timely manner.

The Chair reminded members that he does read all of the minutes and that these reports should include a brief summary of the key updates.

## **12. Monitoring Strategic/Corporate Goals**

### **a. Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarships**

The Chair confirmed this year's Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarships have now been advertised in the Hope Bulletin as well as directly to all Schools and Departments across the University. The Chair asked members to note the deadlines and encourage colleagues within their areas to apply.

The Chair asked members to encourage colleagues in their Schools/Departments to get Students involved and explained that it is an opportunity for both students and colleagues to benefit from getting research done.

### **b. Updating Research & Scholarship Development Plans**

The Chair shared feedback he had received from colleagues in respect of ideas to enhance the Research and Scholarship Development Plan (R&SDP).

The Chair said that he had received some good feedback and referred to the comments received from Dr Zoe Kinsley around Equality and Diversity as being particularly useful. The Chair also advised that feedback from Ms Murray around Open Access and support was also very useful.

The Chair asked members whether they had any further feedback on either the R&SDP or on the Research Methods paper that was brought to a previous meeting of this committee.

Professor Donnelly said that it was very important that we make good progress on the R&SDP and encouraged members to think about how we create an environment which encourages people to constantly develop. He also said that there is a need for clarity about how we develop people and how does that message reach 'staff on the ground'.

The Chair advised that the Research Methods paper contains some of this information in the section on staff development.

The Chair advised that he will be visiting Schools/Departments over the next couple of months along with Mrs Smylie and they will seek to gather ideas on what colleagues would like to see within the R&SDP.

The Chair advised that he will be seeking feedback from members of this committee over the next couple of weeks, in order to develop a list of 'open ended' questions and topics for colleagues to consider ahead of these visits which will help with the development and enhancement of the R&SDP.

The Chair informed members that as a starting point, colleagues will be asked whether they feel the plan is still valid, as well as what aspects need strengthening and developing. The Chair asked members to think about what other topics/questions the call for feedback should include.

**ACTION:** Chair to contact members to obtain their feedback/ideas to build the wider university consultation to develop the R&SDP.

### **13. Chairs Business**

With regards to the renewal of memberships for this committee, the Chair reported that he will consult with the Vice-Chancellor for nominations.

The Chair reminded members that this year's Inaugural Lecture series is now underway and encouraged members to attend and support our colleagues.

### **14. Dates for future meetings**

The Chair advised that the meeting dates for Research Committee during the 2022/23 academic year should now be in the University Committee Schedule and asked Ms Bramwell to circulate them to members after this meeting.

**ACTION:** Ms Bramwell to circulate the 2022/23 meeting dates to Research Committee members.

**Confirmed**



**ACTION LOG FOR NEXT RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Terms of Reference (p1)	Ms Bramwell to update Ms Murray's job title in the membership section of the Terms of Reference and send the updated document back to Mr Derrick Dykins.	Ms. C Bramwell	ASAP	Actioned
Research Funding (p4)	The Chair to contact Personnel in order to ensure Mrs Smiley's role title is formally amended to 'Research and Innovation Facilitator'.	Chair	ASAP	Actioned
Research Funding (p4)	Mrs Smylie to circulate the LHU Research Process document to Heads of School/Department as well as Chairs of School/Department Research Committees to obtain feedback to further develop/enhance the document.	Mrs. G Smylie	ASAP	
University Research Funding (p4)	Chair to meet with Mrs Smylie and Mr Bibby to develop a Research Funding spending strategy.	Chair / Mrs G Smylie	Before the next meeting	
Monitoring Strategic / Corporate goals (p6)	Chair to contact members to obtain their feedback/ideas to build the wider university consultation to develop the R&SDP.	Chair	ASAP	Actioned
Dates for future meetings (p6)	Ms Bramwell to circulate the 2022/23 meeting dates to Research Committee members.	Ms. C Bramwell	ASAP	