

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
(CONFIRMED)

PRESENT: Professor A. Nagar (Chair), Dr P. Bamber, Dr M. Blackburn, Mr C. Cooper, Prof D. Jeyaraj, Dr Z Kinsley, Ms S. Murray, Dr D. Reid, Dr C. Wakefield.

Apologies: Professor D. Bolt

Secretariat: Mr M. Jones

1) Apologies & Welcome

Professor Nagar introduced himself as acting Chair of the committee, following Revd Professor Newport's assumption of the Chair of Academic Committee. The Chair also noted the apologies of Professor Bolt. Prof Nagar welcomed Dr Blackburn as representative from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

2) Minutes of the previous meeting

Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 (**RE 805**), which were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

3) Matters Arising

Centre for Christian Education

The Chair undertook to contact Dr Stuart-Buttle re future funding of the centre.

University Research Day

The Chair noted the requests from members at the last meeting regarding reallocation of one of the University's Learning & Teaching Days as a Research Day. The Chair informed that after further consideration, and given the pressure that is already in place for the Learning & Teaching Days, the PVC (academic) has taken the view that it would be better to organise the research days at Faculty level and where needed interdisciplinary conversations can take place by involving colleagues from across the University. The Chair noted that the Faculty of Education had such an arrangement already in place and that the Faculty of Science was planning such an event. Dr Kinsley undertook to discuss the possibility of scheduling an Arts & Humanities Faculty Research Day with Professor Vandewalle.

4) REF 2021

(i) Minutes of REF Steering Group

Members had received minutes of the REF Steering Group (RE 809 & 809a). The Chair reported that the group had discussed three REF documents at these REFSG meetings, which he would present under the next agenda sub-item.

(ii) Preparations for REF2021

Members had received documents relating to preparations for REF2021 (RE806-808). The Chair informed members that the first document summarised the key decisions on various aspects of REF2021 and outlined how the assessment framework will work. The Chair informed members that HEFCE will be publishing a draft of the working practice

and criteria in summer 2018 for consultation, before publishing the final information in 2019.

The Chair drew members' attention to the fact that, unlike the previous RAEs and REF, REF2021 will not be a selectivity exercise and that the number of outputs must be proportional to the size of the unit of assessment (UoA). The Chair added that the category of 'Early Career Researcher' will not be part of REF2021.

The Chair informed members that a number of assessment weightings have changed, with Outputs at 60% (down from 65% in REF2014) and Impact at 25% (up from 20% in REF2014). Environment has remained at 15%. The Chair added that there will be an Open Access requirement. Dr Bamber asked whether papers co-authored with doctoral students would be eligible for submission. Prof Nagar explained that articles co-authored with doctoral students can be submitted against the academic supervisor (the doctoral students are not eligible for submission to REF). Dr Bamber wanted to know what is the protocol or policy on publishing co-authored articles jointly with doctoral students and in particular the order of sequence of authorship (giving due credit for the contributions made) in such jointly produced manuscripts. The Chair replied that there were some variations between disciplines in conventions re co-authorship (e.g. in some disciplines it is alphabetical by last name, in some discipline it is proportionate to the contributions made, and in some disciplines the last author is the main or lead investigator as a senior researcher) and in all such practices it is important to acknowledge contributions appropriately. Prof Nagar as Chair agreed to look at these various practices and see if we can come up with a set of guidelines for PGR students providing clarity on this. The Chair said that as an institution we will need to prepare our own Code of Practice document for staff submission as this will be a requirement for the next REF2021.

Looking at the University's level of preparedness for REF2021 the Chair informed members that, were the exercise to take place this month, the University would be able to submit 55% of eligible staff, a proportion equal to that submitted in REF2014. Prof Nagar informed that by 2019/20 we will have 82% of staff REF ready with an average of 3\* GPA profile and emphasised that more work is needed in getting the remaining approx. 18% staff to this position as otherwise we could have research results as Unclassified due to non-submissions from this very small group of colleagues. The Chair said although the picture is very encouraging so far, and asked the unit of assessment coordinators and Chairs of Faculty Research Committees to share this information with colleagues in their departments, he emphasised that more work is needed to continue to improve output/publication quality and in ensuring that our impact case studies develop well from now until the submission due date which is approx. 33 months away. The Chair advised that he has been sharing relevant parts of this report with unit coordinators to enable them to conduct analysis (what is scenarios) for their own units.

Professor Jeyaraj asked whether REF2021 would have provision for noting the work of the University's research centres. The Chair replied that it would be possible to note work undertaken as part of a research centre in the 'Environment' element of the submission.

The Chair added that he holds regular Impact Workshops and encouraged colleagues to attend.

The Chair also shared 'Preparations for REF2021 Timeline' document with colleagues. The Chair advised that the document shows key deadlines and dates for Departments and UoAs and also includes official HEFCE deadlines and the document would help units

with their planning. The Chair reminded that colleagues should familiarise themselves with instances where research that has been carried out at Liverpool Hope but the colleague has now left the institution as there could be impact that is happening now that can be captured. With regards to Environment, Prof Nagar reminded that we need to collect as much information as possible including examples of keynote speeches, membership of editorial boards, and awards so that when the guidelines are known we can select the appropriate esteem indicators as part of our Environment narratives.

5) Reports from Research Centres

**a. CCDS**

Members had received an update from the Centre for Culture and Disability Studies (RE8107). Dr Bamber informed members that Dr Penketh is leading a collaborative research project designed to improve access to cultural education for children and young people. The project has a combined fund of £100k to support a research partnership between Liverpool Hope University and Curious Minds, an Arts Council Funded organisation based in the North West of England.

**b. CEPA**

Members had received an update from the Centre for Education and Policy Analysis (RE 811). Dr Bamber drew members' attention to the three programmes of research (Higher Education, Philosophy and Citizenship, national values and identity) currently being undertaken by the centre.

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

Members had received an update from the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War & Peace Studies (RE 812). Dr Kinsley drew members' attention to the well-attended programme of events run by the centre, as well as its interdisciplinary nature.

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

Members had received an update from the Andrew F Walls Centre of the Study of African and Asian Christianity (RE 813). Professor Jeyaraj informed members that the co-design event for the MA in African Christianity took place in December 2017 and that work on the qualification is nearing completion.

**e. SEARCH**

Members had received an update from SEARCH (RE 814). Dr Kinsley noted the addition of Dr Katz to the centre. Mr Cooper asked where the allocation of funds resulting from the partnership with Everton Football Club were being recorded through the University's research codes for HESA returns so that these can be appropriately returned during HESA submissions in connection with the next REF. It was agreed that Prof Nagar and Mr Bibby would discuss with Prof Vandewalle.

The Chair requested that each research centre produce a report detailing their strategy for attracting external funding to support and sustain their work and provide this strategy document for the next meeting of the Committee.

6) Library Resources Update

**a. Minutes of Library Steering Group**

The Committee had received minutes of the Library Steering Group (RE 815). Ms Murray informed members that library staff have been liaising with colleagues from

External Relations in order to ensure that the library and special collections are included in future marketing literature.

**b. Library update**

Members had received the Library update (RE 816). Ms Murray informed members that an official event attended by Bishop Campbell of Lancaster was held on 13th December to official mark the transfer of the Talbot Collection to Hope. Work to de-duplicate and sorting the collection is ongoing.

**c. Research Repository Update**

Ms Murray informed members that across the whole content of the repository there were 6,149 downloads; 68% of records have full text and 44% are open access 101 journal articles were added in the period 1st September 2017 – 6th February 2018 and of those 86% were full text and 49% open access.

7) Research Funding

(i) External Funding Bids update

Members had received the External Funding Bids update (RE 817). Mr Cooper noted that the number of applications for external funding was down by comparison with the same point last year, but not to any significant degree.

(ii) University Research Funding

Mr Bibby presented an update on internal research funding, noting that at this point of a total of £157k, £44k has been allocated, leaving £112k as yet unallocated. Mr Bibby requested that Faculty Executive Officers ensure their internal research funding spreadsheets are regularly updated. Mr Bibby also requested that each faculty contact him with details of how they plan to utilise the remaining funding. Prof Nagar suggested that he will meet with the Dean's to discuss this.

9) Sub Committee reports

**a. Research Degrees Sub Committee**

Members had received minutes of January's meetings of Research Degrees Sub Committee (RE 818). Professor Nagar informed members that the majority of students on the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship scheme at the stage where they will be taking their CRT in the near future and thanked colleagues in the relevant departments for their support in this. He emphasised the importance of this CRE stage which must be taken seriously in ensuring the quality of doctoral research and successful completion rate of our PGR. Prof Nagar noted that he is due to meet with all the PGR students (including VC scholarship holders and Hope-Lille students) in the University as part of his regular meetings and asked colleagues to encourage PGR students in their Faculties to attend this event.

**b. Research Ethics Sub Committee**

Members had received minutes from Research Ethics Sub-Committee (RE 819). Professor Jeyaraj informed members that the next meeting of the Sub Committee would be on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The Chair added that the online ethics system is now up and running. Professor Nagar informed members that the online system has already been launched and

asked that this should be demonstrated at the March meeting of the Ethics Sub Committee.

11) Reports from Faculty Research Committees

**a. Science**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meeting of the Faculty of Science Research Committee (RE 820 & 821). Dr Reid informed that there has been recent successful completions and also informed that the Faculty has been considering format for the Research Day.

**b. Arts & Humanities**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meetings of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities Research Committee (RE 822 & 823).

**c. Education**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meetings of the Faculty of Education Research Committee (RE 824 & 825). Dr Bamber informed members that the Faculty of Education Research Day is to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.

12) Promotions to Professorship

Members had received the update on recent professorial promotions. The Chair congratulated Professor Bolt and Professor Khaiyat for their promotion to full professorship.

13) Monitoring Strategic goals

The Chair requested that the chair of each Faculty Research Committee produce a report for the next meeting of Research Committee detailing the ways in which their Faculty is addressing the Faculty Research Strategy and progress with the University's strategic framework (which is part of the University's corporate plan and the Research and Scholarship Plan document).

14) AOB

Mr Cooper drew members' attention to a funding opportunity in which HEFCE's Catalyst Fund in inviting expressions of interest for projects addressing religious-based hate crime affecting students, to receive funding of up to £50,000. As this funding call seemed appropriate for L&T activity, the Chair asked Mr Jones to forward the documentation to Dr Haughan for consideration or dissemination to colleagues in SS&W and the Chaplaincy Team.

**ACTION LOG FOR NEXT RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Centre for Christian Education	Professor Nagar to discuss future funding of the centre with Dr Stuart-Buttle and ask for a report to be produced at the next Research Committee meeting.	Professor Nagar	
University Research Day	Dr Kinsley to discuss the possibility of	Dr Kinsley	

	scheduling an Arts & Humanities Faculty Research Day with Professor Vandewalle.		
Guidelines on co-authored research papers jointly with PGR students	Professor Nagar to look into various practices reg. papers co-authored with doctoral students.	Professor Nagar	
SEARCH	Prof Nagar and Mr Bibby to discuss recording of allocation of Everton Football Club funds with Professor Vandewalle.	Professor Nagar, Mr Bibby, Mr Cooper	
Research Centre funding and Sustainability strategy	Head of research centres to produce report outlining their strategy for attracting external funding.	Heads of research centres	
Monitoring strategic goals (Faculty and University strategies)	Chair of each Faculty Research Committee produce a report for the next meeting of Research Committee detailing the ways in which their faculty is addressing the Faculty Research Strategy.	Chairs of FRCs and Prof Nagar.	