

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**PRESENT:** Revd Professor K. Newport (Chair), Dr P. Bamber, Mr A Bibby, Dr D. Bolt, Mr C. Cooper, Prof M. Dorak, Dr Z Kinsley, Ms S. Murray, Professor A. Nagar & Professor N. Rees

**Apologies:** Prof D. Jeyaraj

**Secretariat:** Mr M. Jones

1) **Apologies & Welcome**

The Chair noted the apologies of Professor Jeyaraj and Dr Wakefield

2) **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 (**RE 742**). Mr Cooper queried point three in the action log ('Mr Cooper to let Dr Montoya Londono know which publications can be counted as Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centre for War & Peace Studies publications') and Professor Newport replied that publications by any member of the centre can be submitted for REF purposes.

Pending this change to the action log, the minutes were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

3) **Matters Arising**

**Responsibility for PGR students at Maryvale Institute**

Professor Nagar informed members that he has received a report from Maryvale Institute, giving clarity re the provision of assurance regarding the standard of the University's awards and the quality of its learning experience. The report was presented to the last meeting of Collaborative Provision Sub-Group.

4) **Research Funding**

Members had received the 2016-17 Internal Research Funding Update. The Chair noted that the faculty with the largest unallocated budget was the Faculty of Science. Professor Nagar informed members that the majority of the Faculty of Science's internal research budget is spent once teaching time is over, as that is when the majority of conferences (attendance at which the budget is used to pay for) take place.

The Chair noted that the central internal research budget for the 2016-17 year has been spent, but that there are still funds available in each of the faculties'

internal research budgets. The Chair undertook to draft a proposal requesting additional funds for the central internal research budget.

Professor Nagar informed members that the HEIF call for funding proposals has been sent to FEOs to disseminate through the faculties and has also appeared in Hope Bulletin.

5) Report and discussion on REF preparation

Members had received the current register of REF external advisers (REF 743a). Professor Nagar informed members that there are nineteen units of assessment, the majority of which have external advisers appointed. Professor Nagar added that, of the nineteen units of assessment listed, the University hopes to submit fourteen or fifteen. Professor Nagar added that the number and quality of publications intended for submission is very promising.

Professor Nagar informed members that there are currently 101 registered PGR students at the University (excluding MPhil students). This number includes students studying at Maryvale Institute, who will form part of the University's REF submission.

Professor Nagar also informed members that he has formed an Impact Strategy Group, a subgroup of the REF Steering Group. This subgroup will look at ways of supporting colleagues with impact-related activity.

6) Reports from Research Centres

**a. CCDS**

Members had received an update from the Centre for Culture and Disability Studies (RE 726). Dr Bolt informed members that three more seminars have taken place in the 'Disability and the Emotions' series, with two more to come. The centre's conference will be taking place in July, with keynote speakers Prof Robert McRuer (George Washington University) and Prof Katherine Runswick-Cole (Manchester Metropolitan University).

**b. CEPA**

Members had received an update from the Centre for Education and Policy Analysis (RE 745). Dr Bamber noted that the centre's work had been identified as an example of good practice in a recent departmental review. Dr Bamber added that the centre is currently focusing on building links with colleagues outside the Faculty of Education and that, as a result of this, five additional departments are now working with 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 746). Dr Kinsley informed members that the

centre's programme of events since the start of the academic year has been a success, with good attendance from both inside and outside the University.

The Chair reminded members that Research Committee would need to make a recommendation to the final Senate of the year re the ongoing operation of these centres.

#### **d. Notification of proposed new centres**

The Chair noted the constitution, at the June 2016 meeting of Senate, of the Socio-Economic Applied Research Centre at Hope (SEARCH). The Chair requested that an update report from the centre be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Members had received information about Childlab, the proposed collaboration between the departments of Psychology and Early Childhood (RE 748). The aims of the proposed collaboration are to advance inter-disciplinary developmental research at the University, foster research activity in the main areas of children's cognitive and socioemotional development and to enable developmental research for staff and students.

### 7) Library Resources Update

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

The Committee had received minutes of the Library Steering Group (RE 749). Ms Murray drew members' attention to Item 3 (i) (Space Mapping) and distributed a document showing remaining available space in the University's library provision. Ms Murray suggested that some of the shortage of space in the library could be alleviated by moving the majority of the Gradwell Collection which is not in need of special storage conditions from the vault.

#### **b. Research Repository update**

Ms Murray informed members that colleagues from all faculties are now making good use of the Research Repository and reminded members that any work which is intended for REF entry must first be uploaded to the Research Repository.

### 8) Sub Committee reports

#### **a. Research Funding**

##### **(i) External Funding Bids update**

Mr Cooper distributed a report showing the current state of external funding bids (RE 750), informing members that the number of applications in the past quarter

has been 21 (as compared to fewer than ten in the same period last year), totalling a potential £2.4m.

**b. Research Degrees Sub Committee**

Members had received draft minutes of February's meeting of Research Degrees Sub Committee (RE 751). Professor Nagar drew members' attention towards Item 4 ('Revisions to PGR Regulations, Codes of Practice and Associated Procedures'), informing the group that procedures have been tightened up and streamlined in the areas of Professional Doctorates, guidance for examiners, extensions and research degree supervisor applications. Professor Nagar concluded by saying that Research Degrees Sub Committee **RECOMMENDS** the approval of these changes by Research Committee. The Chair said he would review the updated regulations before recommending them to Senate.

**c. REF 2021 Steering Group Update**

Members had received draft minutes of the meeting of the REF Steering Group which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 (RE 752). Professor Nagar informed members that he has shared information relating to the Lord Stern Review and HEFCE consultation via GoogleDoc.

9) Reports from Faculty Research Committees

**a. Science**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meeting of the Faculty of Science Research Committee (RE 753).

**b. Arts & Humanities**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meetings of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities Research Committee (RE 754 & 755).

**c. Education**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meeting of the Faculty of Education Research Committee (RE 756).

**ACTION LOG**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Internal research funding	Chair to draft and circulate a proposal on how best to process internal research funding requests	Professor Newport	Completed

Membership	Dr Kinsley to be added to the committee distribution list	Mr Jones	Completed
Athena SWAN bid	Ms Murray to discuss with Ms Lewin whether papers written by library staff, if uploaded to the University's research repository, could count towards the University's Athena SWAN bid.	Ms Murray	
Responsibility for PGR students at Maryvale Institute	The Chair to seek clarity re the provision of assurance regarding the standard of the University's awards and the quality of its learning experience.	Professor Newport	Completed
Central budget for internal research funding	The Chair to draft a proposal requesting additional funds for the central internal research budget.	Professor Newport	
SEARCH update report	Colleagues from SEARCH to submit an update report to the next meeting of Research Committee.	Professor Vandewalle	

