

RESEARCH COMMITTEE:
Wednesday 17th May 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 Professors Dorak and Jeyaraj.

2) **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 15th February 2017 (**RE 758**), which were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

3) **Matters Arising**

Athena SWAN bid

Ms Murray informed members that the group is currently working towards the bronze award, which covers academic staff. When this has been accomplished, the group will be looking to work towards the silver and gold awards, which cover staff at all levels of the University.

Central budget for internal research funding

The Chair reported that the request for £25k in extra funding for the central internal research budget was granted and that the deadline for funding bids was 22nd May 2017.

4) **Terms of Reference**

Members had received the Committee's Terms of Reference, for recommendation for approval by Senate. Professor Rees pointed out that the distribution list needed to be updated. Professor Nagar noted that the committee's composition listed 'Deans of Faculty' twice and asked that this be rectified. Subject to these changes, the Terms of Reference were **RECOMMENDED** for approval by Senate.

5) **Report and discussion on REF preparation**

A. **Overview report**

Professor Nagar informed members that the next REF would take place in 2021, with submissions made during 2020. Professor Nagar added that the REF consultation period is now over, and that the outcome will be made known in the summer. Professor Nagar undertook to disseminate the timeline document to members.

Professor Nagar informed members that the external readers who had viewed items intended for the University's submission had given feedback, which was encouragingly positive in most cases.

B. Update on Vice Chancellor's Scholarships

Professor Nagar informed members that the student who had previously interrupted their studies has now resumed them, giving a total of twenty four students currently engaged on the Vice Chancellor's Scholarships scheme. Professor Nagar added that feedback from supervisors across the board has been very positive. Members were notified that the Hope-Lille scholarships continued to be advertised, with a closing date of 25th May 2017/

6) Reports from Research Centres

a. **CCDS**

Members had received an update from the Centre for Culture and Disability Studies (RE 760). Dr Bolt informed members that the fifth CCDS seminar took place during May 2017 and was attended by a good mix of staff and students, both under- and post-graduate. Dr Bolt added that the centre's next conference, the International Conference on Educational, Cultural and Disability Studies will take place from 5-6 July 2017.

b. **CEPA**

Members had received an update from the Centre for Education and Policy Analysis (RE 761). Dr Bamber noted that the centre had been successful in securing internal research funding during the 2016/17 academic year, in addition to securing HEIF funding for a number of initiatives.

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 762). Dr Kinsley drew members' attention to the consistent and regular events and activities scheduled by the centre, adding that the centre's website has recently been upgraded.

d. **SEARCH**

Members had received an update from SEARCH (RE 764). Dr Ghalib informed members that the centre draws members from across the University's faculties, adding that the majority of the centre's current projects are related to the research partnership with Everton FC. Dr Ghalib also informed members that the Business School currently has four doctoral students, three of whom are under University of Liverpool regulations.

7) Library Resources Update**a. Minutes of Library Steering Group**

The Committee had received minutes of the Library Steering Group (RE 765 & RE 765a). Ms Murray drew members' attention to Item 3 (ii) (Staff Inter Library Loans), pointing out the continuation of free inter-library loans for staff.

b. Special Collections update

Members had received an update on the University's special collections (RE 766). Ms Murray drew members' attention to the ongoing work towards organising the archive of the Founding Colleges of the University.

c. Research Repository update

Professor Nagar suggested that electronic submission of theses be introduced, adding that the Research Repository has capacity for this. Ms Murray added that material continued to be added to the repository, with feedback on the facility very positive.

d. Methodist Microfiche update

Members had received an update on the University's communications with the Methodist Church in relation to the Church's microfiche collection (RE 767). Ms Murray informed members that the University is currently working on legal details prior to obtaining a copy of the collection.

8) Research Funding**a. Research Funding****(i) External Funding Bids update**

Members had received Mr Cooper's external funding bids update (RE 768). Mr Cooper informed members that to date (17th May 2017), the value of bids submitted is in excess of the amount in the 2015-16 academic year.

(ii) University Research Funding

Members had received Mr Bibby's update on internal research funding (RE 769). Mr Bibby informed members that an extra £25k has been added to the University's central internal research budget. The Chair reminded members that the deadline for funding bids is 22nd May 2017.

9) Sub Committee reports**a. Research Degrees Sub Committee**

Members had received draft minutes of May's meeting of Research Degrees Sub Committee (RE 770). Professor Nagar drew members' attention towards Item 4 ('Terms of Reference'), informing the group that the sub committee's terms of reference have been recommended for approval, subject to one minor change (the removal of 'Senior Academic Quality Adviser' from the sub committee's composition).

b. Research Ethics Sub Committee

Professor Nagar informed members that the Sub Committee has requested an online research ethics approval system and that this is currently being worked on by IT Services.

10) Reports from Faculty Research Committees

a. Science

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meeting of the Faculty of Science Research Committee (RE 772).

b. Arts & Humanities

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meetings of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities Research Committee (RE 773 & 774).

c. Education

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meetings of the Faculty of Education Research Committee (RE 775-777).

11) Professional Doctorate reports

a. EdD overview

Members had received an update on the Education Faculty's Professional Doctorate (RE 778). The Chair informed members that since over 50% of the EdD was assessed via a supervised research project, the degree met the conditions for classification as a research degree.

b. Proposal for DMin

Members had received a progress update on the DMin (RE 779). The Chair requested that the Research Degrees Sub Committee look at the proposal at their next meeting.

12) Promotions to Associate Professor

Members had received an update on recent promotions to the post of Associate Professor (RE 780). The Chair congratulated the colleagues in question. Dr Bolt suggested that the newly appointed Associate Professors be added to their

respective Faculty Research Committees, a suggestion with which The Chair concurred.

ACTION LOG

| Issue | Action | Responsibility | Progress |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 | Completed |
| 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 | Professor Newport | Completed |

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| | internal research budget. | | |
| SEARCH update report | Colleagues from SEARCH to submit an update report to the next meeting of Research Committee. | Professor Vandewalle | Completed |
| REF timeline | Professor Nagar to distribute REF timeline document to members. | Professor Nagar, Mr Jones | |
| Proposal for DMin | RDSC to consider proposal at next meeting. | Professor Nagar | |