

RESEARCH COMMITTEE:
Wednesday 2nd November 2016

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

Apologies: Prof M. Dorak

Secretariat: Mr M. Jones

1) **Apologies & Welcome**

The Chair noted the apologies of Professor Dorak.

2) **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 18th May 2016 (**RE 724**) and **APPROVED** them as a correct record.

3) **Matters Arising**

Internal Research Funding

The Chair reported that he has drafted a proposal on how best to process internal research funding queries and would be sharing it on the University website.

4) **Terms of Reference and membership**

Members had received updated draft Terms of Reference and composition list. Professor Rees noted some duplication in the list 'Deans of Faculty' and 'Faculty Deans' and asked that Dr Kinsley be added to the Committee's distribution list as faculty representative for Arts & Humanities.

5) **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 of a planned project, co-edited by Dr Bolt, which would see six books on the cultural history of disability published on the same day. Dr Bolt also informed members that JLCDS now publishes four issues per year, with a number of additional special issues planned.

The Chair asked Dr Bolt whether the centre's Vice Chancellor's Scholarship student is making satisfactory progress and Dr Bolt confirmed that this was the case.

b. CEPA

Members had received an update from the Centre for Education and Policy Analysis (RE 727). Dr Bamber praised the work of Dr O'Connell and Dr Budd on the centre's programme of events and asked colleagues to contact the centre if they became aware of any possible areas of collaboration with their own fields.

The Chair asked Dr Bamber whether the centre's Vice Chancellor's Scholarship student is making satisfactory progress and Dr Bamber confirmed that this was the case.

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 728). Dr Kinsley informed members that Dr Catalina Montoya Londoño is the new centre director. Dr Kinsley asked for guidance as to which publications by members of the University's academic staff could be counted as publications for the centre. Mr Cooper said he would look at the centre's core membership and advise Dr Montoya Londoño.

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

Members had received an update from the Andrew F Walls Centre for the Study of African and Asian Christianity (RE 729). Professor Jeyaraj drew members' attention to the success of the centre's annual conference on 'The Bible in African and Asian Christianity' and its Postgraduate Summer School. Professor Jeyaraj also informed members that the centre is currently playing host to a two-week Yad Vasham exhibition, which runs from 27th October until 9th November 2016.

The Chair asked Professor Jeyaraj whether the centre's Vice Chancellor's Scholarship students were making satisfactory progress and Professor Jeyaraj confirmed that this was the case.

6) Library Resources Update

a. Minutes of Library Steering Group

The Committee had received minutes of the Library Steering Group (RE 730). Ms Murray reminded members that the University Library requires printed copies of all PGR theses produced at the University and is currently in the process of auditing its holdings. Professor Nagar added that with work on the Research Repository nearing completion, it would be possible to create a section within the repository for electronic copies of theses. Ms Murray concurred, further adding that this could be linked to the British Library's online national thesis service, EthOS.

Ms Murray informed members that she continues to work with IT Services to improve the repository, adding that academics now receive an email informing them when their upload is live. Professor Nagar added that a toolkit has been added to the repository to monitor whether uploaded items are REF-compliant.

Ms Murray informed members that the University's subscription to Research Skills Online expires later this month (November 2016) and that a decision would need to be taken as to its possible renewal. Professor Nagar commented that he did not believe the resource was used enough to justify the cost of subscription (£14,980 p.a.). Professor Rees suggested that the University look at the specific areas of the resource which have been the most-accessed and provide training in those areas.

Professor Nagar suggested that the University take out a subscription to the Vitae research programme, a view with which Professor Rees concurred.

Ms Murray asked the group whether papers written by colleagues in the Library would be eligible for upload to the repository. Mr Cooper replied that such papers, if uploaded to the repository, would not be eligible for REF but could count towards the University's bid for Athena SWAN status and advised Ms Murray to discuss this with Ms Lewin.

7) Sub Committee reports

a. **Research Funding**

(i) PhD Scholarship update

Professor Nagar informed colleagues that 27 students are currently registered on the Vice-Chancellor's Doctoral Scholarship programme. Professor Nagar added that he met with scholarship holders a week ago and that they are to be given the opportunity to take on some light teaching support activity, the budget for which has been approved by the Vice Chancellor. Professor Nagar also informed members that the Hope-Lille Studentship has received ten expressions of interest and that an advertisement is currently being drafted. Professor Nagar added that the deadline for applications will be 21st December, with successful candidates starting their studies in February 2017.

(ii) External Funding Bids update

Mr Cooper distributed a report showing the current state of external funding bids (RE 733), informing members that the number of applications at this point in the year is very similar to the same point in the previous year.

(iii) University Research Funding

The Chair distributed an update on University research funding (RE 733a). The Chair reminded members that the University's 2016/17 budget for research funding is £95k. Professor Nagar suggested that this resource be directed chiefly

to the University's Early Career Researchers, also suggesting that an upper limit of £250 be placed on funding for travel costs.

b. Research Degrees Sub Committee

Members had received minutes of October's meeting of Research Degrees Sub Committee (RE 734). Professor Nagar drew members' attention towards Item 5 ('Revisions to PGR Regulations, Codes of Practice and Associated Procedures'), informing the group that procedures have been tightened up and streamlined in the light of the devolved PGR administration arrangement. Professor Nagar added that regulations in relation to academic misconduct have also been updated. 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 Steering Group Update

Members had received draft minutes of the meeting of the REF Steering Group which took place on 5th October 2016 (RE 735). Mr Cooper asked Professor Nagar if there was any progress on the Stern review. Professor Nagar replied that the consultation document is expected at the end of November and that consultation will be open for twelve weeks.

8) ARE report for PGR

Professor Nagar talked members through ARE reports from the University, Newman University, Maryvale Institute and St Mary's University. Professor Nagar drew members' attention to a query from Maryvale Institute re where responsibility for PGR students lies. The Chair replied that he would seek clarity re the provision of assurance regarding the standard of the University's awards and the quality of its learning experience.

9) Admission to the EdD

Members had received The Chair's paper proposing changes to admission arrangements relating to the EdD (RE 736). The paper proposes that in order to progress from Part One to Part Two of the EdD students need to pass all provision in Part One with both an overall merit mark and an individual merit mark for the supervised research proposal. Exceptions to this rule may be made only by the Dean of the Faculty, who will consult with the Chair of Research Degrees Sub-Committee.

It is further proposed that at the end of the first year of Part Two the current AMR be replaced with a CRE which would operate in the same format as the CRE for PhD students.

The proposals were **APPROVED** by the committee.

10) Reports from Faculty Research Committees

a. **Science**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meetings of the Faculty of Science Research Committee (RE 737 & 738).

b. **Arts & Humanities**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meeting of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities Research Committee (RE 739).

c. **Education**

The Committee had received minutes from the recent meetings of the Faculty of Education Research Committee (RE 740 & 741).

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	
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	Professor Newport	

	standard of the University's awards and the quality of its learning experience.		