

THE ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Minute of the meeting held on 13 February 2019 (2.00pm – 5.00pm).

Present: Professor P Hagan (Convener), Dr J Blackwood, Professor R Flin, Professor D Gray, Professor R Laing, Dr A Lamb, Professor L Lawton, Mr C MacLean, Mr C Moule, Professor J Njuguna, Professor S Pedersen and Professor N Wiratunga.

Apologies: Professor S Duthie, Dr E Gillibrand, Professor C Kennedy, Professor J McCall, and Professor D Stewart.

In Attendance: Ms K Fraser (Secretary).

	Action
<p>1. MINUTE</p> <p>The Committee approved the <i>Minute of the meeting held on 7 November 2018</i>, reference RC/19/1.</p>	
<p>1.1 Professional Teaching Framework [RC/19/1/1.1]</p> <p>The Head of the Graduate School confirmed he had been in contact with colleagues in DELTA to discuss opportunities for support for new research staff joining the University in light of research not featuring in the <i>Professional Teaching Framework</i> or in academic staff induction. It was agreed the Head of the Graduate School and the Convener would meet with the Director for Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Access to progress plans and take discussions forward.</p>	<p>Dr A Lamb, Prof P Hagan & Mr J Dunphy</p>
<p>1.2 Peer Review [RC/19/1/1.2]</p> <p>The Convener reiterated the need for robust peer review of funding bids to be undertaken at School level and Committee members were asked to encourage all colleagues to ensure this was completed prior to proposals being released for final internal approvals. The importance of following the correct process and procedures to avoid issues or delays at time of submission was also emphasised.</p>	<p>Research Committee Members</p>
<p>1.3 Doctoral Supervision [RC/19/1/1.4]</p> <p>The Head of the Graduate School reported that a meeting, with representation from 10 Schools, was held on 26 November 2018 to discuss doctoral supervision matters. Following a benchmarking exercise and group discussion, minimums were agreed by all 10 Schools present at the meeting. Consequently, the Committee agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Principal Supervisor: a minimum of 50 hours per annum; – Second Supervisor: a minimum of 25 hours per annum. <p>The Convener confirmed that the work on the cross-institution Workload Working Group was to be restarted.</p>	<p>Prof P Hagan</p>

1.4 **Athena SWAN [RC/19/1/1.5]**

The Convener advised that the grading and classification process was currently underway for the role to support the activities and priority actions highlighted as part of the *Athena SWAN* application. It was anticipated this might be offered as a secondment opportunity.

1.5 **Mexico [RC/19/1/1.6]**



1.6 **Worktribe [RC/19/1/3]**

The rollout of the Outputs module was underway with colleagues in the Library currently migrating data to populate the new output repository. The aim was to have this work completed by mid-March. Committee members agreed that the system was far more intuitive than the previous system. The Head of the School of Computing Science and Digital Media was investigating methods of drawing down customisable data from the system for School use.

1.7 **School Research Plans [RC/19/1/7.2]**

The Convener advised that *School Research Plans* should be submitted for review at the next Research Committee meeting (8 May 2019). These should reflect the University's new *Strategy Map* (December 2018) which had recently been circulated to all staff. It was **agreed** that a template for *School Research Plans* would be circulated to all Committee members, with key elements to include applications, awards impact and outputs, as well as guidance on how to identify staff to be allocated research time (e.g. through the Employee Performance Review (EPR) process) which would also support the REF inclusion process.

Research ethics and risk management, and the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* would be discussed at the next Research Committee meeting (8 May 2019).

Research
Committee
Holding File
[08.05.19]

Dr E Gillibrand

Research
Committee
Holding File
[08.05.19]

2. **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK 2021**

2.1 **Guidance on Submissions and Draft Code of Practice**

The Convener reported that the final *Guidance on Submissions* had been published in January 2019 and was currently being reviewed and interpreted to identify changes to previous guidance. Following this review, a revised draft *Code of Practice for Equality and Diversity* would be circulated for further input from Committee members. This would also then be shared with Heads of School and consultations would commence with the Trade Unions.

The REF criteria pointed to workload activity of a minimum of 20% dedicated to research, i.e. institutions must demonstrate substantive research engagement by individuals to be returned. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The *Code of Practice* would need to address this challenge in a fair and equitable manner which would stand scrutiny by the REF Equality and Diversity team. One way to achieve this was to ensure a robust assessment of outputs, and the first review of these was currently underway.

The Convener requested the support of Committee members in raising awareness within their Schools of the importance of submitting the best return from an institutional, rather than an individual, perspective. [REDACTED]

Research
Committee
Members

[REDACTED] The decision around which Units of Assessment would be returned was still to be taken.

The [REF CampusMoodle](#) page had been updated to reflect the new guidance and incorporate relevant links to further information.

2.2 Mock Review of Outputs

The Convener presented slides demonstrating high-level findings, to date, from the recent mock review of outputs. Some reports remained outstanding for the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, School of Nursing and Midwifery and the School of Computing Science and Digital Media. As the number of reviewers per School was limited, it was not appropriate to share data more widely at this point. A further exercise would be run in due course with additional internal moderation.

[REDACTED]

It was **agreed** that Heads of School would be encouraged to offer additional support for research activity to those individuals working at the appropriate level. The *Code of Practice* document would assist in identifying those individuals. A short guidance note (one page) would also be drafted to support discussions with Heads of School, and the Convener would again reiterate to Heads of School, during his regular monthly meetings, the importance of supporting research active staff.

Prof P Hagan &
Dr E Gillibrand

3. RESEARCH STRATEGY AND RESEARCH INVESTMENT

3.1 Research Investment Update

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This revised *Plan* would continue to focus on previously agreed strategic areas for investment, and support for this had been reiterated by the Principal, who recognised the need for investment in research to support the longer term sustainability of the University.

3.2 Research Week and Research Publication

Research Week would run in June 2019 and would incorporate the PG Symposium. Programme planning was currently underway. Additionally, the annual Research Publication was being coordinated by Ms Lynne Brien and the Communications Team, and Committee members would be approached to provide content. The Convener reminded everyone present that if they had any research-related news, e.g. new grant awards, they should contact colleagues in the Communications Team to facilitate wider dissemination.

Ms L Brien &
Communications
Research
Committee
Members

3.3 Key Performance Indicators

Reports highlighting applications and awards to date were considered. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was **agreed** that mentorship and support from experienced researchers and support staff should be included in future plans for research staff development opportunities (see item 4.1 for more detail).

3.4 Orkney Project Update

Ms Kelly Fraser, Research Funding Manager, provided a detailed update on recent developments and future activities (see [Appendix](#)).

4. RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Internal Developments – Appointment of Research Training Coordinator

The Head of the Graduate School updated the Committee on the recent appointment of Lesley Dickson to the newly created post of Research Training Coordinator. She would join the University on 25 February 2019. This joint appointment between the Graduate School and the Research Strategy and Policy Team would support all aspects of staff and student researcher development, including the planning and delivery of events such as *Research Week*, and early career researcher network (ECRN) training opportunities.

5. DATE OF MEETINGS: SESSION 2018-19

8 May 2019 at 2.00pm, N204, Sir Ian Wood Building

Professor P Hagan, [C](#)
28 February 2019

Orkney Project Update Report – February 2019

RGU Orkney Project Event – December 2018

- Series of short presentations from:
 - Orkney Project Team with update on recent activity
 - Active Ageing Sandpit participants
 - Pump Priming Funding recipients
 - Academic visits to Orkney

Smart Tourism Sandpit Event – March 2019

- To be held 18/19 March 2019, in partnership with University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)
- RGU Academic participants (14) from School of Computing Science and Digital Media, School of Creative and Cultural Business, Gray's School of Art, School of Applied Social Studies, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and the Built Environment
- Speakers include, Cameron Taylor (Destination Orkney), Sian Evans (Historic Environment Scotland), John McCall (overview of CSDM expertise to support Smart Tourism solutions)
- Over 60 invitations issued to potential Orkney attendees this week
- Confirmed attendance from representatives from Scottish Natural Heritage, Visit Scotland and OIC already
- Several RGU participants combining trip with other meeting opportunities

Circular Economy Theme

- Positive contact with Zero Waste Scotland has led to RGU being invited to participate in discussions with consultants appointed to carry out review of CE opportunities on Orkney
- To date, Daniel Sutherland (Gray's School of Art), Cherry Wainwright and Giovanna Bermano (School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences), Adekunle Oke (Aberdeen Business School) and Christine Edwards (School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences) have been introduced to Andy Whyte of Robertson and Bain consulting
- Research Funding Manager to follow up with Andy Whyte w/c 4 March 2019
- Ongoing discussions with Johan Partridge of IBioIC around hosting in partnership a CE themed workshop/sandpit
- Daniel Sutherland (Gray's School of Art) currently working closely with OIC to secure pilot/feasibility funding from ZWS for a project relating to the reuse of single stream plastic waste

Pump Priming Projects

- Kay Cooper and Stephanie Morrison (School of Health Sciences) in Orkney February 2019 to work on project relating to Mental Wellbeing of Farmers; this has been picked up by the media with extensive coverage on BBC Radio as well as STV
- Rachael Ironside (School of Creative and Cultural Business) and Stewart Massie (School of Computing Science and Digital Media) have undertaken first visit to Orkney to develop Tourism Trail app; further visit planned in March 2019
- David Gray (School of Creative and Cultural Business) has hosted two meetings on Orkney to discuss potential Autonomous Vehicle collaborations; roadmap underdevelopment to outline three phases of activity with lead roles for RGU, OIC and other stakeholders

- Gokay Deveci (Scott Sutherland School) has appointed RA; undertaken further site visits; in discussions with Construction Scotland Innovation Centre around a potential bid to the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (Healthy Ageing) to support the Co-Housing project
- Jonathan Scott and Richard Laing (Scott Sutherland School), further scanning work to be undertaken in Stromness, St Margaret's Hope in March 2019, several collaborative project ideas in development with UHI Archaeology Institute and project being developed with OIC around kirkyard scanning

Islands Deal

- RGU provided David Amos, Islands Deal Programme Director with input for the Islands Deal
- Date of submission of first proposal has been delayed from January to later this quarter
- Paul Hagan and Elsa Cox to attend Islands Deal Reception at the Scottish Parliament 27 February 2019

Research Proposals/Other Activity

- ACTIVATE H2020 proposal submitted November 2018 with RGU (Nirmalie Wiratunga, School of Computing Science and Digital Media) and NHS Orkney Dementia Specialists
- Storytagging 2 (Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic) proposal submitted November 2018, led by David Gray (School of Creative and Cultural Business) with partners from UHI, Ireland, Iceland, Sweden and Russia
- ART Forum (Automated Road Transport), PI David Gray (School of Creative and Cultural Business), Co-I Richard Laing, (Scott Sutherland School) – awarded £123,051, Interreg North Sea Region
- From Augmented to Authentic (AHRC Network grant), PI Yang Jiang (School of Computing Science and Digital Media), Co-I Karen Cross (School of Creative and Cultural Business), Co-I Josie Steed (Gray's School of Art) – awarded £22,335 (with partners in Shanghai, as well as Harris Tweed and Orkney textile designers and retailers)
- Heather Fulford (Aberdeen Business School), Orkney Knowledge Laboratory, potential Datalab application with Orkney Islands Council and Voluntary Action Orkney
- Chris Yuill (School of Applied Social Studies) and Charlie Hackett (Gray's School of Art), Orkney Wellbeing, AHRC potential bid
- John McCall (School of Computing Science and Digital Media) and Hitrans – freight optimisation consultancy project
- Orkney Energy Trail App project – meeting planned for 18/3 with EMEC, OREF, and John McCall, Stewart Massie and Ciprian Zavoianu from School of Computing Science and Digital Media
- Fiona Campbell (Business Development Manager) had a very successful visit to Orkney in January to discuss further opportunities for Graduate Apprenticeships. Several organisations have expressed interest in taking on GAs for the next cohort and this will be followed up directly with them in the coming months
- Plans for institutional bid to Scottish Natural Heritage's Natural Cultural Heritage call (deadline April 2019)
- Nick Gordon, Orkney printmaker and Gray's graduate delivered Guest @ Gray's lecture on 20 February 2019 as part of a series of Orkney-based artists engaging with Gray's School of Art