

**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE**

CONFIRMED

**Wednesday 3 April 2019**

**14.00 – 16.00**

**Room 7X111, Frenchay Campus**

**Present:** Professor Martin Boddy (Chair), Richard Bond, Amanda Conway, Professor Myra Conway, Professor Lauren Devine, Professor Olena Doran, Dr Stephen Draper (Hartpury College), Hazel Edwards, Richard Falle, Professor Catherine Hobbs, Tracey John, Heather Moyes, Jane Newton, Mandy Rose

**Apologies:** Professor Richard Bolden, Dr Farnon Ellwood, Professor Di Harcourt, Ray McDowell, Professor Mel Smith, Professor Neil Willey, Dr Heidi Williamson, Emma O’Connell, Paul Manners

**In attendance:** Alison Vaughton (Officer), Sylvie Fabre (representing Strategic Communications and Marketing)

**WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RKEC19.04.01 Professor Boddy welcomed Richard Falle to the meeting, representing around 160 technical staff at the University. Mr Falle’s inclusion was one outcome from the University’s participation in the Technicians Commitment.

RKEC19.04.02 Apologies were noted from Professor Bolden, Dr Ellwood, Professor Harcourt, Ray McDowell, Professor Smith, Professor Willey, Dr Williamson, Emma O’Connell and Paul Manners.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 30 JANUARY AND MATTERS ARISING**

RKEC19.04.03 The minutes of the meeting on 30 January (RKEC19.01M) were agreed, with the amendment of the first line on page 5, as an accurate record of proceedings.

RKEC19.04.04 RKEC19.01.03: No further action had as yet been taken on recruiting a student representative. The Chair would write to PGR students to encourage them to consider this opportunity.

Action: Chair

RKEC19.04.05 RKEC19.01.06: Research Data Management – Professor Boddy was reviewing procedures ahead of a deadline of 4 April. This would comprise a pro-forma for researchers to complete, and looked to be a sensible approach to the University’s responsibilities for good research data management.

- RKEC19.04.06 RKEC19.01.18: Strategic risk register – Mark Webster was actioning the comments raised at the last meeting of this Committee, and the Officer would add the annual review of the register to the Committee’s business plan for future years.
- RKEC19.04.07 RKEC19.01.33: Research Centre annual reports. The Chair stated that RSIG would be reviewing the points raised in the reports for consideration at University level.
- RKEC19.04.08 Other actions had been completed or were included for discussion on the agenda.

### **CHAIR’S REPORT**

- RKEC19.04.09 Professor Boddy reported recruitment was underway for around 16 Wallscourt Fellows and 2-3 chairs, supported by funding secured from the Wallscourt Foundation, in recognition of the University’s relative under-investment in research, compared to comparator HEIs. Recruitment for the REF needed to be made in a timely fashion and strength built up in beacon research areas. HR had put together a good recruitment pack, and advertised the posts as a set. Faculties were in the process of appointing. The quality of applications was very pleasing and the scheme appeared to be working as intended and hoped, with dynamic, strong people attracted and being appointed. This view was echoed by Professor Doran (for HAS) and Professor Hobbs (for FET).
- RKEC19.04.10 Colleagues in Strategic Communications and Marketing (SCM) were producing brochures on research and enterprise activity. Working with Ben Lowndes, the first brochure focused on the University Enterprise Zone (UEZ), raising the profile of all elements in the UEZ (Future Space, Launch Space, BRL, Health Tech hub etc) and aiming to promote the brand and profile of UWE, and boost individual components. The next area of focus would be HealthTech, and thereafter general research brochures on beacon areas, with the possibility of more after that depending on how well they are received. SCM were taking input from all around the University, demonstrating the profiling of research and enterprise by Marketing.
- RKEC19.04.11 UWE had recently hosted a short visit from Chris Skidmore, Universities minister. There had been discussion of the civic universities initiative. The Chair stated that he would circulate the UWE briefing note on civic university status.

Action: Chair

### **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK - REF2021**

- RKEC19.04.12 Mr Bond advised the Committee that the final draft Code of practice had been published for consultation. All academic staff had been sent an individual email to alert them to the Code (with letters sent to absent staff). Comments were invited. As part of the consultation exercise, drop-in events at all campuses had been arranged, and the document would be considered by faculty RKE committees. Meetings were also being held with representatives of the UCU. The consultation would run to the end of April. Thereafter the Code would be finalised, and taken to Academic Board in mid-May ahead of submission to the Funding Bodies by the 7 June deadline. This Committee was an important part of the consultation process. Mr Bond explained that no substantial changes had been made to the previous version, while he had attempted to make some areas clearer, eg significant responsibility for research (SRR).
- RKEC19.04.13 An initial equality analysis had been prepared, and there would be further EAs as the process goes along, to ensure a fair and transparent process. Feedback

received to date had highlighted reasonable issues which were being addressed where possible. It was stressed that the Code needed to be agreed by staff, which was being taken to mean that there should be agreement with the unions.

RKEC19.04.14 Mr Bond stated that a mock exercise would be conducted over the summer and thereafter staff would be alerted to their individual status on eligibility and submittability.

RKEC19.04.15 Professor Boddy and Mr Bond had met UCU representative Tony Ward and the union was working on formal response. It was hoped that all were working towards getting to the 'same place', trying to balance what is best for the institution and for members. Usefully, the 'rules of the game' for REF2021 are more inclusive insofar as staff may be submittable with only one output while four were required for REF2014, giving the possibility of 'including' up to 400 staff for REF2021 compared with 300 for REF2014. Nevertheless, there remains the requirement to submit 2.5 outputs per FTE. The greater inclusivity of the current exercise was a strong message to be shared. Professor Boddy stated that the University's aim was to try to include all good quality outputs in the submission to the REF. Professor Boddy thanked Mr Bond for his efforts in drafting the Code.

RKEC19.04.16 Professor Hobbs raised an issue, not specific to the REF but noted from the Faculty RKE Committees' terms of reference in the appendices to the Code, that the terms listed all relate to research and not to Knowledge Exchange. It was agreed that this would be worth further consideration at a later date.

### **RESEARCH STRATEGY 2030**

RKEC19.04.17 Professor Boddy gave a presentation on the latest thinking on UWE's research beacons, noting that discussions were continuing in the Directorate and the beacons were still being fine-tuned. There were four clear themes, each with three bullet points. The key issues were that UWE was good at this area of research and had good people; that there were funding opportunities available for this activity; and that these were important research/activity areas going forwards.

RKEC19.04.18 Professor Boddy had mapped UWE's Centres of Excellence to the beacons, and also to UWE's talent (professors) as well as reviewing the connectivity between research income and PGR and the beacon research areas.

RKEC19.04.19 The Research Strategy 2030 was still a work in progress. REF2021 was a culmination of strategy 2020 but we would need to look forward in the REF2021 submission, including a focus on the Industrial Strategy and UKRI. More thought would be given to the current UWE strategies for Learning, Research, Enterprise, Partnerships and People. The current research strategy would be revisited, and thought would have to be given to developing an enterprise strategy.

### **PLAN S AND OPEN ACCESS DEVELOPMENTS**

RKEC19.04.20 Amanda Conway explained the main principles of Plan S. This initiative was at an early stage, with its implementation still being determined. The intentions of the initiative included making research more accessible, removing the pay wall and edging towards a broader open access environment. However this framework would disrupt the current publishing model with potential radical consequences.

RKEC19.04.21 Plan S has support from large research bodies such as UKRI and should broaden opportunities for open access publishing. It should address the issue of 'double dipping' whereby universities effectively pay twice. Authors will retain copyright so will be able to publish on a repository without embargo. In the short term the costs to UWE would be higher, however in the longer term the changes would bring benefits for our students, giving more access to research publications and content, and would make it easier to make publications available to companies such as those in Future Space (to date this has been made difficult for copyright reasons). Anyone looking for guidance was advised to contact Amanda Conway's team, and she acknowledged that there was still significant work to be done on this.

#### **KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK - KEF**

RKEC19.04.22 Mrs John reported on progress with the KEF and the benefits of UWE's being part of the ongoing pilot. This was rolling ahead at speed, with workshops having already been held on research collaboration and IP. Research England were still working on getting the data right for the exercise. The next workshop, taking place on 4 April in Leeds, would focus on local growth and regeneration. It was particularly helpful to be in a position, as part of the pilot, to get information on what was happening elsewhere. The workshop in May, to be held at UWE, would be on public and community engagement, and the series of workshops would conclude by the end of that month. It was anticipated that, by early summer, metrics would be collated and redefined. Mrs John anticipated more changes (metrics were not yet fully fit for purpose and this message was being clearly delivered to Research England) and the Framework would not come into effect until next year.

#### **INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

RKEC19.04.23 Mrs John reported that the Industrial Strategy had become caught up in Brexit, resulting in hold ups to calls, eg Healthy Ageing (it was now 15 months since it was first announced), although a result of the delay was that the University now had a consortium in place pending the call. UWE researchers were well positioned for Agri-food technology calls, and GCRF funds were now coming through. The South West International Development network was already bearing fruit. Mrs John invited comments on the structure of the Research bulletin, noting that it appeared to be well received but wanting to be sure that it was providing appropriate and timely information.

RKEC19.04.24 Ms Edwards queried whether the pressure on universities in terms of REF, KEF, TEF and cross-overs was being considered by the Funding Bodies. Research England were stated to be conscious of not overburdening the sector and aware that there are overlaps.

#### **RESEARCH UPDATES FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS (RKE)**

RKEC19.04.25 All reports were taken as having been read. Associate Deans were invited to comment on particular highlights or areas where feedback was requested.

RKEC19.04.26 HAS: Professor Doran noted two significant grants - Innovate UK Agri-tech Catalyst (led by Allainguillaume) and NIHR (Pilkington, Dovey and Gibson). Professor Jane Powell had organised a meeting bringing together staff and stakeholders in preparation for the Industrial Strategy Healthy Ageing call, expected in the summer.

RKEC19.04.27 ACE: Ms Edwards stated that the outcome of the CFPR E3 application was still keenly awaited (and due around Easter). The South West Creative Technology Network continued to attract a lot of interest. Investment in research in Education was bearing fruit, particularly in terms of publications. ACE staff had won two Collaborative Doctoral Awards starting in September 2019, working with the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, and with the Watershed.

RKEC19.04.28 The Committee noted the report from FBL – nobody was in attendance to present. The Officer was asked to request a shorter report for the next meeting.

Action: Officer

RKEC19.04.29 FET: Professor Hobbs noted that the BRL had been successful with renewal of the joint EPSRC-funded Centre for Doctoral Training with the University of Bristol, FARSCOPE-TU (towards Ubiquity).

The Faculty had held a very interesting RKE away day, at which activities supporting ECRs and creating personal development plans for academics had been drawn together.

Discussions were ongoing around teaching and research integration, and ensuring that UWE's students emerge knowing about what research is and that research is conducted at this university.

#### **GRADUATE SCHOOL UPDATE**

RKEC19.04.30 Professor Willey had emailed a request that members be informed that the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) was now live. A lot of effort had gone into publicising it to raise awareness and to explain the importance of responding. In former years results for research culture had been poor and attempts had now been made to address that. A further issue, identified in previous exercises had been around training for PGR students delivering teaching. This had hopefully now been addressed.

#### **HUMAN TISSUE SUB-COMMITTEE**

RKEC19.04.31 Professor Conway requested a steer from the Committee on an issue that had been raised at the recent governance training for research staff and PhD students in FET, FBL and ACE. Some participants had questioned the relevance of including a short (5 minute) presentation on Human Tissue research, and Professor Conway queried whether it remained the case that the Human Tissue Sub-Committee should continue to govern other faculties or should only cover HAS. Professor Boddy stated that it remained essential to take a university-wide approach.

RKEC19.04.32 The research governance record should in future flag up areas where researchers recognise that they are working with human tissue, although there remain pockets of ignorance about what constitutes human tissue. Ensuring that researchers are aware about the implications of using human tissue in research is a challenge, and awareness needed to be raised amongst all researchers. It was thought that a 3-5 minute slot in the training programme was not inappropriate. Ms Edwards suggested that in ACE the best approach might be to address departmental executive meetings where AHoDs are present for A&D and Education. She undertook to contact Professor Conway about this outside the meeting.

RKEC19.04.33 Mr Falle reported that the use of animals or animal by-products, eg animal bones, was an issue often raised at LTSEC meetings. It would be helpful for technicians to be better informed on procedures for work using animals and animal by-products. He noted that technical staff are not well-informed about the key frameworks,

REF, KEF etc and that it would be helpful to have more information. The Chair advised that any queries on animals should be directed to Dr Farnon Ellwood.

- RKEC19.04.34 Professor Conway cited the recent case of two human skeletons being found at the University. Both the Human Tissue Authority and the company that had supplied the skeletons had been contacted, and following deliberations, the skeletons were permitted to be used for teaching but UWE had no licence to use them for display purposes (eg open days).

#### **UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (UREC)**

- RKEC19.04.35 Professor Devine reported that the Committee had recently dealt with a request for retrospective ethical approval from a student whose external examiner had identified that no ethical approval was in place for the research. The UREC had applied its agreed process for considering such a request and had determined that there were no exceptional circumstances. Professor Devine had discussed the case with Professor Willey who was writing to the external examiner to find a way forward for the student. Research governance procedures were being considered in relation to the student's supervision.

- RKEC19.04.36 It was not clear how a student could have reached the final stage of their studies without it having been identified that they did not have ethical approval for their research. This gap was being looked into by the Graduate School to ensure that adequate processes are in place.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- RKEC19.04.37 No issues were raised.

#### **MARKETING**

- RKEC19.04.38 Sylvie Fabre reported that ongoing work to support research included the brochure noted above (RKEC19.04.10) and work to bring Strategy 2030 to life. Professor Boddy suggested that the recent and forthcoming Wallscourt appointments might be used as a research news story.

#### **EXTERNAL BIDDING DETAILS**

- RKEC19.04.39 The Committee received report RKEC19.04.10 (UWE Research Bids 01.08.2018 – 22.03.2019). No points were raised.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- RKEC19.04.40 There was no other business.

#### **MEETING DATES FOR 2018-19**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 14:00-16:30

#### **MEETING DATES FOR 2019-20**

Wednesday 23 October 2019, 14:00-16:30

Wednesday 29 January 2020, 14:00-16:30

Wednesday 1 April 2020, 14:00-16:30

Wednesday 24 June 2020, 14:00-16:30

**Actions:**

RKEC19.04.04	The Chair to write to PGR students to encourage them to consider standing as student representative on URKEC.	MB
RKEC19.04.11	The Chair to circulate the UWE briefing note on civic university status	MB
RKEC19.04.28	The Officer was asked to request a shorter report from FBL for the next meeting	AV