



**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE**

CONFIRMED

**Wednesday 8 February 2017**

**14.00 – 16.30**

**The Dartington Suite, Frenchay**

**Present:** Professor Martin Boddy (Chair), Professor Jenny Ames, Richard Bond, Amanda Conway, Rachel Cowie, Professor Olena Doran, Hazel Edwards, Keith Hicks, Tracey John, Jane Newton, Professor Nicholas O'Regan, Mandy Rose, Professor Phil Rumney, Professor Myra Conway, Professor Mel Smith, Dr Heidi Williamson.

**Apologies:** Professor Tony Ghaye, Professor Glenn Lyons, Paul Manners, Professor Neil Willey.

**In attendance:** Dr Alistair Clark (representing Prof Glenn Lyons), Alison Vaughton (Officer), Dr Catherine Hobbs (FET) for agenda item 4, Ms Ros Rouse (RBI) for agenda item 8.

**WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RKEC17.02.01 The Chair welcomed Professor Phil Rumney as FBL's representative of the Professoriate. Apologies had been received from Professor Tony Ghaye, Professor Glenn Lyons, Paul Manners and Professor Neil Willey. The Chair reported that Professor Kent had resigned as chair of UREC and that her replacement was yet to be appointed. He noted that the Committee still had no student representative and stated that he would speak to the Postgraduate Office to see whether a volunteer might be found.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ON 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AND 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 AND MATTERS ARISING**

RKEC17.02.02 The minutes of the meetings on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were agreed as accurate records of the proceedings.

RKEC17.02.03 Matters arising from 19<sup>th</sup> October meeting. RKEC16.10.07 and RKEC16.10.08: The Chair noted that the paper on Professorial Performance had now been circulated to members. This was for the eyes of the membership but not for wider circulation. An invitation had now gone out to professors for the next round of this annual scheme. The scheme had been discussed with the Associate Deans earlier in the week, and arrangements for the scheme, going forward, had been confirmed.

RKEC17.02.04 RKEC16.10.28: The Chair reported that the three FBL Centres of Excellence proposals recommended for approval by URKEC had been confirmed by Academic Board at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

RKEC17.02.05 RKEC16.10.30: The Chair requested that the item on cross-disciplinary activity should be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee (5<sup>th</sup> April) with a background paper, on Innovate UK and the rapidly emerging research landscape.  
Action: MB

RKEC17.02.06 Matters arising from 18<sup>th</sup> November meeting.  
RKEC16.11.17: The Chair confirmed that he had sent a response to UREC's statement concerning the constitutional issues raised by the Committee. He had asked UREC to put together a complaints/appeals procedure which would need to be approved by UREC before submitting for approval to the URKEC.

RKEC17.02.07 RKEC16.11.28: The Chair reported that Finance staff were conducting a review of the reporting of PGR finances. Currently 50:50 funded studentships appear on PASS with a very high subsidy level. Professor Boddy stated that he would bring this back to the Committee at a future meeting.

RKEC17.02.08 RKEC17.02.29: A useful half day meeting had been held in early February to discuss PGR, including new forms of doctorates, issues of PGR funding, and acknowledging the importance of PG research as part of the University's research strategy. This had been a very helpful discussion and a report would be brought to the next meeting.

#### **ATHENA SWAN – UWE INSTITUTIONAL SUBMISSION**

RKEC17.02.09 Dr Catherine Hobbs, Co-chair of the University's Athena SWAN Self Assessment Team (SAT) gave a presentation about Athena SWAN and the current application to renew the University's bronze award. She explained the importance of senior management engagement and commitment to the scheme, and clarified the actions she hoped that members of the Committee would adopt.

- High level visible support
- Consider unconscious bias training and training on UWE policies
- Embody inclusivity values in interactions with business
- Support the WRMs

Without the minimum of a bronze institutional award departments are not permitted to apply for and hold an award.

RKEC17.02.10 Dr Hobbs explained the importance of the charter mark from the point of view of inclusivity and in terms of research funding, including through the REF, and she also noted that the bar appeared to be rising. Departments should be aware that the process of applying for an award would generally take around 18 months from initial decision to submission and that limited central resources were available to support submissions.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

RKEC17.02.11 Professor Boddy noted that the Government's Industrial strategy included some interesting pointers, including 10-12 areas of focus. Members may be interested to look further at the full green paper

[https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/supporting\\_documents/buildingourindustrialstrategygreenpaper.pdf](https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/supporting_documents/buildingourindustrialstrategygreenpaper.pdf)

He stated that the strategy presented significant additional funding for science, coming through next year, and it may be worth looking for ways this might be accessed, from Innovate UK in particular. He suggested that the KTP climate may get easier. He stated that he would circulate the University Alliance response and would be happy to report back any further comments raised by Committee members. Some thought might be given to responding on digital and creative industries.

RKEC17.02.12 The Chair reported that VentureFest 2017 had been launched in Future Space the previous week, with sponsorship from Innovate UK, and had been very well attended by 450-500 people. A series of VentureFest themed events would be taking place through the summer including some that are UWE-badged, and it would conclude in the autumn in the Festival of Ideas, with UWE one of the key sponsors as part of the University's aim to bolster enterprise.

RKEC17.02.13 Professor Boddy noted that the new entrance to Future Space was now open making access from the main campus much easier. Business demand was strong, with 15 companies already in place, and filled to more than a third capacity. The businesses were an exciting set of companies and all wanted to link up with UWE or be close to UWE. The Chair asked the officer to investigate the possibility of holding a future meeting in Future Space. He noted that John Barker, RBI, is now the official point of liaison between Future Space and UWE.

**Action:** AV

RKEC17.02.14 The Chair reported that the University's KE Strategy to support its HEIF funding had been submitted to HEFCE. This had been approved and had secured funding for the next four years. He thanked the colleagues who had put it together, including Shaun Jordan and Katie Sensier in RBI. Professor Boddy was putting together a comprehensive draft KE strategy for the University and would bring it to the next meeting.

**Action:** MB

RKEC17.02.15 Noting that Professor Kent had stood down as Chair of UREC, Professor Boddy, on behalf of the Committee, thanked her for her tremendous work over the past four years and for developing a set of procedures to progress the University's activity going forward. Dr Julie Woodley, current UREC Deputy Chair, had agreed to act as Chair until a new Chair is appointed. There would be an open process, inviting interest from across the University, with Jenny Ames chairing the panel.

## PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UWE ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (AWEC) AND PROPOSED GUIDANCE

RKEC17.02.16 Ms Rouse presented papers RKEC17.02.06 and RKEC17.02.07 explaining that UWE researchers have in the past undertaken little research involving animals (generally observation only) and an animal lead (Dr Farnon Ellwood) has overseen this activity since 2016. With an increase in related modules this is now too much work for one person and it has been concluded that UWE should have a formal committee to review this work. The University wants to have the highest ethical standards in all that we do and to ensure legal and regulatory compliance this sub-committee of UREC has been proposed. Ms Rouse noted that the paper (RKEC17.02.06) proposed terms of reference and composition. The guidance (RKEC17.02.07) was interim at this stage and would need to be finalised by the sub-committee. If approved the proposals would also be referred to LTSEC in relation to teaching.

RKEC17.02.17 The Chair thanked Ms Rouse for putting this proposal together. He noted the sensitivity of any research which involves animals and that further consideration would need to be given to what information relating to the proposed committee would be made public. A policy statement would be needed from the University, and the sub-committee would need to be included in the University's committee structure.

RKEC17.02.18 The Committee approved the proposal and agreed to extend the deadline on the embargoed guidance. As this would be a sub-committee of URKEC the proposal would be referred to Academic Board for information only and Professor Boddy would include this in his report to the Board.

**Action:** MB

#### **REF 2021 CONSULTATION**

RKEC17.02.19 Paper RKEC17.02.02 collected together comments made to date on the HEFCE consultation on REF ahead of the deadline, 17<sup>th</sup> March. Professor Boddy noted that some points were more significant than others. The overall view of RSIG was that some of the central propositions were far from helpful to UWE and similar HEIs, and not well evidenced. He noted that the HEFCE line was that Stern should be implemented, however it was looking for robust comments and constructive suggestions as to how it might best be done.

RKEC17.02.20 Key issues:

- All research active staff to be entered using HESA cost centres. This was considered to be inherently problematical, with staff being submitted to the 'wrong' UOAs based on their teaching rather than their research activity. Professor Boddy noted that this concern had frequently been raised at consultation meetings.
- Definition of 'research active'. Currently the Stern proposals included any member of staff with a contractual expectation of conducting some research, ie all academic staff at UWE. This might potentially mean that UWE would have to enter 1100 staff, including many staff not considered appropriate for submission to a research excellence exercise. Rather than lessening the burden on HEIs (a key tenet of the Stern recommendations) this would be likely to increase greatly the burden. There is the possibility that HEIs may be driven to move academic staff to teaching only contracts, something UWE would be loath to do. It was not clear why the exercise would want HEIs to identify staff whose research is NOT world-leading or internationally excellent when the purpose of the exercise is to find world-leading research. Why force HEIs to submit mediocre research?

- Portability – HEIs to submit outputs produced by staff while at the institution, with staff no longer able to take outputs with them when they move to a new institution. The Stern argument is that this should stop the REF ‘transfer market’ but no clear evidence had been provided that this was a problem. This proposal might remove one potential form of ‘game playing’ but would bring others into play. It was understood that ECRs were particularly unhappy about this proposal. It was also likely to be very problematical determining the point of publication particularly in the arts.

RKEC17.02.21 Committee members were asked to send any further comments to Alison Vaughton. Where possible these should be collated at faculty level in the first instance. Professor Boddy noted that comments would be fed into the University Alliance response.

Action: All

### **RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES**

RKEC17.02.22 Feedback from the Associate Deans was provided on the Research Centre annual reports submitted in the autumn. Professor Ames had not yet completed her round of meetings with the Research Centres Directors and would bring her report for HAS to the next meeting.

For FET, Professor Lyons’ report (RKEC17.02.03) (presented by Dr Clark) demonstrated the richness and diversity of the research in FET centres and groups. Professor Lyons had indicated that he would be happy to share his full report with members on a confidential basis.

For ACE, Ms Edwards noted the steep learning curve she had experienced having joined UWE just 6 months previously. She reported on the very diverse and talented researchers in ACE, and strength of research across disciplines and departments. In her report (tabled) she noted the challenges faced and opportunities available and stated that a formal review of ACE Research Centres was planned in next academic year.

For FBL – Professor O’Regan reported that there had been a ‘soft launch’ of the new Research Centres in January, with a formal launch planned once the new FBL building is complete.

RKEC17.02.23 **Research Centre criteria**

Richard Bond stated that the current criteria for UWE Research Centres and Institutes have been in place for many years and have evolved over time rather than being clearly reviewed and revised. The concept of Centres of Excellence in RKE was introduced in 2011. It was felt that it may be time for a re-think and refresh. Paper RKEC17.02.04 included proposals to start a debate on UWE research centres going forward.

RKEC17.02.24 Issues for particular consideration included whether the category of institute should be retained, how the criteria for research centres might be revised, clearer thinking on monitoring and reporting, and URKEC’s role.

RKEC17.02.25 Members noted that there were issues around how people work with Centres in different faculties, eg in terms of funding and reporting. The Committee might consider how cross/interdisciplinary working might be promoted. There needs to be a mechanism to allocate input to a research project for each contributing partner (currently this can generally only be 'claimed' by the lead, and this affects KPIs). Bidding reports need to reflect all contributions, not just PI lead.

RKEC17.02.26 Professor Boddy agreed that collaborative working is something that RSIG needs to give more thought to. It will also look at WLB allowances to Research Centre Directors, particularly given the different sizes of Research Centres, and consider the comparative effectiveness of Research Centres, eg by size, outputs. Thought should also be given to the purpose of Research Centres, whether they should be internal or external entities, and if external then more consideration should be given to their branding.

**Action:** MB and RSIG

### **HUMAN TISSUE SUB-COMMITTEE (HTSC)**

RKEC17.02.27 Professor Conway gave a verbal update on activity by the HTSC. An inventory of human tissue used for teaching had been completed. As most human tissue is sourced from companies, it had been expected that it would be covered by NHS REC approval but this had turned out not to be the case, and as such was a breach of the Human Tissue Act. As a result, samples could no longer be stored and work was undertaken to address this. As it is not ethical simply to destroy samples, ways for re-use were being investigated.

A new system for monitoring the use of human tissue in teaching was being introduced and Professor Conway noted that the possibility of applying for a human tissue licence remained under review. Ongoing changes to HTA documentation would also require review and revision of UWE documentation.

### **GRADUATE SCHOOL**

RKEC17.02.28 Professor Boddy stated that Professor Willey would bring a report on the Graduate School's first five years and future strategy to the next meeting.

### **LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE**

RKEC17.02.29 Open Access: Ms Conway reported that compliance was now up to about 93%. It was difficult to know how this compared with other HEIs. Reports were being sent to each Associate Dean on compliance in their faculty.

RKEC17.02.30 Research data: progress made by UWE was comparable with other Alliance universities. The Library was having another push with those that are directly affected, particularly in FET. The data repository was in place, and guidance available, but the Library continued to try to raise awareness.

RKEC17.02.31 The research team in the Library was running a series of open access events. They continued to trying to make people aware that the repository was a means to make research visible, not only for REF compliance. It had been noted that some staff did not see the need to register their research on the repository and make

their work available on open access. This could be limiting the visibility of their work. In addition, if proposed changes to the REF are confirmed, and all research active staff required to be returned, we will need to ensure much wider engagement with open access and the Research Repository.

RKEC17.02.32 Ms Conway reminded members that the research data repository is in place and that there are details on the Library webpages, however it has not been possible to prioritise this.

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

RKEC17.02.33 HAS. Professor Ames referred specifically to the Faculty's bidding data (RKEC17.02.10a), highlighting the extent of collaborative work. She noted that the attribution for the project sometimes seemed to be with whoever is the first to register the project on PASS, irrespective of contribution. Professor Ames reported that the Faculty was recruiting to at least six studentships, that a lot of impact activity was going on and that Professor Willey was part of the consortium awarded the THE Research Project of the Year.

RKEC17.02.34 ACE. Ms Edwards noted some key bidding successes in her report (tabled). She expressed some concern around the high number of small bids with significant subsidy. Faculty highlights included the launch of the final report for the Bristol & Bath By Design at the Globe in London, and the Angela Carter exhibition at the RWA. She also stated that within ACE the REF CV was being used to incentivise staff.

RKEC17.02.35 FET. Dr Clark presented Professor Lyons' report (RKEC17.02.08) noting encouragement for bidding. An issue noted was the need for flexibility over the timing of 50:50 PhDs. A recent Faculty event for new researchers had been very useful.

RKEC17.02.36 FBL. Professor O'Regan reported strong demand for 50:50 PhDs. He felt that while this worked well, in some cases funders have had issues and UWE has been left with the students. He reported that the Faculty was introducing a DBA programme (research-based doctorate) and that this would strengthen the research culture in FBL.

#### **UNIVERSITY RKE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

RKEC17.02.37 Professor Boddy presented paper RKEC17.02.13, the draft URKEC Annual Report. He noted that research highlights were still to be added before the report was submitted to Academic Board. Comments by email were invited, to be sent as soon as possible.

#### **EXTERNAL BIDDING DETAILS**

RKEC17.02.38 Bidding reports (RKEC17.02.11 and RKEC17.02.12) were provided for information. Ms Newton notes that bidding rates were slightly higher than at this time last year, and that the general trend was upwards.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

RKEC17.02.39 No health and safety issues were raised.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RKEC17.02.40 Ms Cowie reported that discussions were being held with Hartpury College. The College is looking to offer research degrees and seeking approval in principal from URKEC to take to Academic Board. Further work was being undertaken, with a view to taking a proposal to the June meeting of the Graduate School Committee and then to June meeting of this Committee. There were no further details and no commitments had been made at this stage.

## MEETING DATES FOR 2016-17

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 14:00-16:30

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 14:00-16:30

### Actions:

RKEC17.02.05	RKEC16.10.30: Cross-disciplinary activity to be discussed at the next (5 <sup>th</sup> April) meeting of the Committee.	<b>MB</b>
RKEC17.02.13	The officer to investigate the possibility of holding a future meeting in Future Space.	<b>AV</b>
RKEC17.02.14	UWE KE Strategy: Professor Boddy to bring it to the next meeting of the Committee.	<b>MB</b>
RKEC17.02.18	AWEC: Professor Boddy to report to Academic Board on the approval of the Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee.	<b>MB</b>
RKEC17.02.21	REF consultation response: Committee members to send any further comments to Alison Vaughton.	<b>All</b>
RKEC17.02.26	Research Centres: MB and RSIG to review current criteria, monitoring and purpose of UWE research centres.	<b>MB and RSIG</b>