

**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE**

CONFIRMED

**Wednesday 18 April 2018**

**14.00 – 16.30**

**Room 7X111, Frenchay Campus**

**Present:** Professor Martin Boddy (Chair), Richard Bond, Amanda Conway, Professor Myra Conway, Dr Lauren Devine, Professor Olena Doran, Dr Stephen Draper (Hartpury College), Hazel Edwards, Professor Di Harcourt, Professor Catherine Hobbs, Tracey John, Jane Newton, Professor Nicholas O'Regan, Mandy Rose, Professor Mel Smith, Professor Neil Willey, Dr Heidi Williamson.

**Apologies:** Professor Richard Bolden, Rachel Cowie, Catherine Frankpitt, Paul Manners.

**In attendance:** Alison Vaughton (Officer), Dr Benedict Gaster (for item 3), Ella Talbot (RBI, for item 8)

**WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RKEC18.04.01 Professor Boddy welcomed Dr Ben Gaster for item 3.

RKEC18.04.02 Apologies were received from Professor Richard Bolden, Rachel Cowie, Catherine Frankpitt and Paul Manners.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING**

RKEC18.04.03 The minutes of the meeting on 31<sup>ST</sup> January 2018 were agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

RKEC18.04.04 All other actions had been completed or were discussed as agenda items at the meeting.

**CCCS NAME CHANGE REQUEST**

RKEC18.04.05 Dr Ben Gaster presented paper RKEC18.04.01 and explained the rationale for the request to change the name of the Research Centre from the Centre for Complex Cooperative Systems to the Computer Science Research Centre. Professor Larry Bull had taken on the Directorship of the Centre following Professor McClatchey's retirement, and it seemed timely to review the scope and title of the Centre. The Centre was now encompassing other groups, including the AI Group, and a name change would reflect these changes and make the research areas more cohesive within the Faculty. Although rather generic the new name provided the scope to be inclusive and was a clearer indication of the work covered by the Centre. It should also be a good fit for the Industrial Strategy. The Committee was happy with the proposed name change and noted its approval and its enthusiasm for the work of the Centre.

RKEC18.04.06 Professor Hobbs asked the Committee to consider a further minor name change to another FET Research Centre, with the Centre for Floods, Communities and

Resilience changing to the Centre for **Water**, Communities and Resilience. This would better reflect the Centre's work and provide opportunities for including other water research going on elsewhere in the University. This would not alter the group other than bringing in Chad Staddon's water group. The Committee confirmed that it was happy to approve the name change.

Action: AV to notify Chris Gledhill for Academic Board

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- RKEC18.04.07 Professor Boddy reported that the Virtual Reality Lab had officially opened on 16<sup>th</sup> June. This was a joint venture with the University of Bristol, the Watershed and Opposable Group. It was designed to promote research between businesses, and was taking off rapidly. The venture mapped to the Industrial Strategy and to local strengths.
- RKEC18.04.08 The Chair reported that a regional clusters bid, led by UWE, had recently been submitted to AHRC. This included a range of industrial collaborators and other local HEIs. He noted the snowball effect of IS funding.
- RKEC18.04.09 Professor Boddy noted that HEFCE was now defunct and replaced by the Office for Students and Research England. Headline funding decisions had recently been released by Research England for 2018-19 with an indication of the budget for 2019-20 with small increases in all funding heads. HEIF funding was continuing to increase, but bringing increased scrutiny alongside. Professor Boddy hoped to be in a position to share details with faculties and determine allocations shortly.

#### **FLEXIBLE DOCTORATES**

- RKEC18.04.10 Professor Willey had hoped to bring a paper on PhDs by publication to the Committee but this proposal had turned out to be more complicated than anticipated, as it would require a new award to be created. Further debate was needed to determine exactly what would be required in terms of submissions. This would be more time-consuming than originally envisaged but it was hoped that new arrangements may be in place by 2019. Colleagues in ACE highlighted the importance of ensuring that all types of research output, not necessarily publications, are permitted. Professor Willey stated that he was aiming to have a more flexible option in place by September 2019 and would give further thought to this over the summer.

#### **RESEARCH STRATEGY 2030 AND RESEARCH INVESTMENT**

- RKEC18.04.11 The Chair presented paper RKEC18.04.02 Research Investment Plan 2018/19-2021/22. Following discussions with the Board of Governors Professor Boddy explained his proposal for research investment. He stressed that as a University UWE spends £8M net of QR, well below our benchmark group. UWE is in the bottom quartile for overall spend on research, and for academic time spent on research. While it is not realistic to fully fund the 'gap', Professor Boddy noted that not all investment is targeted at priority areas, and he now proposed targeted investment including a VC's Challenge Fund.
- RKEC18.04.12 Professor Boddy stated that the proposals had yet to be agreed. He hoped that funds might be made available from the Wallscourt Foundation for investment in people, and if agreed he would have detailed discussions with faculties on where

best to target funds. These would be likely to include further 'new blood' appointments. The focus of internal investment for the next two years would be likely to be on REF outputs and impact and it was quite likely that internal investment in staff would be used as a measure of research activity for submission to REF.

RKEC18.04.13 There was no strong case for investment in PGRs from QR at this stage of the REF cycle, but ongoing support would be available for part-funding/match-funding. A central pool was proposed, rather than faculty allocations, and despite being a smaller pool this might leverage more overall, with a focus on partnership and building links. The Chair noted that success rates with bidding for external funding were not looking particularly favourable at present, with no significant increase, so more work was needed in this respect.

RKEC18.04.14 Professor Boddy stated that he would welcome members' comments, thoughts and suggestions on his proposals. The Directorate was minded to support, but confirmation was still required. The intention was that a platform would be built for the future. More thought would need to be given to how to prioritise strategic investment. Professor Boddy had had discussions around emerging research themes with the Vice Chancellor, looking at embracing UWE's strengths and how these match to the IS, etc.

#### **REF2021**

RKEC18.04.15 Richard Bond noted that the REF Team was now situated as part of Research England. Further guidance was due to be published in the summer/autumn, including on Codes of Practice. The Code of Practice would be a key document for HEIs, to be submitted in 2019, so it was likely that it would be at least a year before approval. In advance of that UWE's REF team would be carrying out a lot of modelling to determine submissions. Guidance was also due to be published on the content of environment template, and was likely to include more data/metrics than for previous exercises. Once published the information would be shared with Committee members and other relevant colleagues in the University. Mr Bond reported that he was a member of a University Alliance group of REF managers and was aware that many HEIs were taking similar approaches to ourselves, and having similar problems. However there was no general enthusiasm for a joint approach by all Alliance HEIs.

RKEC18.04.16 Internally all units of assessment had produced 'state of play' reports which were currently being reviewed, and meetings were taking place between Associate Deans, UOA Leads, Professor Boddy and the RBI REF manager. REF CVs had been completed by 650 members of staff, of whom around 250 have a 3\* output. There was still a very significant amount of reviewing to do. Around 100 staff have outputs which are not considered to be at that level and 300 staff have no outputs at all.

RKEC18.04.17 There were currently around 50 probable Impact Case Studies with a further 30 'possibles'. Work on impact was progressing, and Mr bond undertook to keep the Committee informed on progress. Jane Newton's team were mapping workload allocations for current year against outputs, but the significant burden of internally assessing outputs remained an issue. Mr Bond noted that compared with other institutions UWE's was an established workload model but other HEIs were devising theirs to fit the REF, while we needed to retro-fit the UWE model.

## **INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

RKEC18.04.18 Ella Talbot, RBI, reported that a lot of work was ongoing in RBI to support the University's approach to the Industrial Strategy, with a series of workshops, weekly emails, and co-ordination of activity. She stated that she would welcome feedback on what people are finding useful. RBI staff were also attending appropriate external events, putting out feelers for potential partners and networking. UWE had received very positive feedback from Josie Gough (South West Regional Manager for Innovate UK) who was keen to do more work with the University.

RKEC18.04.19 Mrs John noted that huge volume of opportunities coming from the IS and the challenge of keeping abreast of these. Where there were large calls RBI was pulling together round table meetings so that UWE would be ready when the detail of calls becomes available. Members were asked to let Mrs John's team know if they became aware of new opportunities and to developing links where possible.

RKEC18.04.20 Mrs John reported that there had already been real successes and there appeared to be evidence of 'money following money' with Innovate UK which was likely to be replicated by the Research Councils.

Expanding Excellence in England (E3): an internal call would be going out (via Centre Directors and Associate Deans) the following day, with the scheme's purpose being to expand capability and capacity of small units of research (pockets of excellence). HEIs were permitted to submit up to 3 expressions of interest. The guidance did not define 'small' or 'unit' so was open to interpretation.

RKEC18.04.21 HE expressed her thanks to Mrs John and her colleagues for the ongoing work on the Industrial Strategy and a recent event facilitated at Bower Ashton. Professor O'Regan felt that FBL staff had much to offer to collaborate with colleagues in other areas of the University. Professor Boddy stressed the importance of people being proactive in joining bids rather than waiting for others to come to them. As research leaders they should be going out and getting involved.

## **BUSINESS INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE UPDATE (KEF)**

RKEC18.04.22 The Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) was currently being developed in collaboration with the UUK comprising two pillars – principles and good practice, and KEF metrics. Professor Boddy hoped to be able to give members a fuller update at a later meeting. He noted that the KEF metrics would be used to measure the impact of the Industrial Strategy and as the HEIF formula is driven by HEBCIS this would be significant for UWE.

RKEC18.04.23 £90M was available for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). This represented a huge amount of money and various different types of models were being considered. The sector was encouraged to propose new models and different thinking. The Associate Deans stated that it would be helpful for Clare Rowson, KTP Manager, to attend faculty RKEs and/or Research Centre meetings and discuss some of the issues facing staff wanting to engage with this opportunity.

RKEC18.04.24 It was suggested that the new (acting) chair of Innovate UK might be invited to familiarise him with UWE's work. It was understood that Innovate UK were looking for ideas for grand challenges.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE**

RKEC18.04.25 Mrs Conway reported that more engagement was now being seen from HAS and FET on open access. She noted that some publishers were offering offset deals and would continue to keep Associate Deans aware of these. The Library Research Team was developing guidance and this would be rolled out more broadly. Mrs Conway stated that RCUK OA grant funding had been confirmed for another year for Research Council-funded outputs. Most other funders allow for a provision for open access publishing in bids and the Library was working with the Grant and Award Support team in RBI to get this message out to researchers. Further thought needed to be given to finding alternative ways to get the information to researchers, and members were invited to send suggestions to Mrs Conway.

RKEC18.04.26 The REF compliance report was being reviewed with the intention of making it more meaningful and giving access to UOA Leads.

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

RKEC18.04.27 ACE highlights (paper RKEC18.04.03)

- AHRC Bristol + Bath Creative Cluster second stage bid, total value £10m, submitted. UWE is the lead (Professor Jonathan Dovey) with Bristol, Bath and Bath Spa as partner universities. Awards to be announced in July with start date in October 2018;
- UWE invited to lead bid for Immersion Centre for Excellence (£5-6m) with deadline mid-May. Professor Jen Stein attended AHRC Immersive Mission to USA to develop this call;
- Successful ACE internal research awards for 2018/19 agreed by 3 panels – quality of 46 applications across 5 different schemes much improved compared with 2017;
- Bristol VR Lab formally launched on 16th April. This is a joint University of Bristol and UWE initiative with the Opposable Group and Watershed which attracted £300K investment from the LEP in 2017;
- Significant investment in REF 2021 facing research, via internal ACE research awards, to be made across 5 Units of Assessment in 2018/19.

RKEC18.04.28 FBL highlights (paper RKEC18.04.04)

- Successful bids from a number of FBL staff, including
  - G. Parry – Co-I – [with colleagues from Warwick, Surrey and UCL] that have won a £1.2m bid from the EPSRC TIPS2 initiative
  - Vafeas and Hughes - Successful tender to design and deliver two-day HIE Marketing Masterclass for Entrepreneurs in the Highlands and Islands.
  - Phil Rumney + colleagues in criminology, 'Developing a victim led police service' worth £26,700 (Gwent constabulary).
- Research events held and planned
- Ongoing work to support development of impact case studies for the next REF.

RKEC18.04.29 FET highlights (paper RKEC18.04.05)

- Notable bidding successes:
  - Autonomous Robot Evolution: Cradle to Grave, £500k, EPSRC, Alan Winfield (EDM)

- Two KTPs funded (VQ Communications with CSCT, Extracare Charity Trust with EDM)
- Bristol Robotics Laboratory Technology Solutions, £500k, ERDF, Chris Melhuish, Farid Dailami (EDM)
- “Water Symposium”, jointly organised by UWE and Manav Rachna University, Faridabad, India, February 15, 2018. (CFCR, Chad Staddon);
- EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in “Technologies for a Data Driven future” (£4.1m to UWE). J. Smith (PI) Major cross-disciplinary collaboration with Co-Is from FET, FBL and HAS;
- ClairCity Game to be launched in Bristol in April 2018 before being rolled out across 5 other EU cities. Game build, technical design and dissemination is a UWE collaboration between PlayWest (Andy King) and AQMRC (Enda Hayes) with SCU (Laura Fogg-Rogers).

RKEC18.04.30 HAS highlights (paper RKEC18.04.06)

- Prestigious grants:
  - Mytton (NIHR). Global Health Research Programme): successful progression through the 6 month progress stage, to receive the full funding award, £1,999,913.
  - Walsh et al. (NIHR) First contract physiotherapy in primary care (preliminary notification, subject to conditions) £775,000
  - Dures et al (NIHR). Fatigue – Reducing its effects through individualised support episodes in inflammatory arthritis: a feasibility study, £248,079
- Over 200 delegates at ‘We The Curious’ in central Bristol for the NIHR Bristol Biomedical Research Centre Launch Symposium. The BRC/UWE Public and Patient Involvement team Noreen Hopewell Kelly, Andy Gibson, Mike Bell presented at the launch and were delighted by the positive feedback they received. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiOdxclvVNE>. (CPHWP)
- South West Nuclear Hub membership (Oxford, GW-4, UWE, Birmingham Southampton, Kyoto, EDF Energy, Rolls Royce) for three years.
- Bioinformatics Hub (under development, CRIB)
- Health Tech Hub – building complete and looking to set up equipment in the labs (IBST)

## **REPORTS FROM URKEC SUB-COMMITTEES**

### **Graduate School Committee**

RKEC18.04.31 Professor Willey noted that students had been awarded 13 Santander travel bursaries. He asked members to remember to cost conferences into the budgets for their students from the start.

RKEC18.04.32 Professor Willey reported that there had been discussion by the Graduate School Committee of PGR fee rates, and that they had come to the conclusion that UWE’s rates should be reduced to match the RCUK rate. He stated that a reduction had not been permitted, despite evidence showing that the higher rates were effectively costing UWE money. He noted that almost all other HEIs use the standard RCUK rate, and asked the Committee to support the proposal for a reduction. Members confirmed that this appeared to be a sensible approach and were happy for this view to be conveyed to the Fees Group.

RKEC18.04.33 It was noted that doctoral loans would be released in the summer for spending from the autumn. No further guidance was available at this stage.

#### **University Research Ethics Committee**

RKEC18.04.34 Professor Devine reported that the Working Group had now met five times and was making good progress. She hoped to streamline processes where possible and get consistency and commonality across the faculties.

RKEC18.04.35 Dates had been set for two events: a university-wide training event to encourage researchers at all stages of their career to listen to more senior researchers talk about their research (14 June); and a half day's CPD training for existing scrutineers. She hoped to encourage more senior colleagues to join the FRECs.

RKEC18.04.36 James Button had attended a recent meeting of UREC to talk about GDPR. Professor Devine noted that University guidance for researchers was still awaited. She planned to meet Steve Dinning to discuss the advice that researchers might be signposted to as the ethics committees were not in a position to advise on this.

#### **Human Tissue Sub-Committee**

RKEC18.04.37 Professor Conway reported that the Human Tissue Sub-Committee had reviewed its audit practice and everything was looking in good shape. Feedback from those who had been audited was very positive. A mandatory training event was being organised to advise on updates to the Quality Management System (QMS) and on the new teaching QMS.

RKEC18.04.38 There remained areas of activity, not strictly defined as research or teaching, which fell into a gap, without being clearly in the remit of the RECs, HTSC or AWEC. The ethics committees were reluctant to expand their remit into teaching, but recognised that certain activities may be below the radar. This needed some consideration. Professor Boddy stated that this was not an issue which could be resolved immediately but that he would raise it with the Directorate.

Action: MB

#### **RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT**

RKEC18.04.39 Richard Bond presented paper RKEC18.04.10 Implementing the Research Data Management Policy. He noted that while the University has a Research Data Management Policy it has not been implemented consistently. Professor Boddy is accountable for data management but does not have line management responsibility and it may be appropriate to delegate responsibility for research data management. The implementation plan consequently proposes that this responsibility be devolved to Executive Deans.

RKEC18.04.40 Mr Bond explained the proposed actions to support Executive Deans (on the assumption that the change in responsibility is approved) including the enforcement of the requirement for a Research Data Management Plan (RDMP) for all projects; definition of a minimum standard for the information to be included in a RDMP; and implementation in all faculties of the Research Governance Record.

RKEC18.04.41 Professor Hobbs queried the definition of a 'project' for inclusion in the Research Governance Record and how a faculty might therefore be confident that it has a complete record of activity. It was agreed that this could be challenging.

RKEC18.04.42 Professor Devine noted the patchy uptake of ethics process and reported that to try to address this the ethics application form was in process of being re-designed.

Researchers would need to confirm that they have a RDMP as part of their application for ethical approval. Professor Devine noted that there was also a methodological issue around GDPR, eg the restriction around algorithmic decision making. Currently there are systems being used which will become unlawful. If proposals come forward that may be non-compliant there needs to be clear guidance on how to make them compliant.

RKEC18.04.43 Mr Bond explained that declaring a project was a means to protect researchers and ensure that all appropriate governance steps have been addressed. It was noted that people’s anxieties were currently raised by knowing about GDPR but not understanding their implications.

RKEC18.04.44 Professor Boddy stated that the primary and urgent action at this stage was to ensure that all projects have a data management plan in place, and that the linkage to the Research Governance Record can follow in due course.

Action: MB to take forward implementation, and discuss with Executive Deans

**UPDATE AND OVERVIEW OF RBI STRUCTURE**

RKEC18.04.45 Mrs John reported that the RBI restructure was complete. She asked members to alert her to any issues and stated that a review would be undertaken in September.

**EXTERNAL BIDDING DETAILS**

RKEC18.04.46 The Committee noted the external bidding reports (papers RKEC18.04.08 and RKEC18.04.09).

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

RKEC18.04.47 Professor Boddy noted that with the opening of the Health Tech Hub in T block it would be timely to review health and safety across all areas of T Block, including BRL, and to get assurance from the UWE Health and Safety team that all is in order and that arrangements are joined up

Action: MB

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

RKEC18.04.48 There was no other business.

**MEETING DATES FOR 2018-19**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 14:00-16:30  
 Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 14:00-16:30  
 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, 14:00-16:30  
 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 14:00-16:30

**Actions:**

RKEC18.04.06	Chris Gledhill to be notified of FET Research Centre name changes for Academic Board	AV
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RKEC18.04.38	MB to raise with the Directorate the issue of governance of student projects which fall outwith the remits of the RECs, HTSC or AWEC	MB
RKEC18.04.44	Research Data Management Implementation - MB to take forward implementation, and discuss with Executive Deans	MB
RKEC18.04.47	Professor Boddy to request that the Health and Safety team carry out a review of health and safety for the whole of T block	MB