

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

CONFIRMED

Wednesday 31 January 2018

14.00 – 16.30

Room 2NAH010, Northavon House, Frenchay Campus

Present: Professor Martin Boddy (Chair), Professor Richard Bolden, Richard Bond, Dr Alistair Clark, Amanda Conway, Professor Myra Conway, Dr Lauren Devine, Professor Olena Doran, Dr Stephen Draper (Hartpury College), Hazel Edwards, Catherine Frankpitt, Tracey John, Professor Nicholas O'Regan, Mandy Rose, Professor Mel Smith, Professor Neil Willey

Apologies: Rachel Cowie, Professor Di Harcourt, Paul Manners, Jane Newton, Dr Heidi Williamson.

In attendance: Alison Vaughton (Officer)

WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- RKEC18.01.01 Professor Boddy welcomed Dr Stephen Draper from Hartpury College and congratulated Lauren Devine on her recent promotion to Professor.
- RKEC18.01.02 Apologies were received from Rachel Cowie, Professor Di Harcourt, Paul Manners, Jane Newton and Dr Heidi Williamson.
- MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING**
- RKEC18.01.03 The minutes of the meeting on 15th November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.
- RKEC18.01.04 RKEC17.11.16 Professor Boddy reported that the Bristol Centre of Public Health and Wellbeing proposal had been approved by Academic Board on 6th December 2017.
- RKEC18.01.05 RKEC17.11.31 The AWEC policy statement had been revised following URKEC and Academic Board discussion and had been approved. The Committee was now working on a communication plan and launch event.
- RKEC18.01.06 RKEC17.11.35 Open access – Richard Bond and Amanda Conway were continuing to work on clarification and diffusing misunderstandings.
- RKEC18.01.07 RKEC17.11.45 Centres of excellence, revisions to criteria – the proposals had not yet been taken to Academic Board, but a template was now being used for the review of ACE Research Centres and workload allowances for Research Centre Directors would be discussed by RSIG.
- RKEC18.01.08 RKEC17.11.49 The IP Policy had been approved by Academic Board on 6th December.

RKEC18.01.09 All other actions had been completed or were discussed as agenda items at the meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

RKEC18.01.10 Professor Boddy invited Catherine Frankpitt to give members an overview of the strategic themes for External Communications (EC), one of which is Research with Impact. She explained that EC were looking to showcase the best stories, case studies and content. The Chair noted the intention to identify 3-4 major headings under Research with Impact, to demonstrate excellence, but which should also be newsworthy, eg sustainable futures, health and wellbeing, digital futures. All areas include activity which is or could have elements of cross-disciplinary or trans-disciplinary work, eg leadership.

RKEC18.01.11 Asked how Committee members might be able to help EC, Ms Frankpitt stated that it would be helpful for anything of particular interest across the board to be flagged to her and her colleagues. It was suggested that it may be useful to look at Impact Case Studies in development in faculties. Professor O'Regan highlighted the forthcoming BAM conference which would be held at UWE in the autumn with around 1,000 attendees.

RKEC18.01.12 Ms Frankpitt stated that an impact report was being produced in Strategic Communications and Engagement (SCE). The Chair noted the range and extent of ongoing activity and said that it will be made clear who people need to contact in SCE. Ultimately it would be for the Communications professionals to determine which research stories should be used. The Committee would look again at publicising research at a later date.

ENTERPRISE UPDATE

RKEC18.01.13 Mrs John gave the Committee an update (tabled paper) on enterprise activity in the University:

E2020 (primarily for undergraduates) - A huge amount of work had gone into mapping UWE courses against university enterprise attributes. Various ventures were being repeated and there was the possibility of a start-up village.

RKEC18.01.14 The UEZ (University Enterprise Zone) comprises several elements including:
LaunchSpace - an exciting place to go, involving various collaborations with UWE academics, and already seeing the real benefits of the graduate community;
BRL incubator – tech based businesses with interactions with BRL researchers and beyond;
HeathTech hub – a big consortium of externals working with UWE;
FutureSpace – has occupancy at 70% and an internship programme in the process of being designed. This includes the Hub – a great space for events, but Mrs John was aware that there are lots of spaces at UWE and is keen that they should not be in competition with each other but each pitched to the right clients.

RKEC18.01.15 Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). There had been a big push on KTPs tied up with the Industrial Strategy. Mrs John reported that a recent meeting had been held with NatWest, and that UWE would be running some round table events with them. Members were asked to encourage colleagues to use any opportunities to promote KTPs when talking to external stakeholders. Identifying the opportunities

was key, and KTPs must be demand-driven. Mrs John stated that she would be happy to provide support to promote the scheme.

RKEC18.01.16 ERDF Programmes. UWE has a portfolio of Regional Development Projects, with three programmes with total project value of £10.2M. Professor Boddy noted that this area of funding was substantial and significant, and that there was a government commitment to the same levels of funding post-Brexit. The HEIF funding formula was driven by this funding so this was really significant activity for the University, as well as being very good for the UWE brand within the region. This type of income was becoming part of core funding rather than third strand for HEIs like UWE.

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

RKEC18.01.17 Professor Boddy advised the Committee of the importance of the Industrial Strategy (IS) and the absolute need for UWE to engage with it. The White Paper (published in November) was very long, but worth reading cover to cover. Effectively the Industrial Strategy is an umbrella for a very significant increase in funding for all areas universities work in, and particularly focused on business and industry needs, from blue skies research through to industry led consultancy. The Strategy follows through on the government's commitment to increase funding so as to drive productivity. It is extremely important to grasp the scale and scope of these opportunities.

RKEC18.01.18 He noted that the IS landscape was complex and evolving. It was very important that the University keep track of developments. While one or two opportunities had already been missed there would be more, and the University should be ready to respond quickly, with the grand challenges the priority areas.

RKEC18.01.19 Sector deals: These are deals put together for industry sectors and are the key developments going forwards, to benefit 'UK PLC'. This was industry driven, government investment, which the HE sector can latch on to, and was evolving in an ad-hoc way (eg for Life Sciences the report had already been published). The construction sector report was in preparation; the AI report was particularly good; as was the report on the Creative Industries; while the report for the automotive sector remained in course of preparation.

RKEC18.01.20 The Challenge Fund was quite focused: Wave 1 had now gone, and wave 2 was ongoing. These constituted multi-million pound opportunities but they came and went very quickly.

RKEC18.01.21 Local industrial strategies: these were being developed in areas where there are elected mayors (ie it applies here with both Bristol and the West of England). The WoE LEP has been revived with strong industrial membership and with the Vice Chancellor as chair.

RKEC18.01.22 Professor Boddy recommended the UUK document (RKEC18.01.1) as a good and fairly short summary. He noted in particular: £725M in the second wave for Challenge Fund programmes; UKRI budgets to deliver an increase of 20%; HEIF increase to £250M/year by 2020-21; KTPs £300M over next 3 years. At one level these funds appeared overwhelming and unstructured, but he was looking to individuals in faculties to keep track of opportunities as they arose.

RKEC18.01.23 Mrs John advised the Committee that a session had been arranged for 21 February on 'What is the Industrial Strategy?' Additionally, in March, staff in RBI were organising a day long workshop to delve deeper into the complexities of the

IS. RBI would be looking to send out snippets on IS, particularly in the light of ongoing changes, and members should approach Mrs John for any other areas of support they would like.

RKEC18.01.24 The IS presented the biggest opportunity for years and UWE needed to be proactive in its approach. This was already happening in ACE. Funding was now available through different pathways, and researchers needed to be agile and aware of how to access it. In order to collect together and disseminate information about the IS, members of the Committee were asked to pass to Mrs John any information that could usefully be shared. Mrs John agreed to get a SharePoint site set up to collate intelligence and key documents. It was proposed that the Industrial Strategy become a standing agenda item.

Action: TJ, AV

FACULTY RESEARCH UPDATES FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS (RKE)

RKEC18.01.25 ACE: Ms Edwards explained that she, together with the new Executive Dean (Jane Roscoe) had held meetings with each of the Research Centre Directors and identified goals for the coming year.

Digital Cultures Research Centre (DCRC) – a very exciting place for all new Industrial Strategy opportunities, and the Centre had embraced the staff and students from the Centre for Moving Image Research.

Centre for Fine Print Research (CFPR) – new energy and focus after challenging times. The Centre was trying to hone themes, and work more closely with their external partners, but needed to be more strategic. It had done some very good work on public engagement but it would be timely to review some activities.

Regional History Centre (RHC) – a much smaller centre with less investment, this Research Centre did however have a large external membership. Publications are in the pipeline this year, and the Centre was aiming to ‘grow’ partnerships, on a national rather than regional basis. Steve Poole was aiming to cascade his ‘sandbox’ research methodology.

Bristol Centre for Linguistics (BCL) – a small Centre with modest achievements in the previous year. The Centre needed to look at its bidding (all had unsuccessful in the reported year) and was not currently operating at the level expected of a Centre.

Overall, Ms Edwards reported real successes among the Faculty’s Centres and effective ongoing restructuring.

RKEC18.01.26 FBL: Professor O’Regan reported that staff in most of the Faculty had produced very good research publications, which had been well reviewed externally, in many cases as 4* outputs, and that the Faculty had a community of vibrant engaged scholars leading to a good research environment. His report (RKEC 18.01.04) covered only Research Centres (not Research Groups).

RKEC18.01.27 Bristol Leadership and Change Centre (BLCC) – the Centre delivered strong teaching and had a robust environment, with good bidding and publications. It was on track to meet its targets.

Bristol Centre for Economics and Finance (BCEF) – was quite strong overall. There was currently less involvement from A&F staff but this was increasing.

Centre for Applied Legal Research (CALR) – Income was looking stronger now, largely due to Professor Devine’s work. There was a need for research leadership, particularly in regard to publications, within the Centre.

In terms of preparation for the REF, Professor O’Regan reported that there were a number of potential impact case studies and the research environment was improving, with a good foundation that needed to be built on. The Law discipline continued to have a culture which considered that it is difficult to obtain funding for law research. It was however noted that there is considerable scope for multi-disciplinary work/collaboration.

RKEC18.01.28 Professor Bolden noted that in the context of the Industrial Strategy while much may not relate directly to FBL activity, Faculty staff could very often contribute, as almost any topic involves aspects of the law, leadership etc.

RKEC18.01.29 FET: Dr Clark presented Professor Lyons’ overview of the FET Research Centres from his report prepared for RSIG. He reported that there were ongoing discussions in the faculty about the number of centres and groups. On REF the UOA submissions in the Faculty would be much bigger than for REF2014.

RKEC18.01.30 On PGR, Dr Clark noted that UWE had a relatively small population of doctoral students but completions rates were well above average (30% above Alliance comparators). The Faculty was keen to increase PGR numbers and prepared to invest in these. Mr Bond explained that it had been a deliberate policy, when completion rates were poor, to get numbers down in UWE so as to improve completion rates. Now perhaps it would be timely to increase the number. Professor Willey highlighted the need to be more flexible on funding and regulations, and noted the demands from external funders for more flexible arrangements.

RKEC18.01.31 It was noted that Professor Catherine Hobbs would be taking up the position of Associate Dean (RKE) in FET with effect from 1 March.

RKEC18.01.32 HAS: Professor Doran presented the research highlights for the faculty, including successful bidding (NIHR, BBSRC), and noted many collaborations with FET. The new Biological and Biomedical Research Laboratories had been completed and the new PGR centre would open in August 2018. The HAS research celebration day in January had gone very well. A funding scheme for collaborative proposals across the faculty (requiring at least two Research Centres to apply together) was due to be launched the following week. The CAR Appearance Matters conference would be held in Bath in June 2018. Further highlights included IBST knowledge exchange events through the autumn in 2017 and collaborations with ‘We are curious’. Work by Dr Julie Mytton on the Nepal Injury Research Centre Programme was hoped to lead to significant income generation.

RKEC18.01.33 Professor Doran and Professor Neill had had meetings with each of the Research Centre Directors, where they had discussed activity and looked at future directions, including how to generate income. Professor Doran noted the long list of issues to be raised with RKE Committee in the reports and reported that she had tried to address these where possible. General comments on each Research Centre were:

CAR – significant income and a lot of activity. The key issue was how this might be sustained.

CHCR – most of the Centre’s funding was from the NIHR, but there were opportunities for collaboration with others in the University. Another issue being

addressed was succession planning, providing support for a retiring professor (Sarah Hewlett).

CRIB – another large centre, CRIB would be looking into the possibilities of engaging with the Industrial Strategy.

SCU – the unit was doing good work but needed to be more visible.

CPHW – the Centre’s main challenge was to bring in more external funding

SSRG and PSRG – Professor Doran noted the need to support colleagues who are not members of Research Centres but nevertheless important for the faculty.

RKEC18.01.34 Professor Boddy thanked the four Associate Deans for their reports and encouraged all to use the same template as Professor Doran and Ms Edwards.

REF2021

RKEC18.01.35 Two documents had now published by the REF team at HEFCE on decisions relating to REF2021, although it remained unclear at this stage how the decisions were to be implemented. There remained much to be determined and finalised. In the course of the summer the funding bodies would be publishing – for consultation – its guidance on submissions and panel criteria and working methods, together with guidance on Codes of Practice. The timetable for REF2021 proposes that Codes of Practice, which will need to be agreed by the REF team, will have to be submitted in early 2019 (and published by the end of 2019). There may, therefore, not be an ‘approved’ Code of Practice until sometime in 2019, potentially not until 8 months before the census date (31 July 2020). Preparations would continue as currently planned pending further information from the funding bodies. A statement for staff, updating on UWE’s current preparatory arrangements was presented for information, but members were asked not to circulate at this stage. Once agreed it would be published in the staff weekly news bulletin.

RKEC18.01.36 Professor Boddy stressed that in preparing for the REF it should be made clear that it was not a matter of staff selection but the quality of the work in each UOA. While submitted outputs would not be completely de-coupled from staff (a minimum of one output needed to be linked to each person submitted), the focus was nevertheless on the work. UWE’s internal ‘state of play’ review had a deadline at the end of March, at which stage progress would be reviewed and action needed to support further development would be determined. Professor Boddy noted that there was a lot of information in the two published documents. Richard Bond had prepared a more concise document which he would be happy to share. He noted that there were now a set of FAQs on the REF webpages. There was still much to be decided, but RBI and RSIG were keeping a close eye on developments and awaiting publication of draft guidelines in the summer. At this stage staff should continue to be encouraged to focus on producing quality outputs, winning grants and facilitating PhD completions.

RKEC18.01.37 One new aspect of the forthcoming REF was the opportunity to submit the outputs of staff who have left the institution, but identifying good outputs from these staff may not be easy. To do this the RBI REF team was going through the leavers information from Human Resources, matching to the Repository and REF CVs and classifying by UOA, noting that any eligible outputs must have been published before the authors left UWE. The overall aim of the submission was to identify and submit a body of the best quality research.

LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE

- RKEC18.01.38 Amanda Conway presented her Library Services report (paper RKEC18.01.10) including an update on the 'future of the library' project. She reported that a lot of work had been put into thinking about what the library would look like in a digital world. Not surprisingly there was still a strong desire for print, with staff in certain disciplines having a particularly strong wish to retain physical books. There remained a lot of confusion over the availability of print to support research, but Mrs Conway confirmed that this was still available, albeit in some cases in digital form or borrowed from another library. There was a very clear decline in book borrowing, not only at UWE but across the sector. The outcomes of the review were feeding into Library Services planning. It had been a useful exercise for Library Services to see the responses to changes, although perhaps developments had been a little too fast.
- RKEC18.01.39 Mrs Conway noted that open access compliance was down slightly, to 85%. This was high but there were nevertheless some areas missing the message. Library Services were working with RBI to keep pushing the message and Mrs Conway asked members to use any opportunities they may have to get the message out.

REPORTS FROM URKEC SUB-COMMITTEES

Graduate School Committee

- RKEC18.01.40 Professor Willey stated that he would bring a paper to the next meeting on flexible doctorates and noted forthcoming opportunities arising through doctoral training programmes. A PGR Away half-day was being organised in the near future.

Action: Professor Willey

University Research Ethics Committee

- RKEC18.01.41 Professor Devine reported that the UREC Working Group had met regularly and while it had not concluded anything at this stage it was discussing possible changes. The main next focus for the Committee was its annual audit which would be looking at student research projects, and updating on work carried out three years previously. The annual training event was being arranged for late May/early June and would be open to both staff and students. This was planned to comprise presentations by senior UWE academics showcasing research with interesting ethical issues and how these have been addressed, and would span all faculties. In addition to the general ethics training event, training for scrutineers, which until now had been for new scrutineers only, would be expanded to provide CPD for established REC members.

Human Tissue Sub-Committee

- RKEC18.01.42 Professor Conway welcomed the proposal of the showcase event for research ethics and suggested that it may be good to organise a similar event relating to human tissue research. A training and support event was planned for April/May which would be mandatory for staff working with human tissue, and would address changes to legislation. Additionally, a QMS for teaching would be launched. The primary issue facing the Committee was around human tissue purchased commercially and consent, as UWE does not have a Human Tissue licence.
- RKEC18.01.43 The Chair noted that the University had received a freedom of information request about research involving animals. It was suggested that it may be helpful

to liaise with Hartpury College over arrangements for research with animals, through Dr Alison Wills, Chair of the Hartpury College Ethics Committee.

EXTERNAL BIDDING DETAILS

- RKEC18.01.44 The Committee received, for information, papers RKEC18.01.9a and RKEC18.01.9b UWE Research and Non-research bids to January 2018.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- RKEC18.01.45 No health and safety issues were raised.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- RKEC18.01.46 Amendment to UWE and Hartpury College Research Degree Provision Schedule 17/18

Richard Bond presented a tabled paper requesting an amendment to the Schedule, so as to include DPhils. The award would be restricted to members of Hartpury College staff only (ie not to people with a form of association, as at UWE). Following agreement by the Committee the amendment would now go to Academic Board for confirmation.

Action: RB

- RKEC18.01.47 Storage of research data to comply with GDPR

With the advent of GDPR in May, Professor Doran asked what the University's plans were for storage of research data (hard copies, eg questionnaires) to comply with GDPR. The Chair asked Richard Bond, who sits on UWE's GDPR Programme Board, to look into this and respond. He stated that the Board was expected to provide advice and guidance on GDPR and that it was not a matter for this Committee. Issues around data storage rested with faculties, and not with RBI, although he acknowledged the resource implications.

Action: RB

- RKEC18.01.48 Professor Boddy expressed his thanks to Dr Clark for representing FET to fill the gap left by Professor Lyons and which would be filled, with effect from 1 March, by Professor Catherine Hobbs.

MEETING DATES FOR 2017-18

Wednesday 15th November 2017, 14:00-16:30

Wednesday 31st January 2017, 14:00-16:30

Wednesday 18th April 2017, 14:00-16:30

Wednesday 13th June 2017, 14:00-16:30

Actions:

RKEC18.01.24	Mrs John to arrange for a SharePoint site to be set up to collate intelligence and key documents relating to the Industrial Strategy.	TJ
RKEC18.01.24	The Industrial Strategy to be a standing agenda item.	AV
RKEC18.01.40	Professor Willey to bring a paper to the next meeting on flexible doctorates.	NW
RKEC18.01.46	Amendment to UWE and Hartpury College Research Degree Provision Schedule 17/18 – to be taken to Academic Board for confirmation.	RB
RKEC18.01.47	Storage of research data to comply with GDPR – Richard Bond to investigate.	RB