

**School of Mathematical Sciences  
Research Committee  
Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 14 December 2021**

*Present: Christian Beck (CB), Diego Millan Berdasco (DMB), Alex Clark (AC), Pau Figueras (PF), Alex Fink (AF), Kathrin Glau (KG), Sasha Gnedin (SG), Robert Johnson (RJ), Silvia Liverani (SL), John Moriarty (JM), Juan Valiente-Kroon (JVK, Chair, DoR).*

*In attendance: Andrew Shaw (Business Development).*

*Apologies: Abhishek Saha (AS, DDoR).*

*Secretary: Elisa Piccaro (EP).*

Minute	Summary of Agreed Actions	Who	When	Progress
<b>Action 14.12.21 – 1</b>	Please send the Chair more Faculty Nominations for Research Excellence Award by Friday 17 December 2021.	<b>All</b>	<b>17 December</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Action 14.12.21 – 2</b>	Suggest 5 people from each research group by 4 January 2022. The Chair will circulate information about this to HoGs.	<b>Chair and HoGs</b>	<b>4 January 2022</b>	
<b>Action 14.12.21 – 3</b>	Invite Andrew Shaw to the next School meeting.	<b>EP</b>	<b>Before the next School meeting</b>	
<b>Action 14.12.21 – 4</b>	Chair to meet HoGs to discuss members of staff who have not been engaging much with grant applications.	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Jan/Feb 2022</b>	
<b>Action 14.12.21 – 5</b>	The Chair will contact the HoGs about the Research Strategy, and will suggest a discussion in a future Town Hall meeting.	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Jan/next Town Hall meeting</b>	
<b>Action 14.12.21 – 6</b>	KG/Chair should look into data protection issues with using contact details of previous PhD students.	<b>KG/Chair</b>	<b>Before the next RC</b>	

<b>Action 14.12.21 – 7</b>	EP to save and share the spreadsheet from KG on SharePoint.	<b>EP</b>	<b>ASAP</b>	
<b>Action 14.12.21 – 8</b>	Chair to enquire whether the building will be open in the weekends and for longer during the week.	<b>Chair</b>	<b>January 2022</b>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reports and Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
1. Minutes from the previous meeting	Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.		
2. Matters arising	<p>Actions and matters arising:</p> <p><b>Action 19.10.21 – 1.</b> Some feedback received. Please send any changes to Elisa.</p> <p><b>Action 19.10.21 – 2.</b> These have been added. Please send information about events and sandpits to Elisa.</p> <p><b>Action 19.10.21 – 3.</b> Some suggestions have been received. More welcome.</p> <p><b>Action 19.10.21 – 4.</b> Share further comments you may have with Kathrin.</p> <p><b>Action 19.10.21 – 5.</b> Diego is the new PDRA rep.</p> <p><b>Action 19.10.21 – 6.</b> AC reported that there is ongoing discussion about this as the first cohort of PhD students that were given a laptop will be finishing soon. There is some hope that the cost to retain the equipment should be reasonable.</p> <p><b>Action 19.10.21 – 7.</b> Entertainment guidance has been circulated.</p> <p>The Chair added the following requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faculty Nominations for Research Excellence Award. A couple of suggestions have been received already. <b>ACTION:</b> Please send more Faculty Nominations for Research Excellence Award by Friday 17 December 2021.</li> <li>Faculty list of academics external to QM for reputation survey. We need to provide 30 names of ECRs external to QM. <b>ACTION.</b> Suggest 5 people from each research group by 4 January 2022. The Chair will circulate information about this to HoGs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>HoGs and the Chair</b></p>	<p><b>17 December</b></p> <p><b>4 January 2022</b></p>

<p>3. Consultancy service at QMUL</p>	<p>Andrew Shaw presented his role as Consultancy Manager, Business Development Team and showed the slides about this.</p> <p>Andrew works with Joanne Chamberlain and others.</p> <p>The Committee asked about ethical issues related to consultancy work. Andrew explained that these should be flagged and mitigated through Faculty.</p> <p>There was a question about the EDA account where the consultancy work would be paid into. The understanding is that the funds will be available to the researcher offering the consultancy and that the funds can be used after the financial year ends.</p> <p>The Committee was reassured that consultancy work can lead to impact case studies and be used for future REF submission.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Invite Andrew Shaw to the next School meeting.</p> <p>After the meeting Andrew sent the slides that he showed (these will be circulated to the Committee), and added that researchers can still choose to do private independent consultancy, but they should be aware that private arrangements are not covered by institutional insurance policies.</p>	<p>EP</p>	<p>Before the next School meeting</p>
<p>4. Update from the Chair</p>	<p>The Chair shared the update on grants applications.</p> <p>The Chair added that in the last couple of months the S&amp;E Research Advisory Group (SERAG) discussed PHD allocation. There is now a push from Faculty to increase our grant income and we will need to respond to this timely. To do so we need to make sure that all researchers in the School engage to submit a grant proposal. The Chair has received a list of academics and their grant activity.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Chair to meet HoGs to discuss members of staff who have not been engaging much with grant applications.</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>Jan/Feb 2022</p>
<p>5. PhD studentships allocation</p>	<p>The Chair explained that this year we were given awarded Principal's studentships that aligned with themes in the horizon scanning exercise, and that only projects that were aligned were supported.</p> <p>All studentships are Principal's. We did not get any EPSRC, which are 36 months awards (instead of 42 months), with no fees income, so overall we had a loss of income.</p> <p>In addition, the Chair noted how fundamental research was not supported in the studentship allocation round. The Dean for Research is aware of the importance of supporting pure research, and will keep this in mind in future allocations.</p>		

	Alex Fink added that only a fixed number of projects were awarded CSC fee waivers. This was also rather disappointing as the School was asked in previous months to increase the number of our CSC funded students.		
6. School Research Strategy	<p>The Chair showed slides with preliminary questions around a School Research Strategy. He explained that given the changes within the Faculty, regarding the horizon scanning, it would be natural for us to have a document outlining the research strategy within the School, including our research goals in the coming years.</p> <p>Having such a document would place us ahead of any changes dictated from the Faculty, in a pro-active approach.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The Chair will contact the HoGs about the Research Strategy, and will suggest a discussion in a future Town Hall meeting.</p> <p>The Committee members were supportive of running our own horizon scanning/research strategy and have a list of clear research topic for each area.</p>	Chair	Jan/Next Town Hall meeting
7. Impact update	<p>JM confirmed that one of the impact case studies that the School submitted to the latest REF began as a consultancy work, and it is therefore important to engage with consultancy work where appropriate.</p> <p>He also added that Sandpits and impact events were circulated and encouraged researchers to attend the impact training sessions and related events that will happen regularly in the coming months.</p>		
8. Industry Lead update	<p>A possible data protection issue was raised regarding obtaining and using contacts of previous PhD students who now work in industry.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> KG/Chair should look into this and find the correct way forward.</p> <p>KG has a preliminary spreadsheet with data about current collaborations. This will be shared with the committee.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> EP to save and share the spreadsheet from KG on SharePoint.</p> <p>The Committee had input from RJ regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remit – Would we only be interested in industry collaborations or in general to external collaborations? Potential external collaborators who are outside academia but wouldn't be described as industry would include charities, government, research institutes. If we were to include these should we change the name keep Industry Collaborations?</li> <li>- Ethical issues – following on the conversation with Andrew about this, is there a list of businesses we choose not to collaborate with? Could we add this question to the</li> </ul>	<p>KG/Chair</p> <p>EP</p>	<p>Before the next RC</p> <p>ASAP</p>

	<p>questionnaire? Should we prioritise certain research engagement vs others?</p> <p>KG also raised questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What do we want to achieve as a School?</li> <li>- What should we be supporting?</li> <li>- What are the procedures to follow and what are the actions?</li> </ul> <p>She mentioned that the Turing Institute has a clear process when approaching external partners. They consider their attitude, articulation (IP processes), alignment, etc.</p> <p>The Chair added that this should also be included in the research strategy of the School.</p> <p>The notes from KG will be circulated.</p>		
9. PDRA rep update	<p>The Committee welcomed DMB to the meeting.</p> <p>DMB, on behalf of the PDRA cohort, asked if and when it would be possible to keep the Maths building open longer hours during the week and to be open to staff also in the weekend.</p> <p>DMB explained that at the moment the office is well occupied with 2-3 teaching fellows and 5-6 PDRA attending regularly.</p> <p>The Chair explained that this arrangement is as such for all staff.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Chair to enquire whether the building will be open in the weekends and for longer during the week.</p>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>January</b>
10. Any other business	None.		
11. Date of the next meeting	The dates for the next meetings will be circulated in the new year.		