

**School of Mathematical Sciences
Research Committee
Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 03 December 2019**

Present: Christian Beck (CB), Matt Fayers (MF), Kathrin Glau(KG), Sasha Gnedin (SG), Mark Jerrum (MJ) (Chair) (DoR), Boris Khoruzhenko (BK), Vito Latora (VL), John Moriarty (JM), Rodrigo Panosso Macedo (RPM), Abhishek Saha (AS) (DDoR), Juan Valiente-Kroon (JVK).

Apologies: Alex Fink (AF), Bill Jackson, Silvia Liverani (was invited to this RC meeting).

Secretary: Elisa Piccaro (EP) (RM).

Minute	Summary of Agreed Actions	Who	When	Progress
Action 02.12.19 – 3i	HoGs to email MJ with comments and ranking about the 3 mini CDT proposals.	HoGs	4 Dec 19	
Action 02.12.19 – 4i	MJ to share the draft REF environment statement with the HoGs and welcome comments.	Chair	ASAP	
Action 02.12.19 – 5i	Write to the Faculty proposing that the APC charges are included in what the authors can ask to pay and that a green/gold access eligibility is checked when a claim form to pay for gold access is received.	Chair	ASAP	
Action 02.12.19 – 5ii	The Chair should draft a proposal about an internal School support with APC.	Chair	ASAP	
Action 02.12.19 – 6i	The HoGs should make a case to DoR in the first instance to request an enhanced seminar budget.	HoGs		
Action 02.12.19 – 7i	Discuss ‘SMS research strategy and future directions: Statistics and Data Science’ at the next RC meeting.	RC	Jan 2020	
Action 02.12.19 – 7ii	If anyone has other items for discussion under ‘SMS research strategy and future directions’ they should alert the Chair.	RC		
Action 02.12.19 – 8i	HoGs to let JM know if you have potential ICSs that could join the pipeline.	HoGs		

Agenda Item	Reports and Actions	Who	When
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 08 October 2019	<p>REPORTED: The minutes from the meeting held on 08 October 2019 were approved.</p>		
2. Matters arising	<p>REPORTED:</p> <p>Action 08.10.19 – 4i – BK and MJ to discuss whether the authors should have the ability to point out when one or more papers need to be revisited (with evidence) and how. This was discussed as part of the agenda – item 4.</p> <p>Action 08.10.19 – 5i - MJ to email HoGs and collect their views. This was discussed as part of the agenda – item 5.</p> <p>Action 08.10.19 – 7i - The Chair will think of broad questions that can be discussed at the next research committee in relation to the research strategy in the School. This was added to the agenda for this meeting but the discussion will need postponing to the January 2020 meeting when Silvia Liverani will be present to represent the Statistics research group.</p> <p>Action 08.10.19 – 7ii - Add the following item to the next RC meeting agenda ‘Future Direction for the School’. The agenda item 7 was added but wasn’t discussed at the meeting. This will be discussed in January 2020.</p> <p>Action 08.10.19 – 7iii - Invite a statistician to the next RC. Done, but Silvia Liverani had a last minute problem and could not attend.</p> <p>Action 08.10.19 – 8i - HoGs to report on possible pipeline impact case studies at the next research committee meeting. Will be discussed under item 8.</p> <p>Action 08.10.19 – 10i - RM to send the Research Grants update to the Research Committee. This was sent to the RC on 15 October 2019.</p>		
3. PGR admissions	<p>REPORTED: Alex Fink could not attend the PGR committee so the committee discussed the mini CDT proposals that were submitted to be ranked by the School before submission to Faculty.</p>		

	<p>The Chair reported that three proposals have been submitted, all very different and that the Faculty will be awarding each School either one or zero mini CDT. The criteria for scoring them are very similar to the EPSRC CDT criteria, with the idea that getting one of them will help the School to apply and be successful in a real one in the near future.</p> <p>DISCUSSED:</p> <p>The Committee agreed that we should develop these proposals to sell our research and expertise outside QMUL anyway, regardless of the outcome of the mini CDT Faculty call. However, having one of these awarded by the Faculty will make us a stronger partner for a real CDT.</p> <p>The School will rank the proposals on the basis of them to be more likely funded by the Faculty.</p> <p>The Chair has received some comments and asked the HoGs to send further comments to him by 4 December 2019, 1pm before the ranking meeting would take place.</p> <p>Action 02.12.19 – 3i HoGs to email MJ with comments and ranking about the 3 mini CDT proposals.</p>	HoGs	4 Dec 19
4. REF update	<p>REPORTED:</p> <p>The Chair reported that on 2 Dec the School has submitted 60 outputs to QMUL for review. Each HoG will be asked to review between 3 and 14. The HoGs will receive the output template with the outputs on 4 Dec and are asked to return their scores by the 18 Dec.</p> <p>The internal panel will review all new outputs after the HOGs have (the REF schedule seems to suggest that the internal panel scores the outputs in parallel with the HoGs but this isn't the case. The Panel will take into consideration both the individual and HoGs scoring and rational in order to reach an internal assessment.</p> <p>The Chair also reported that at a REF meeting with the Faculty, the UoA coordinators have been asked to re-visit some previously assessed outputs if they believe that strong additional evidence has become available to change the previous assessment. When the HoGs will be asked to score the new outputs, they will have a chance to flag such outputs that have already been assessed in the past.</p> <p>The draft REF environment statement has also been submitted on 02 December. The Chair will share this latest draft with the HoGs for their comments. The Chair stressed that this is a work in progress and not the final statement.</p> <p>Action 02.12.19 – 4i MJ to share the draft REF environment statement with the HoGs and welcome comments.</p>	Chair	ASAP

<p>5. Open Access and APC charges</p>	<p>DISCUSSED:</p> <p>The Chair received a number of replies to the questions posed about APC charges via email recently:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) S&E do not cover APC charges from the UKRI block grant. Should we ask S&E to change this rule? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee thought that that APC charges should be covered by the block grant, although there was a comment about the grant being spent even quicker if we would add the other charges. - The Faculty could check whether the authors could go for green access instead of paying the OA fees, but the understanding is that they are not keen to look too much into the allocation of this grant. However, the library could check the eligibility and green/gold requirement when asked to pay the OA fees from the authors. - We as a School should feedback to the Faculty proposing that the APC charges are included in what the authors can ask to pay and that a green/gold access eligibility is checked when a claim form to pay for gold access is received. If green access is permitted by the journal, then the author should be declined the possibility to pay for gold access. - Action 02.12.19 – 5i Write to the Faculty proposing that the APC charges are included in what the authors can ask to pay and that a green/gold access eligibility is checked when a claim form to pay for gold access is received. 2) How can the School support authors who are not UKRI funded or do not have money to fund APC? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CB commented that sometimes authors may have a research enabling fund but this may be a small amount and so in these cases they should be allowed to have further School support. - BK commented that the amount that may be available at School level is limited. - MJ added that researchers should be able to apply even if they have a grant, but making a case about their own funding if/when this is limited. 3) What circumstances should be covered? Which journals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some members think that the impact factor could be used (i.e., >10) but others think this wouldn't be fair for many authors in maths journals. - There was an agreement that the fees should be covered when the publication is obviously going to impact on the 	<p>Chair</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
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	<p>career of the author. However, this would tend to favour early career researcher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chair stressed that whichever criteria is chosen, this should be objective and verifiable. - Also, some journals are too expensive and authors should avoid submitting to these journals if they do not have their own funds, and that the School should have an upper bound of what we would fund. - In case the paper is published by a team, then we should not pay the full bill but split the bill amongst the authors. - Action 02.12.19 – 5ii The Chair should draft a proposal about an internal School support with APC. 	Chair	ASAP
6. Seminar Budget	<p>REPORTED: The seminar budget is £2000 per year, per group. Research groups can make a case to HoS for further support if they need.</p> <p>DISCUSSED: The HoGs reported that the budget is often not enough, and when possible they use other funding i.e., the research enabling funds to pay for some of the seminars.</p> <p>The grant holders can indeed pay to host a seminar from the grant (if the budget allows to host visitors), but the allowance should be checked with Andrea Young, the Finance Manager in the School.</p> <p>If a research group believes that they need further School support for their seminar series then they should make a case to the DoR/HoS. However, the consumables budget may be reduced further this year, so it may be that extra funds will not be available.</p> <p>Action 02.12.19 – 6i The HoGs should make a case to DoR in the first instance to request an enhanced seminar budget.</p>	HoGs	
7. SMS research strategy and future directions: Statistics and Data Science	<p>REPORTED: The Chair thought that ‘Future direction of the School’ would have been an item too big for a discussion, so it was decided that today’s RC would discuss the ‘Statistics and Data Science’ as part of the future strategy of the School. However, Silvia Liverani had to cancel her attendance at short notice and therefore this item will be now discussed at the RC in January.</p> <p>Action 02.12.19 – 7i Discuss ‘SMS research strategy and future directions: Statistics and Data Science’ at the next RC meeting.</p>	RC	Jan 2020

	<p>Action 02.12.19 – 7ii If anyone has other items for discussion under ‘SMS research strategy and future directions’ they should alert the Chair.</p>	RC	
8. Impact	<p>REPORTED:</p> <p>JM commented that the MiniCDT exercise is good for making industry links and for external engagement. Therefore, could we be more ambitious and make these projects to happen already even if the Faculty will not fund them? This would be beneficial for impact generation, we could advertise the projects on the website and start engaging with the partners.</p> <p>JM also reported that the School submitted to the Autumn Review and that we need to build a strong pipeline of 9 impact case studies for the next REF. We know of 2 so far. HoGs should report more promising projects to JM when these are realistic.</p> <p>Action 02.12.19 – 8i – HoGs to let JM know if you have potential ICSs that could join the pipeline.</p>	HoGs	
9. Any other business	<p>REPORTED:</p> <p>The Industry Lead KG reported that she is trying to explore what researchers are doing in terms of industry connections and said that we should have a database where to collect activities, connections, and have a culture of sharing connections with the school.</p> <p>DISCUSSED:</p> <p>The DoR will meet KG to draft a role specification for the Industry Lead and a clear vision about the School in relation with industry collaborations.</p> <p>BK added that we do not yet have many industry collaborations and that it would be good to reach out to industries. This would be obviously beneficial for our impact case studies, but more broadly to the research activities and diversification within the School.</p>		
10. Date of next meeting	<p>The next Research Committee meeting will be on 14 January 2020.</p>		