

**School of Mathematical Sciences  
Research Committee  
Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 15 February 2022**

*Present: Christian Beck (CB), Alex Clark (AC), Pau Figueras (PF), Alex Fink (AF), Vito Latora (VL), Abhishek Saha (AS, DDOR), Juan Valiente-Kroon (JVK, Chair, DoR).*

*Apologies: Diego Millan Berdasco (DMB), Kathrin Glau (KG), Robert Johnson (RJ), Silvia Liverani (SL), John Moriarty (JM).*

*Secretary: Elisa Piccaro (EP).*

Minute	Summary of Agreed Actions	Who	When	Progress
<b>Action 15.02.22 – 1</b>	Everyone is encourage to input into the consultation.	<b>All</b>	<b>Before 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>	
<b>Action 15.02.22 – 2</b>	Please volunteer to this initiative and have a video taken.	<b>All</b>	<b>ASAP</b>	
<b>Action 15.02.22 – 3</b>	If you have suggestions for one or more strategic hires please get in touch with the HoS and DoR.	<b>All</b>	<b>ASAP</b>	
<b>Action 15.02.22 – 4</b>	The Chair to present the proposal to SMT.	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Next SMT meeting</b>	

Agenda Item	Reports and Actions	Who	When
1. Minutes from the previous meeting	Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.		
2. Matters arising	Actions and matters arising:  <b>Action 14.12.21 – 1</b> – Completed. <b>Action 14.12.21 – 2</b> – Completed. <b>Action 14.12.21 – 3</b> – Completed. <b>Action 14.12.21 – 4</b> – Completed. <b>Action 14.12.21 – 5</b> – Completed. <b>Action 14.12.21 – 6</b> – On hold while KG is on leave.		

	<p><b>Action 14.12.21 – 7</b> – On hold while KG is on leave.</p> <p><b>Action 14.12.21 – 8</b> – The building risk assessment is ongoing.</p> <p>Matter arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research Management Consultation. The Chair explained that QM is entering a consultation period to centralise the research management in the University. The organigram shows that Elisa Piccaro and Katie Hale will be reporting to S&amp;E Faculty. <b>ACTION:</b> Everyone is encourage to input into the consultation.</li> <li>- The Chair explained that the Faculty is taking more and more power over School decisions. For instance, the Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships that used to be supported by the School now need to be assessed by Faculty and they will decide which ones to put forward, with a possible cap on the number of applications (without cap imposed by the funder). In the most recent round, both SMS candidates were supported by Faculty, but in the future we need to have a detailed plan when submitted these Eols to Faculty in a strategic way, to maximise the chances of success.</li> <li>- The Chair also told the Committee about an initiative to have Research Videos of about 1 min taken to promote the research that is ongoing in the SMS and enhance our visibility. <b>ACTION:</b> Please volunteer to this initiative and have a video taken.</li> <li>- PF commented on the fact that the Faculty is taking power from the School and we need representation at Faculty level to ensure we are represented and we have a say in decisions that will be otherwise taken without taking into account our point of view.</li> </ul>	All	Before 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
3. Update from the Chair	<p>The Chair shared the update on grants applications.</p> <p>It was also noted that Ginestra Bianconi has been awarded a grant by The Alan Turing Institute. This wasn't included in the report as the award was only announced in the morning of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair reported about the 25 strategic hires and the fact that we should aim at at least 2 of these to be in the School.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> If you have suggestions for one or more strategic hires please get in touch with the HoS and DoR.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the new Research Institutes that QM will launch in the coming years. One is already active (DERI). The researchers are still employed by the Schools but their teaching load will be low as these are research intensive positions.</p>	All	ASAP

4. PGR update	<p>AF reported that we are now in recruitment season and interviews are ongoing. The allocation committee is schedule for 22 February 2022.</p> <p>He added that we still have not heard from EPSRC about possible studentships awarded to the School, and so we should only consider one studentship funded by the Minnie Brooke award, but we can also apply for the BAME studentship at the Faculty (we have one application that qualifies for this).</p> <p>A special thanks to Thomas Prellberg and Ian Morris to step in and help with the interviews.</p> <p>AF explained that we have 3 CSC applicants, and that overall we should be in a position to welcome about 12 or 13 students starting in September.</p> <p>AF also commented that a way to enhance the School visibility at QM was to invite Faculty and other Schools to our School PGR day. So far the invitation has been accepted.</p>		
5. Faculty Strategy Update	Discussed in other agenda items (2 and 3).		
6. Impact update	<p>Report via email:</p> <p>Please be reminded that internal funding calls are issued from time to time for impact-related projects. Given our School's recent successes with Research England Policy Impact funding, colleagues should feel encouraged to apply for these opportunities.</p>		
7. A proposal to manage Research Enabling Funds and Flexible Research Funds	<p>AS showed slides that describe a proposal to manage Research Enabling Funds and Flexible Research Funds within the School.</p> <p>Everyone agreed that it would be good to have such a process to best utilise the funds each year.</p> <p>EP added that Faculty is also setting up a process for the funds to be released timely at the start of each financial year.</p> <p>Given that the RC agrees with the proposal, this will be discussed at SMT.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The Chair to present the proposal to SMT.</p>	Chair	Next SMT meeting
8. Industry Lead update	This item will be postponed as KG is on leave.		
9. PDRA rep update	This item will be postponed as the PDRA rep is not present at the meeting.		

10. Any other business	None.		
11. Date of the next meeting	The dates for the next meeting is 19 April 2022.		