

**School of Mathematical Sciences
Research Committee
Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 19 October 2021**

Present: Christian Beck (CB), Alex Clark (AC), Pau Figueras (PF), Alex Fink (AF), Kathrin Glau (KG), Sasha Gnedin (SG), Robert Johnson (RJ), Silvia Liverani (SL), John Moriarty (JM), Abhishek Saha (AS - DDoR), Juan Valiente-Kroon (JVK, Chair, DoR), Linus Wunderlich (LW).

Apologies: Vito Latora (VL).

Secretary: Elisa Piccaro (EP).

Minute	Summary of Agreed Actions	Who	When	Progress
Action 19.10.21 – 1	Committee to provide feedback on the existing set of slides that were presented and shared.	All	ASAP	
Action 19.10.21 – 2	EP to add network and sandpit upcoming events to the regular funding opportunity email.	EP	Regularly	
Action 19.10.21 – 3	HoGs to send EP and KG a list of former PhD students that may be of interest to create a network.	HoGs	ASAP	
Action 19.10.21 – 4	Committee to send feedback to KG about the questionnaire that will be circulated.	All	ASAP	
Action 19.10.21 – 5	HoGs to actively seek for a PDRA rep to replace LW.	HoGs	Before December RC meeting	
Action 19.10.21 – 6	AC to look into the QMUL rule around small equipment to check whether there may be a way for the School to be less strict with it.	AC	ASAP	
Action 19.10.21 – 7	EP/Chair to circulate the QMUL rules around entertainment and specify whether this is also applicable to grant funding.	EP/Chair	ASAP	

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:		

	<p>Action 22.06.21 – 1 has been completed. The seminar room is now used for blended seminars.</p> <p>Action 22.06.21 – 2 it is hard to make work. MJ has looked into this and has worked on booking the seminar room to accommodate as much</p> <p>Action 22.06.21 – 3 This is discussed in the main agenda.</p>		
3. Update from the Chair.	<p>JVK reported on recent grant awards and pipeline, on the Research Associate EPSRC Funding and the Maths DTP 2021 award.</p> <p>A document with details will be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>JVK added that the Maths EPSRC DTP will not be linked to the horizon scanning exercise that is ongoing at Faculty level.</p>		
4. Research Landscape SMS	<p>The deck of slides were shared with the Committee via email and are available via EP or the QMplus intranet page. EP and Mark Jerrum were asked by the Business Development Unit to prepare a deck of slides that would summarise and describe the research in the School. The School receives similar requests every now and then, it is important to have this deck, that they are updated regularly and that the research groups agree with the content included.</p> <p>Action: The Committee is asked to provide feedback on the existing set of slides, to improve the content, and send updates to EP when anything changes.</p> <p>KG and SG asked to update the picture on the Probability and Applications slide, and on the group's research webpage too.</p>		
5. Impact update	<p>JM gave an update on impact. The School estimates three more impact case studies to be developed in the next REF submission, and from previous experience this would need the School to work on about 10 new impact projects. We should encourage industrial engagement and interdisciplinary research to reach this goal.</p> <p>We had a dedicated slot in the last School meeting to share experience from the School and have an introduction to impact from the Faculty manager. We may be able to share more experience at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair added that the current horizon scanning exercise at Faculty level is also linked to interdisciplinary research and would encourage steps towards impact. We should start thinking about organising sandpit activities in the School to enter interdisciplinary work and establish connections with industry businesses.</p> <p>Action: EP to add network and sandpit upcoming events to the regular funding opportunity email so that people get to know about these and may be more involved.</p>		

<p>6. Industry Lead update</p>	<p>KG gave an industry lead update. She described four concrete measures that the School could try to take to improve industry collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish and maintain a network of former PhD students that may be now working in industry. It would be preferable to start with something on the small scale event with one or two presentations online and then maybe a social event. - Questionnaire. Staff that are interested in engaging with industry collaboration can fill the questionnaire (similar approach to the impact questionnaire that we already use in the School). This will help build a database with profiles of academics that are more involved. Focus on people who want and are able to engage. KG has developed two drafts of the questionnaire (one for those who want to use research results to reach out to industry and one for those who already have links with industry). This will be shared with the Committee. - Organise events linked to the Mini-CDTs, open to SMS and DERI fellows (to have more access to companies). - Follow-up Faculty level discussions after events. <p>Action: HoGs to send EP and KG a list of former PhD students that may be of interest to create a network.</p> <p>Action: Committee to send feedback to KG about the questionnaire that will be circulated.</p>		
<p>7. PDRA rep update</p>	<p>The Chair thanked LW for his time on the Research Committee and congratulated him on his appointment in the School as a Lecturer.</p> <p>LW reported that we now need to find a new PDRA rep on the Committee, and that he has tried to advertise the role (he sent to emails to the PDRA mailing list) but to no avail. The number of PDRAs in the School has also recently decreased.</p> <p>Actions: HoGs to talk to the PDRAs in their groups and try to encourage one of them to take on the role of PDRA rep in the Research Committee.</p>		
<p>8. Change of name of the "Geometry & Analysis" research group</p>	<p>The Chair reported that the change of name of the Geometry and Analysis group has been approved by SMT with HoGs.</p> <p>The group will now be called Geometry, Analysis and Gravitation.</p>		
<p>9. Horizon scanning refinement exercise</p>	<p>Horizon Scanning. Already discussed at SMT with HoGs. After the SERAG meeting on 20 October, the call for project will be launched and academics are encouraged to engage with the exercise.</p>		
<p>10. Any other business</p>	<p>PF asked to discuss two AOBs.</p> <p>The first topic is about the purchase of small equipment (i.e., laptops) from grants. He thinks that when a member of staff leaves usually after 3-4 years they should not be asked to return the laptop. This is even</p>		

	<p>more relevant to departure of PDRAs. This has a negative impact on the way we are perceived by other institutions.</p> <p>PF added that QM could look at the lifetime of the laptop and stop tracking it after N years, with N to be decided (3-4?).</p> <p>Other members of the Committee agreed that this should be investigated.</p> <p>KG suggested that in other Institutions, you may receive the laptop on a lease when you leave that Institution. In this way you do not have to ask for it back at the point of departure.</p> <p>AC explained that the reason why the equipment must be returned or bought is because of QM audit trail on all equipment.</p> <p>Action: AC to look into this rule and check whether there may be a way for the School to be less strict with it.</p> <p>The second topic is about entertainment and the cap on spending per person that is imposed by QMUL.</p> <p>PF added that social events have a research component and are often good opportunities to talk about research. It is particularly important now that society is opening up more.</p> <p>Action: Circulate the QMUL rules around entertainment and specify whether this is also applicable to grant funding.</p> <p>AS commented that there are £40 available per person with maximum 3 internal and 1 external guests. So the maximum allowed is 4 person equivalent.</p>		
11. Date of the next meeting	The next meeting will be on 14 December 2021.		