

**School of Mathematical Sciences  
Research Committee  
Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 22 June 2022**

*Present: Alex Clark (AC), Alex Fink (AF), Robert Johnson (RJ), Vito Latora (VL), Silvia Liverani (SL), John Moriarty (JM), Juan Valiente-Kroon (JVK, Chair, DoR).*

*Apologies: Christian Beck (CB), Sasha Gnedin (SG), Abhishek Saha (AS, DDoR), Alex Shestopaloff (ASh), Pau Figueras (PF).*

*Secretary: Elisa Piccaro (EP).*

Agenda Item	Reports and Actions	Who	When
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 19.04.22-1</b> – Nothing reported so far.</p> <p><b>Action 19.04.22-2</b> – We have received some requests. Please remember that this process is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Action 19.04.22-3</b> – No PDRA rep has been identified so far.</p> <p><b>Action 19.04.22-4</b> – Please flag any support needed to <a href="mailto:maths-research@qmul.ac.uk">maths-research@qmul.ac.uk</a></p> <p>The Chair reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPSRC CDT. A call may be launched in the coming months and we are encouraged to think about possible bids from the School. Also, if we can join efforts with other Schools in the Faculty, this would increase the chances of success to make a strong case. This may be a demand management call with QM only able to submit a couple of strong proposals, so it is important to prepare and talk to colleagues across the Faculty.</li> <li>• Upcoming call for Future Leaders Fellowship. QM will be able to submit up to six applications, so encourage researchers to apply. We already have two potential internal SMS candidates, more will be welcome.</li> <li>• Deadline MSCA fellowship in September. This is a reminder that these fellowships are a good way of bringing fellows to QM, and that the academic supporting the fellow will be the PI of the grant. We have been successful with the scheme in</li> </ul>		

	<p>previous years, so please contact Natalie Nestorowicz <a href="mailto:n.nestorowicz@gmul.ac.uk">n.nestorowicz@gmul.ac.uk</a> in the EU unit and <a href="mailto:maths-research@gmul.ac.uk">maths-research@gmul.ac.uk</a> to start the pre-award process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSC. SMS has been successful with two applications this year (out of 5, but two withdrew). We encourage academics to support these applications to attract more students to the School. We could have applied for more this year as our quota was 14. QM students are eligible as long as they are Chinese nationals.</li> <li>• Martin Knight, Dean for Research S&amp;E, sent an email about procurement delays. The email will be forwarded to the HoGs. Please give your input if possible.</li> </ul>		
<p>3. Update from the Chair</p>	<p>The Chair reported that this is the last RC meeting of the year.</p> <p>Joyce Jones will cover the Research Management in the SMS until a replacement for Elisa is appointed.</p> <p>Elisa reported that some academics have been pro-active in recent weeks with getting a draft budget produced on Worktribe for various schemes. They have the details of the project numbers, and a direct link to the draft budget. Most of these are not ready with a complete draft but this will come later.</p> <p>We have a few awards that are in the setup stage, with agreements being signed and JRMO progressing these as fast as possible.</p> <p>EPSRC is suffering long delays with awards. Results are still not disclosed for the panel that happened on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</p> <p>The Chair shared the slides that were already shown in the Town Hall meeting and reminded the Committee that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Researchers are encouraged to apply for external funding (not just EPSRC);</li> <li>- Academics should try to engage with the Faculty Research Themes and QM Research Highways;</li> <li>- A Faculty strategy for allocating studentships next year is not available yet;</li> <li>- In May we received our REF results, and in the coming months the School will review the results and write an action plan.</li> </ul> <p>The slides from the Chair will be circulated with the minutes.</p>		
<p>4. PGR update</p>	<p>AF gave the following update on PGR matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The School secured two CSC studentships (already mentioned above);</li> <li>• EPSRC CDT call expected (as above);</li> <li>• There have been discussions about ways to support PGR students using the remaining FRF. Funding may be used to fund more internships and/or top up PhD stipend for students who do not receive studentships at the level of EPSRC. This may be</li> </ul>		

	<p>possible by working for a few hours a week on specific EDI projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As already mentioned we do not yet know what the Faculty will be doing with studentships allocation for the next year, so we need to wait to find out. However, the general strategy may be to support researchers with active grants. We may want to assess our poor environment results from the REF to request support from Faculty to get more students in certain areas. This may be a challenge.</li> </ul>		
5. Impact update	<p>JM gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanks to everyone involved with the REF. We are satisfied with the our 50% impact case studies that have were judged 4*.</li> <li>Special thanks to the authors of our impact case studies and internal school support.</li> <li>Looking ahead. We have one new ICS from Lucas Lacasa. It is very promising. It has a good reach so far and we need to work on significance. There is time to improve on this and work on other case studies in the coming years.</li> </ul>		
6. Industry Lead update	<p>The Chair reported that Alex Shestopaloff is the SMS new Industry Lead.</p> <p>Unfortunately Alex wasn't able to join the meeting but sent the following update:</p> <p>(1) Together with Greg Slabaugh (Director of DERI at QM), we aim to set up an industry event for later in the year, tentatively focused on robotics-oriented companies, with the goal of attracting studentships and KTP projects.</p> <p>(2) Business Development Team will be hosting a KTP event on 7<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>(3) A recently funded studentship from external partner was supported by Faculty with a partial fee waiver between home and international fees.</p> <p>(4) Alex is currently recruiting a PhD student funded by Delphia.</p> <p>(5) Alex has also secured funding by Innovate UK KTP in collaboration with Wise. A researcher will be hired and the company will be adding a market supplement.</p> <p>(6) For the future the focus will be on KTP projects, and studentships, as alternative ways of funding PGR students and researchers.</p>		
7. PDRA rep update	<p>The Research Committee is still missing a PDRA rep. HoGs should encourage PDRAs to take on the role of rep and/or to report any problems to their HoG.</p>		

8. Any other business	<p>Managed Laptops. The Chair reported that QM is moving towards having all laptops (whether bought by the School or grants) managed. Self-managed machines are now an exception and you need to make a case to have one. We are aware that people using operating systems other than Windows are finding it difficult at the moment.</p> <p>RJ reported that the British Combinatorial Conference 2024 may be hosted at QM. He has had initial discussions with AC and Jo Young and they are enthusiastic about this possibility. Dates are not yet confirmed.</p> <p>The Chair added that we should encourage conferences, and similar events to be at QM. This would increase visibility of our research, and our nice building.</p>		
9. Date of the next meeting	<p>The dates for the next meetings will be circulated in the coming weeks. The next meeting will be in October 2022.</p>		