

## Research Committee

### Notes from the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

*Present: Yan Fyodorov (Chair), Christian Beck, Michael Farber, Alexander Gnedin, Bill Jackson, Wolfram Just, Boris Khoruzhenko, Vito Latora, Robert Wilson*

*Apologies: Cho-Ho Chu*

*Secretary: Jo Young*

Minute	Summary of Agreed Actions	Who	When	Progress
23.11.15-3	HoGS to advise on staff intending to submit grant applications – including timescales.	HoGs	Ongoing	
23.11.15-3	All members to discuss potential methods of developing a platform grant.	All members	Ongoing	
23.11.15-4	HoGS to ensure that staff co-operate with Dr Vermeulen with regard to impact discussions.	HoGs	Ongoing	
23.11.15-5	HoGs to reflect on the exercise and submit their comments and recommendations to the Chair as soon as possible.	HoGs	By 18 <sup>th</sup> December	

Agenda Item	Reports, Discussions and Actions	Who	When
1. Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2015 were approved.		
2. Matters Arising	No matters arising were raised.		

<p>3. Research Strategy: progress report</p>	<p><b>REPORTED:</b></p> <p>a) The Head of School’s research strategy update gives a report on progress against plan. We are broadly on target with regard to staff numbers but lacking in a number of areas, including working with industry, impact generation and number of PhD students.</p> <p>b) Although we are broadly on target for staff numbers there were a number of comments relating to whether we should be appointing in new areas/at the boundary of groups or within groups. Differing views are present on this topic.</p> <p>c) That how we present our vacancies in terms of position name could have an impact on perception by potential candidates.</p> <p>d) Recent or newly appointed staff account for a significant proportion of our research grant income in 2014/15 (63%).</p> <p>e) It is still difficult for the School to track staff who potentially may be submitting grant applications; Heads of Group are critical in this process.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> HoGS to advise on staff intending to submit grant applications – including timescales.</p> <p>f) It is clear that the new Faculty Vice Principal, Professor Edmund Burke, is highly focused on our research position. He would like the School to progress an application for a large grant such as a platform grant of £2M+. For every such grant the Faculty will invest in up to 6 studentships.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> All members to discuss potential methods of developing a platform grant.</p>	<p>HoGS</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4. Impact: progress report</p>	<p><b>REPORTED:</b></p> <p>At a recent PAR (Planning and Accountability Review) meeting with the Faculty, the Senior Executive Group were challenged on our strategy on supporting impact and identifying potential case studies. The School has been asked to report back on this in January 2016. Our new Research Manager, Dr Reiko Vermeulen, will be involved in canvassing academics via a brief impact questionnaire.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> HoGS to ensure that staff co-operate with Dr Vermeulen.</p>	<p>HoGs</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>5. Aspirational journals analysis</p>	<p><b>REPORTED:</b></p> <p>a) That only 17% of our research was rated as 4* quality in REF2014, which does not concur with the view we hold about ourselves. However, we are very firmly a 3* department.</p> <p>b) Therefore an analysis has been undertaken between where we are publishing compared with the top 10 REF performers. On average REF panellists have c.15 minutes to consider each output and therefore it may be the case that they apply metrics such as their perception of journal quality to the process.</p> <p>c) The Chair had previously requested information from Heads of Group on the best quality journals in their area. The Chair determined how many occurrences each of the top 10 REF institutions had in each journal compared to our performance.</p> <p>d) Some members queried why other metrics were not used as part of the exercise such as the ARC rankings, impact factor and</p>		

	<p>citation counts.</p> <p>e) Another method may be to have a list of aspirational journals for the whole School given that in REF we are measured as a whole entity not as separate groups.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> HoGs to reflect on the exercise and submit their comments and recommendations to the Chair as soon as possible.</p>	<b>HoGs</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>
6. Update on grant applications and success	<p><b>REPORTED:</b></p> <p>a) In a list of Russell Group institutions with EPSRC Maths portfolio funding, the School is 13<sup>th</sup> in this ranking with just over £3.6M (as at October 2015).</p> <p>b) Judged by the amount of spend still available within those active grants, we drop to 17<sup>th</sup> in the list.</p> <p>c) It is the case that the majority of departments above us in the list have fewer but larger grants, including DTCs and platform grants.</p> <p>d) It is acknowledged that such large applications require significant collaboration and development over a lengthy period of time; however, we need to be more prepared for this type of activity.</p>		
7. Group web pages update	<p><b>REPORTED:</b></p> <p>a) That the research group web pages have now all been updated.</p> <p>b) The overarching research pages still require some development.</p>		
8. Any other business	<p><b>REPORTED:</b></p> <p>The School Manager reminded all members that the new Research Manager, Dr Reiko Vermeulen, starts on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Her working days will be Monday-Thursday and she will be meeting key staff as part of her induction to the role.</p>		
9. Date of next meeting	<p><b>REPORTED:</b></p> <p>That the next meeting of Research Committee will be held at 13:00 – 15:00 on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.</p>		