Present
Professor Julian Swann (Chair), Professor Michael Thomas, Dr Rosie Cox, Professor Anthony Bale, Professor John Kraniauskas, Professor Hallvard Lillehammer, Professor Alex Poulavassilis, Professor George Christodoulides, Mr Paul Turnbull, Dr Maya Topf

Apologies for absence
Professor Stephen Frosh, Professor Martin Eve

By invitation
Dr Louise Owen, Dr Fintan Walsh, Mr David McElroy, Professor Mark Johnson, Dr Angelica Ronald, Dr Nadine El-Enany, Dr Sarah Keenan, Dr Luca Andriani, Dr Frederica Rossi, Professor Matt Cook

In attendance
Dr Sarah Lee, Mr Robert Atkinson, Ms Liz Francis, Mrs Rabinder Bery, Ms Roisin Lynch, Mrs Katharine Bock

1 MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE
Received and confirmed
1.1 The Membership and Terms of Reference of the Research Committee 2016-17 (RC 2016 01)

2 MINUTES
Received and confirmed
2.1 The minutes of the Research Committee 4 May 2016.

3 REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD
Received and confirmed
3.1 The report made to the Academic Board following the meeting of the Research Committee 4 May 2016 (RC 2016 02)

4 CHAIR’S REPORT
Noted
4.1 The proposal to include a centralised research budget within the 2016/17 planning round has been approved.

4.2 It was reported that the UCL- Bloomsbury ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) bid, including Birkbeck and partner institutions, has been successful. The DTP has been awarded 41 studentships, which will be advertised in due course.
4.3 The call for the next AHRC block grant competition is expected in November and the College will be part of the CHASE consortium which will be led by the University of Sussex.

4.4 In the aftermath of the Brexit vote applications for European research funding are ongoing. Members agreed that a formal communication from the College should be sent to research staff to encourage European grant applications and collaboration with European colleagues.

**Action**

4.5 The PVM-R will send an email to the College’s research staff encouraging them to apply for European research grants and to collaborate with European colleagues.

**Noted**

4.6 The College will be centrally coordinating applications to the Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship Scheme. The scheme provides funding for three year postdoctoral fellowships which will be match funded between the College and the Leverhulme.

4.7 The College’s application for the next round of ISSF funding was successful. The College has been awarded 300K per year, which will be match-funded, for up to 5 years with a review after 3 years.

5 **RESEARCH CENTRES**

**Noted**

5.1 The College’s rolling review of Research Centres *(RC 2016 03)*

5.2 The Research Committee reviewed five Research Centres:

- Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre *(RC 2016 04)*
- Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development *(RC 2016 05)*
- Bloomsbury Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Statistics *(RC 2016 06)*
- Birkbeck Centre for Innovation Management Research *(RC 2016 07)*
- Raphael Samuel History Centre *(RC 2016 08)*

**Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre**

5.3 The Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre was established in 2007. It is a space in which theatre makers, critics and audiences gather to share knowledge, ideas and practices relating to contemporary theatre and performance.

5.4 The centre maintains strong working relationships with its artist fellows who are free to use the facilities of the centre and who in turn offer talks, workshops and masterclasses in their areas of expertise. The centre runs a variety of events for both academic colleagues and the public.

5.5 The centre is engaged in external collaboration with Camden’s People’s Theatre on three festivals. This collaborative work has been highlighted to the School’s Impact Officer as potentially leading to impact case studies.

5.6 It was noted that all members of the centre are from the School of Arts, it was suggested that membership be expanded to include colleagues from other Schools.
Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development

5.7 The Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development was established in 1998, and is currently planning for its 20th anniversary.

5.8 It is one of the larger Birkbeck research centres with involvement from approximately 75 academic staff, some of whom are based at UCL or King’s College.

5.9 The mission of the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development is to investigate relations between postnatal brain development and changes in perceptual, cognitive, and linguistic abilities from birth through childhood and late adulthood.

5.10 Research is intrinsically multidisciplinary and involves behavioural testing, ERP, fMRI, NIRS, and computational neural network modelling with typically and atypically developing children as well as adult patient populations.

5.11 The centre receives a significant proportion of its funding from EU sources and so the potential implications of ‘Brexit’ are of some concern and alternatives are under active consideration.

5.12 Members heard that many of the small contracts the centre is involved in are more for the benefit of building relationships than for funding.

5.13 Representatives of the centre requested a College wide vehicle for processing small funds and were informed that the new ISSF funding allows for investment in institutional capacity.

Bloomsbury Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Statistics

5.14 The Bloomsbury Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Statistics is a collaborative centre across the Bloomsbury Colleges concerned with genetic research. Birkbeck joined the group in 2012.

5.15 Members of the centre’s executive committee met recently over the summer to consider its current position; the Director of the centre will shortly be taking a new post in another university, and there are some long term sickness issues amongst members of the executive committee.

5.16 It was agreed that the activities of the centre would be suspended for the 2016-17 academic year, with a view to relaunching in 2017-18.

Approved

5.17 The suspension of the activities of the Bloomsbury Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Statistics for 2016-17.

5.18 The nature of the 2017-18 relaunch will depend on the outcomes of the academic staff recruitment efforts of the constituent Colleges, and the motivations and interests of new staff.

5.19 It was noted that if recruitment efforts over the coming year do not yield satisfactory candidates for the continuation of the centre in its current form Birkbeck may
consider an independent relaunch, with invitations for collaboration being extended to any remaining members from the other Bloomsbury Colleges.

5.20 It was confirmed that the funds Birkbeck contributes to the centre are held at UCL and will be frozen for the duration of the suspension.

**Action**

5.21 The PVM-R will confirm with UCL the exact configuration of the finances of the centre.

**Noted**

5.22 The centre will be reviewed again by the Birkbeck Research Committee in October 2017.

**Birkbeck Centre for Innovation Management Research**

5.23 The Birkbeck Centre for Innovation Management Research was established in 2008. The centre’s research portfolio draws on a variety of academic disciplines across the fields of management, law, geography, economics and science policy.

5.24 The centre hosts a number of events, including conferences, workshops and seminars. Central objectives of the centre are; to increase the visibility of the research of centre members; to encourage members to work together to submit collaborative research grant applications, and to foster collaboration with external institutions.

5.25 The centre has been awarded a School impact grant and has applied for a college impact grant.

5.26 The centre is looking to increase input from its alumni and has invited several to submit abstracts of their masters dissertations for publication on the centre website.

**Raphael Samuel History Centre**

5.27 The Raphael Samuel History Centre is a collaborative centre between Birkbeck, the University of East London and Queen Mary. Birkbeck has been involved with the centre since 2008.

5.28 The aim of the centre is to encourage the widest possible participation in historical study and debate. To that end the centre has been working with a number of non-academic partners on work concerning the themes of gender, sexuality and radicalism.

5.29 As the success and reputation of the centre has grown it is increasingly being used as a vehicle for impact.

5.30 Moving forwards the centre will be looking to tie in more strongly with teaching provision.

**Proposal to Establish New Research Centres**

Received and noted

5.31 The College guidelines for the establishment of Research Centres (*RC 2016 09*)
Centre for Research on Race and Law

Received and considered

5.32 The proposal to establish a new research centre; the Centre for Research on Race and Law (RC 2016 10)

Noted

5.33 Members considered the proposal to establish the Centre for Research on Race and Law.

5.34 The proposed centre will consolidate the ongoing work of researchers within the School of Law.

5.35 The centre will act as a platform from which applications for grants can be made and events can be organised.

5.36 The centre will be based in the School of Law with academic staff of the School comprising the directorship and executive membership of the centre.

5.37 Proposers have requested this School based model, rather than a cross-College platform so as to ensure that the focus of the centre remains on the importance of law in producing racial and social injustice.

5.38 It was confirmed that an initial start-up grant for the centre will be made available through the School of Law Research Committee.

5.39 Members noted that there may be interest in the work of the centre across other Schools of the College and agreed to discuss outside of the meeting how these networks might be accessed.

Endorsed

5.40 The Research Committee endorsed the proposal to establish the Centre for Research on Race and Law.

Centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies (CPEIS)

Received and considered

5.41 The proposal to establish the centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies (CPEIS) (RC 2016 10a)

Noted

5.42 Members considered the proposal to establish the Centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies (CPEIS).

5.43 The proposed centre will be both interdepartmental and interdisciplinary, working with both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

5.44 A focus of the centre will be creating interdisciplinary impact case studies and enhancing the interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research environment of the College in the areas of political economy and institutional studies.
Members of the centre will be encouraged to work collaboratively to review journal submissions and research grant applications.

As with all centres of the School of BEI the CPEIS will be a virtual centre using the infrastructure of the School and the College.

The CPEIS aims to be financially self-sustaining with both individual and collaborative research grant applications planned.

Endorsed

The Research Committee endorsed the proposal to establish the Centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies.

6 SCHOOL OF BEI ANNUAL REPORT

Received and considered

6.1 The School of BEI Annual Report 2015-16 (RC 2016 11)

Noted

6.2 The AD-R for the School of BEI had been on research leave during the 2015-16 summer term and so submitted the annual report of the School at this, the following meeting of the Research Committee.

6.3 The School of BEI continues to monitor the REF activities of the School via annual departmental research audits and annual academic reviews.

6.4 The School notes an ongoing issue with open access compliance. The need for compliance is regularly communicated to staff.

6.5 Each department within the School is currently monitoring a number of emerging impact case studies, the School plans to hold regular consultation days where impact case studies are discussed.

6.6 Members were assured that the research environment of the School is fit for purpose; however, ongoing efforts are being made to improve the reach and impact of the School’s research and enhance the quality and capability of the School to apply successfully for research grants.

7 RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Received and endorsed

7.1 The Research Committee endorsed the College’s suite of Research Data Management Policies (RC 2016 12)

Received and approved

7.2 The Research Committee approved the Open Research Survey Pilot (RC 2016 13)

8 EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Received

8.1 The reports of the Research Grants and Contracts Office:

- Research income 2015-16 (RC 2016 13)
- All research grants current and confirmed (RC 2016 14)
- Grant application 2015-16 (RC 2016 15)
- Grants started 2015-16 (RC 2016 16)

Noted

8.2 The Research Committee received its regular reports from the Research Grants and Contracts Office. It was noted that whilst total research income has gone down the reduction has been slight.

8.3 EU funding has decreased, however funding from charities has notably increased and RCUK funding has remained steady.

8.4 The centralised selection schemes introduced by the College have led to fewer yet higher quality grant applications.

9 AHRC PEER REVIEW COLLEGE NOMINATIONS
Noted

9.1 It was reported that Birkbeck has submitted 9 nominations to the AHRC Peer Review College; 7 for the standard Peer Review College and 2 for the Strategic Review Panel. The College should be informed of the outcome at the end of the autumn term.

10 RESEARCH STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE
Received

10.1 The report of the Research Students Sub-Committee (RC 2016 17)

Noted

10.2 The College continues to work towards defining the College’s needs in regard to research data and commissioning an appropriate software management system.

10.3 The Research Student Sub Committee is reviewing the College’s policies that relate to postgraduate research provision; a report on the implementation of the College Review of PGR Provision will be submitted to the Strategic Planning Committee and the Research Committee in due course (considered by SPC on 19/10/16).

10.4 The RSSC has approved a PhD programme proposal for a Professional PhD in Occupational Health.

11 OPEN ACCESS
Received

11.1 The report of the Open Access Working Group (RC 2016 18)

Noted

11.2 The Open Access working Group recommends that the Research Committee endorse the College signing up to the UK Scholarly Communications License with the next cohort of HEIs at Easter 2017.

11.3 Signing up to the UK Scholarly Communications will transfer ownership of the author’s work from the publisher to the College, which will then voluntarily restore ownership back to the author at the point of submission of a manuscript.
11.4 As signing up to the licence will involve a formal modification to employment contracts a formal consultation with the Unions will take place before the College proceeds.

**Endorsed**

11.5 The Research Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Open Access Working Group; that the College should work towards signing up to the UK Scholarly Communications License with the 2nd cohort of HEIs at Easter 2017.

**Noted**

11.6 The Open Access Working Group recommends that that Research Committee endorse its recommendation that the College should sign up to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA).

11.7 DORA advocates improving the ways in which research outputs are assessed and to move away from metrics-based assessment.

11.8 The declaration recognises that classical metrics can discourage researchers from open access outlets and encourages institutions to assess research outputs in wider terms.

11.9 The College is minded to sign the declaration, however further consideration and approval will need to be sought from HRSPC who will need to consider how the declaration may impact upon recruitment and promotion procedures.

**Endorsed**

11.10 The Research Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Open Access Working Group; that the College should sign up to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA).

**Noted**

11.11 The Open Access Working Group recommends that the Research Committee endorses its recommendation that the College should encourage staff to adopt the ORCID online ID system.

11.12 The system gives each researcher a unique identifier and removes the problem of authors having the same name.

11.13 Increasingly Research Councils are requiring that individuals have an ORCID ID in order to be eligible for funding. ORCID is also HEFCE’s preferred method of entry for REF and this is likely to be part of the upcoming consultation exercise.

**Endorsed**

11.14 The Research Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Open Access Working Group; that the College should encourage staff to adopt the ORCID online ID system.

12 **REF**

Received
The report of the REF Working Party (RC 2016 19)

Noted

The REF Working party has been monitoring the progress of each UoA. Overall UoA Leads are confident at this stage of the REF cycle.

It was reported that whilst engagement in mentoring schemes is encouraged across the Schools this is not a mandatory requirement and finding mentors for more senior members of staff can pose a challenge.

During summer 2016 the Stern Report was published. The report made 12 official recommendations. Members agreed that if the recommendations are accepted by the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation the College will be in a strong position to comply with the REF 2021 requirements as outlined in the Stern Report.

The PVM-R, the Head of Research Strategy Support, and the HR Strategy and Policy Partner met on 13th September 2016 to complete the mid-point REF Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). It was confirmed that the processes and specific issues identified in the REF2014 EIA are in place or have been addressed.

Work is ongoing towards the College’s application for the HR Excellence in Research Award in 2017.

It was reported that the HR department is looking to increase departmental applications to the Athena Swan award, and is considering submission for the Race Equality Charter Mark and Stonewall. Successful submissions to these schemes will be beneficial for the environment component of the REF and for the College as a whole.

The Head of Research Strategy Support and the College Impact Officers held a successful Impact Masterclass in September 2016. The event saw a good turnout of academic staff and positive feedback. It is hoped that further impact events will be held on a termly basis moving forwards.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

Received


Noted

Over the summer vacation the Research Strategy Group conducted a virtual meeting to consider the College’s submission to the British Academy’s Postdoctoral scheme.

The College received 10 applications and chose 4 to support though to submission to the British Academy.

The use of the Research Strategy Group as an internal selection panel for such applications has been favourably received and it has furthered the strategic research aims of the College.
14 PHD STUDENTSHIP ADVERT
Noted
14.1 Members noted that the generic Birkbeck PhD Studentship is now live on www.findaphd.com

15 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH IMPACT
Received and noted
15.1 The report of the Public Engagement and Research Impact Committee (RC 2016 21)

16 DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING
Noted
16.1 The dates of the next meetings of the Research Committee:
   ● Thursday 9 February 2017, at 2pm
   ● Wednesday 24 May 2017, at 2pm