Minutes

Summary

These are the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of 18 January 2013.

Recommended Action

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes.

Trevor Pearce
April 2013
MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
18 January 2013

Present:
Professor Stephen Frosh [Chair], Dr Rick Cooper, Professor Li Wei, Professor Marjorie Lorch,
Professor Roger Luckhurst, Lydia Marmostein, Dr Stewart Motha, Professor Alex Poulovassilis,
Professor Sasha Roseneil, Dr Maya Topf

Apologies:
Professor John Kelly

In attendance:
Robert Atkinson (Director of Library & Media Services), Liz Francis (Head, Research Grants &
Contracts), Trevor Pearce (Deputy Academic Registrar), Colin Higgins (Research Student Unit),
Professor Miriam Zukas (for item 18), Monica Law (Head of Marketing and Recruitment), Julie
Radcliffe (School Manager, School of Science)

15 MINUTES RC15 (2012/13)
Received and confirmed:
15.1 The minutes of the meeting of 11 October 2012.

16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Noted:
16.1 (i) That the Institute of Criminal Research had submitted a detailed report on its recent
activities to the Chair of the Committee;

(ii) that a template form had been created and circulated for Research Centre Reviews and
School Committee Reports.

17 REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD RC16 (2012/13)
Received:
17.1 The Report of the Research Committee to the ABExCo meeting of 24 October 2012 and
the Academic Board Meeting of 15 November 2012.

Noted:
17.2 That the recommendation of the Committee to approve the revised Policy on Maternity
Leave for Research Students had been endorsed by ABExCo and approved by Academic
Board.

18 RESEARCH CENTRES

CRITERIA FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESEARCH CENTRES RC17 (2012/13)
Received and noted:
18.1 The criteria for the approval of new Research Centres within the College.

THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER
EDUCATION RC18 (2012/13)
Received:
18.2 A proposal to establish the Centre for Social Change and Transformation in Higher
Education.
Reported by Professor Miriam Zukas:

18.3 That the College had a strong research profile in this area; the School was now seeking to establish a location to bring research and research students working in social change and transformation in higher education together. The Centre’s work would not duplicate research undertaken at the Institute of Education, and the aims of the Centre were strongly aligned to the mission of the College.

Agreed:

18.4 The Committee recommended approval of the proposal for the establishment of a Centre for Social Change and Transformation in Higher Education.

**Birkbeck Centre for Applied Macroeconomics RC19 (2012/13)**

Received and noted:

18.5 A proposal to establish the Birkbeck Centre for Applied Macroeconomics which was recommended for approval on behalf of the Committee by chair’s action and approved by Academic Board in November 2012.

**Research Centre Review RC20 (2012/13)**

Received:

19.1 Activity reports from Research Centres of the College.

Noted:

19.2 (i) That the London Knowledge Lab had held numerous events in 2011/12 and released a number of publications. The centre would be looking expand its collaborative research in 2012/13 and was already developing collaborations with colleagues from the Department of Psychological Sciences;

(ii) that the Centre for the Study of British Politics and Public life had been an active centre in 2011/12;

(iii) that the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism had maintained a high level of public activity;

(iv) that each Research Centre Review should be presented to the appropriate School Research Committee before being presented to the Research Committee.

**Research Excellence Framework RC21 (2012/13)**

Received:

20.1 An update on developments at College and national level in relation to the Research Excellence Framework.

Noted:

20.2 That the selection of staff exercise was nearing completion and that a report on staff included and excluded in the REF 2014 submission would be submitted for approval by the REF Working Party to the Executive Deans and the Master.

**Research Strategy RC22 (2012/13)**

Received:

21.1 A paper on the College’s efforts to identify impediments to the recruitment and retention of high quality staff.
21.2 The Committee suggested that new academic staff were surveyed on their reasons for choosing Birkbeck after accepting a job offer as well as the survey of current staff proposed in the paper.

22 DEMAND MANAGEMENT RC23 (2012/13)
Received:
22.1 A report from the ESRC on the operation of their Demand Management programme.

Noted:
22.2 (i) That the College had reduced the number of grant applications to the ESRC by 37% but that the success rate had increased to 33%;

(ii) that School Research Committees would be asked to review their application process and report on them to the Research Committee at its May meeting to ensure that the College had an oversight of the processes.

23 RESEARCH STUDENT MATTERS RC24 (2012/13)
Received:
23.1 The report from the Research Student Sub-Committee meeting of 8 November 2012.

Agreed:
23.2 The Committee endorsed the recommendations to amend the Maternity Leave Policy and establish the Policy on International Students and Write Up / Examination Only status to Academic Board.

Noted:
23.3 The view that the College should seek independent legal advice on the requirement that research students should have 10 academic contact points each term.

24 OPEN ACCESS RC25 (2012/13)
Received:

Reported by the Pro-vice Master (Research)
24.2 That the key principle for the College was to ensure compliance with research council rules while also ensuring that researchers had the freedom to publish in the journals in which they judged the work belonged.

Noted:
24.3 (i) That, from April 2013, RCUK will require that publications arising from research funded by the should appear in open access journals, although this will be phased in over a five year period. It was clear that the open access agenda would involve extra cost the College, but it was not clear how much this cost would be.

(ii) that it was currently being proposed by HEFCE that publications submitted to the REF 2020 would be required to be available by open access.

Agreed:
24.4 To endorse the recommendations:

• To locate responsibility for the management of RCUK Open Access Funds within Research Grants & Contracts Office (RGCO);
• That researchers with RCUK contracts should report expenditure to the RGCO;
• That any research including a RCUK component should enable the researcher to draw on the fund;
• That the RGCO would report monthly on this expenditure;
• That less profitable Schools would have the same opportunity to publish in the best outlets;
• That the process be put in place for 1 April 2013.
• That the process be reviewed by the Research Committee in Summer 2015

25 OPEN ACCESS WORKING GROUP RC26 (2012/13)
Received and noted:
25.1 A report on meetings of the Open Access Working Group meetings of Autumn 2012.

26 DATA MANAGEMENT AND DATA SHARING RC27 (2012/13)
Received:
26.1 A report from the Data Management and Data Sharing Working Group.

Reported by the Chair of the Data Management and Data Sharing Working Group:
26.2 That the key points of the draft Policy were to ensure that the metadata describing the data held was accessible for all interested parties and that a College Officer should be nominated with responsibility for managing the data in accordance with EPSRC and other research council guidelines.

Noted:
26.3 That further information regarding whether an in-house data management system or a national archive should be used to store research metadata would follow.

27 SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE RC28 (2012/13)
Received:
27.1 A proposal to amend the baseline terms of reference of School Research Committees with reference to research ethics.

Agreed:
27.2 The Committee approved the amendment.

28 SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORTS RC29 (2012/13)
Received and noted:
28.1 The regular reports from the School Research Committees.

29 EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS RC30i-iv (2012/13)
Received and noted:
29.1 The regular statistical reports regarding research grant application numbers and the value of research grants held by the College.

30 FUTURE MEETINGS
Noted:
30.1 That the next meeting of the Committee had been set for 2 May 2013.

Signed________________________________________
Date_________________________________________