MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
12 January 2010

Present:
Professor Stephen Frosh (Pro-Vice Master for Research; Chair), Professor Esther Leslie, Dr Dorigen Caldwell, Dr Tracey Barratt, Professor Alexandra Poulouvasillis, Professor John Kelly, Dr John Kraniauskas, Professor Martin Eimer, Professor Sasha Roseneil, Professor Michelle Evison, Professor Li Wei, Professor Patrick Hanafin, Dean Pateman, Jane Stephenson (vice Tricia King), James Emmott (vice Mukesh Bhatt)

Apologies for absence:
Dr Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Keith Harrison

In attendance:
Carla Bull (Registry Officer), Robert Atkinson (Deputy Librarian), Liz Francis (Head, Research Grants & Contracts), Trevor Pearce (Head of Academic Services),

21. MINUTES RC21 (2009/10)
Confirmed:
21.1 The Committee confirmed the minutes from the meeting of 13th October 2009

22. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES RC22 (2009/10)
Noted:
22.1 (i) that, following the addition of Dr Walter Beckert and Professor Philip Powell to the management committee of the Commodity Finance Centre, the proposal to formally establish the Centre had been recommended for approval on behalf of the Committee by chair’s action. The proposal would now go to Academic Board at its February meeting;

(ii) that the first meeting of the College Research Strategy Working Group, now fully convened, would take place 20th January 2010;

(iii) that the College had now been informed by the MRC that its application for a Doctoral Training Grant for 2010/11 had been unsuccessful.

23. REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD RC23 (2009/10)
Noted:
23.1 (i) that the Academic Board had confirmed that the dry run for the REF would take place in Autumn 2010. The Ref Working Party and Support Group would continue to work on the specifications and date for this exercise;
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(ii) that the revised procedure for the appointment of research degree examiners had been adopted and was being implemented from the start of the Spring Term 2009/10

24  **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
Noted:
24.1 that the Chairman had met with School Research Committees and Assistant Deans (Research), and held fruitful discussions on the development of College and School research strategies

25  **RESEARCH CENTRES RC24 (2009/10)**
Noted:
25.1 (i) the guidelines for approval for College Research Centres
Noted:
25.2 (i) a proposal to establish a new Centre for Law and the Humanities **RC25 (2009/10)**
(ii) that the Centre would help to establish an international reputation, both for the Law School and the College, by working with major international figures and also consolidating existing links with individual departments and schools
(iii) that the conjunction between law and humanities had enjoyed a recent surge of interest, both from prospective students and also from the US; the School of Law considered this to be an area of significant potential growth for the College.

Agreed:
25.3 The Committee recommended the establishment of the Centre for Law and the Humanities to Academic Board.

26  **RESEARCH CENTRE REVIEW RC26 (2009/10)**
Noted:
26.1 The Committee commended the continuing work undertaken within the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues and the Institute of Structural Molecular Biology.

Agreed:
26.2 that the Institute of the Environment and the Centre for Intellectual Property Rights had been incorrectly designated as research centres; no reports from these units was required by the Committee.

27  **REF RC27 (2009/10)**
Noted:
27.1 (i) that the Dry Run had now been confirmed for Autumn 2010; this would involve a review of outputs rather than a review of impact or of other narratives;
(ii) that HEFCE had established a pilot study on impact, which was due to report in June 2010.

(iii) that Cambridge University had produced a report on the impact of research undertaken within that University; the College would consider the best way to develop its communication on impact once plans for assessing impact were clearer; the REF Working Party and College Research Strategy Working Group would keep this issue under review.

28. COLLEGE RESEARCH SCHOOL REVIEW RC28i(2009/10) and RC28ii(2009/10)

Noted:

28.1 (i) that the College Research School Review Group submitted its interim report, outlining broad principles for future direction of the School, but noting that there would be further discussion on resources;

(ii) that the Review Group had proposed that a Research Student Sub-Committee be established, to report to Research Committee, taking on responsibility for research student matters.

Agreed:

28.2 The Committee endorsed the interim report of the Review Group and recommended the approval of the proposal for the establishment of a Research Student Sub-Committee to Academic Board.

29. POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY RC29 (2009/10)

Noted:

29.1 the analysis and results received from the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey.

Agreed:

29.2 to approve the proposal to undertake further analysis of questions relating to financial support and teaching opportunities.

30. RESEARCH ETHICS RC31(2009/10)

Noted:

30.1 (i) that research involving sensitive topics should not necessarily be included in the list of research classified as “non-routine”;

(ii) that some research councils required College level approval to come from a committee chaired by a member “independent of the College”; this would not normally include a lay governor.

Agreed:

30.2 that the proposals for College handling of research ethics be approved, subject to the minor amendments noted above.
31. LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH RC32 (2009/10)  
Noted  
31.1 the report on library support for research.

32. RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS RC33 (2009/10)  
Noted:  
32.1 The reports from the group overseeing the College’s application for ESRC Doctoral Training Centre status and the AHRC Block Grant Partnership Committee

33. SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES RC35 (2009/10)  
Noted:  
33.1 The reports from School Research Committees, including the use by schools of funding to support conference attendance.  
   Agreed:  
33.2 To confirm the amendments to the terms of reference for the School of Social Sciences, History & Philosophy’s School Research Committee; these revised terms of reference would be referred to the other School Committees with a view to their adoption elsewhere.

34. CAREER AND SKILLS TRAINING (ROBERTS) PAYMENTS RC36 (2009/10)  
Noted:  
34.1 the annual report to HEFCE on the use of Career and Skills Training (Roberts) payments.

35. POSTGRADUATE REVIEW RC37 (2009/10)  
Noted:  
35.1 The response of the College to the consultation on the Postgraduate Review, announced by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in Autumn 2009.

36. EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS RC38i-iv (2009/10)  
Noted:  
36.1 the following reports from the Research Grants and Contacts Office:  
   RC38/i All Research projects current or confirmed  
   RC38/ii Research projects starting in 2009/2010  
   RC38/iii Grant applications 2008/9  
   RC38/iv Grant applications 2009/10

37. FUTURE MEETINGS IN 2009/10  
Noted:  
37.1 that the next meeting of the Committee would be 13th May 2010.

Signed________________________________________________________

Date _________________________________________________________