MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
15 October 2013

Present:
Professor Li Wei, Professor John Kraniauskas, Professor Roger Luckhurst, Professor Sasha Roseneil, Professor Stephen Frosh [Chair], Professor Marjorie Lorch, Professor Alex Poulavassilis, Dr Oscar Guardiola-Rivera, Dr Maya Topf

In attendance:
Robert Atkinson (Director of Library & Media Services), Dean Pateman (Academic Registrar), Julie Radcliffe (Science School Manager), Liz Francis (Head of Research Grants & Contracts), Elaine Pankhurst (PA to the Academic Registrar), Katharine Bock (Head of Governance and Corporate Support) Dr Aoife Monks (for item 7), Professor Mark Johnson (for item 7)

1 MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (RC 2013 01)
Received:
1.1 the membership for the Committee for 2013-14, together with the Terms of Reference;
Noted:
the committee confirmed the membership and terms of reference with the following amendments:

(i) the clause on research ethics should not be removed from its Terms of Reference but should be amended to read “advise Academic Board and Governors on ethical matters related to the College’s research, in accordance with the College’s Procedures for Ethical Review in liaison with the College Ethics Committee”;
(ii) the College Research School was renamed the Birkbeck Graduate Research School in 2010.

2 MINUTES
Received:
2.1 the minutes of the meeting 2 May 2013.
Confirmed:
2.2 the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2013.
Matters arising:
(i) Katharine Bock to follow up 32.1 (i) “That the School Research Committees had yet to review and report their grant application process after the introduction of the ESRC Demand Management programme”;
(ii) 35.2 Miriam Zukas confirmed that the International Centre for Education & Democratic Citizenship should now be re-designated as a Research Centre of the Institute of Education and should no longer report to this committee;
(iii) 38.2 (i) Research Grants Office to re-circulate guidance notes to RCUK grant holders of the availability of Open Access funds.
6  RESEARCH CENTRES
Received:
6.1  the proposal to establish a Centre for Medical Humanities (RC 2013 04).

Noted:
6.2  plan to apply for small Wellcome Trust grant now then serious investigative award in 2015. Collaborations with medical schools will bring in NHS related funds. Schools of Law and Social Sciences to provide Roger Luckhurst with names of staff working on health. Proper structure for archiving of material to be considered.

Agreed:
6.3  proposal to go to ABEXCO for approval.

7  RESEARCH CENTRE REVIEW
Received:
7.1  the schedule for the Committee’s rolling review of Research Centres (RC 2013 05).

Noted:
7.2  the review of the Birkbeck Institute (PVM –R) will move from January 2014 to the summer 2014.

Agreed:
7.3  the schedule and the template for use in 2013-14 to be re-circulated to Centre Directors and copied to ASMs Research.

Received:
7.4  Reports from Research Centres (RC 2013 06).

Noted:
7.5  that the Birkbeck Research in Aesthetics of Kinship and Culture Centre had been very active in 2012-13 and a continuing series of public events is planned for 2013-14. Resourcing for archiving of material to be considered.

7.6  that the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre had been very active in 2012-13. A series of research fellowships had been appointed in 2012-13 and in 2014 another 5 appointments will be made. Resourcing for archiving of material to be considered.

7.7  that the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development should be commended for the number of Research Grants awarded. Professor Mark Johnson happy to share tips on clinical collaborations. The new Centre for Medical Humanities may be a possible link. No official job titles exist to recognise long term career research fellows; it was agreed that this would be taken up with the Master. Mark Johnson to email Stephen Frosh with details of his impressions and ideas where help in the College is lacking for Research Centres.

8  REF
Noted:
8.1  College submission date 22 November. Key dates in the submission timetable have been circulated. “REF Wash-up” to be an item on next Agenda.

9  RESEARCH STRATEGY
Agreed:
9.1  invite Keith Harrison and Matthew Innes to the next Research Strategy Group meeting.

10  OPEN ACCESS CONSULTATION
Received:
10.1  Details of the HEFCE Open Access consultation (RC 2013 07).
Noted:
10.2 In response to Question 5 a longer notice period until open access is required would be fairer and level the playing field across all subject disciplines as the interval between submission and publication is not the same for all subject areas.

10.3 Action:
   Stephen Frosh to draft the College response.

11 COLLEGE ETHICS COMMITTEE
Received:
11.1 report on the re-establishment of the College Ethics Committee.
Noted:
11.2 Ethics need to be written into Environment re the REF 2020.

12 RESEARCH STUDENT MATTERS
Received:
12.1 draft Minutes of the Research Student Sub-Committee meeting 30 May 2013 (RC 2013 09).
Matters arising:
   (i) the wording of the first recommendation to be changed to “To amend the regulations for the award of PhD to give examiners the right to specify a time limit for minor corrections to be made, up to a maximum of 12 months for a conditional pass”;
   (ii) consideration to be given to the establishment of a College level panel for the appointment of research degree examiners to replace the current four subject specific panels;
   (iii) Dean Pateman to follow up 32.3 on seeking guidance on practice at other institutions before considering the proposal to amend the practice by which all research students are initially registered as MPhil, to all registrations to be direct PhD.

Signed______________________________________________

Date________________________________________________