MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
2 May 2013

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

Apologies:
Dr Rick Cooper, Dr Stewart Motha

In attendance:
Robert Atkinson (Director of Library & Media Services), Trevor Pearce (Deputy Academic
Registrar), Colin Higgins (Registry Services), Naina Patel (For item 37), Julie Radcliffe (School
Manager, School of Science)

31 MINUTES RC31 (2012/13)
Received:
31.1 The minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2013.

Confirmed:
31.2 The minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2013 with the following amendment:

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

32 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Noted:
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) that the Committee had received an updated response from the Chair of the Data
Management and Data Sharing Working Group clarifying the location for the storage of
research metadata.

33 REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD RC32 (2012/13)
Received:
33.1 The Report of the Research Committee to the ABExCo and Academic Board meeting of 17
January 2013.

Noted:
33.2 (i) That the establishment of the Centre for Social Change and Transformation in Higher
Education had been approved;

(ii) that the recommendations of the Open Access Working Group had been endorsed;

(iii) that the amended Policy on Maternity Leave for Research Students had been adopted;
(iv) that the Policy on International Students and Writing Up / Examination Only status had been referred back for a more detailed policy review relating to writing up status.

34 RESEARCH CENTRES

CRITERIA FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESEARCH CENTRES RC33 (2012/13)
Received and noted:
34.1 The criteria for the approval of new Research Centres within the College.

THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE WORKING LIFE RC34 (2012/13)
Received:
34.2 A proposal to establish the Centre for Sustainable Working Life.

Agreed:
34.3 The Committee recommended approval of the proposal for the establishment of a Centre for Sustainable Working Life.

35 RESEARCH CENTRE REVIEW RC35 (2012/13)
Received:
35.1 Activity reports from Research Centres of the College.

Noted:
35.2 The view that the International Centre for Education & Democratic Citizenship was not now an entity operated from the College, but rather a Research Centre operated by the Institute of Education with support from the College, and as such should not be considered a Birkbeck Research Centre

ACTION: Trevor Pearce to seek clarification from Professor Miriam Zukas as to whether the view of the School was that this Centre should now be redesignated as a Research Centre of the Institute of Education.

36 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK RC36 (2012/13)
Received:
36.1 An update on developments at College and national level in relation to the Research Excellence Framework.

Noted:
36.2 Guidance relating to the inclusion of new staff and staff with updated publication profiles would be circulated to UoA Leads.

37 CONCORDAT TO SUPPORT THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCHERS RC38 (2012/13)
Received:
37.1 A proposal for the College to sign up to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

Noted:
37.2 The College would need to consider the detailed implementation of the Concordat, including further work on issues such as support for principal investigators who become line managers.

Agreed:
37.3 The Committee agreed in principle to recommend approval of the proposal.
38 OPEN ACCESS RC38 (2012/13)
Received:
38.1 A response to HEFCE on the Open Access consultation.

Noted:
38.2 (i) That RCUK open access funds were accessible from 1st April 2013 via the Research Grants Office. 
ACTION: Research Grants Office to notify RCUK grant holders of the availability of Open Access funds.

(ii) that monthly monitoring of the open access funds would identify trends in claim amounts and flag if there was limited take-up of these funds.

39 SUPPORT FOR RESEARCHERS WITH CARING RESPONSIBILITIES RC39 (2012/13)
Received:
39.1 A proposal to establish support for researchers with caring responsibilities.

Agreed:
39.2 The Committee agreed in principle to recommend the proposal; a revised proposal with further detail would follow to the October meeting of the Committee.

40 RESEARCH STRATEGY 2014-17 RC40 (2012/13)
Received:
40.1 A proposal to establish a new College Research Strategy Working Group.

Agreed:
40.2 The Committee agreed to recommend approval of the proposal to Academic Board.

41 RESEARCH STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE RC41 (2012/13)
Received:
41.1 A report from the Research Student Sub-Committee meeting of 27 February 2013.

Agreed:
41.2 The Committee endorsed the proposal to establish an agreement for a joint registration between the School of Law and the Universities of Trento and Geneva.

42 SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES RC42 (2012/13)
Received:
42.1 The regular reports from the School Research Committees.

Agreed:
42.2 That the Committee approved recommendation of the SSHP Research Committee to take a strong public line against the ‘gold access’ route for open access.

43 EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS RC43i-iv (2012/13)
Received:
43.1 The regular statistical reports regarding research grant application numbers and the value of research grants held by the College.

Noted:
43.2
That a complete list of Grant Applications for 2012/13 would be circulated to REF Unit of Assessment Leads after July.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Noted:

44.1 That the date for the next meeting of the Committee would be circulated.

Signed_______________________________________

Date________________________________________