1 TERMS OF REFERENCE
Received and Confirmed
1.1 The Terms of Reference and membership of the Research Committee 2014-15 (RC 2014 01)

2 MINUTES
Received and Confirmed
2.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Research Committee 27 May 2014.

3 REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD
Noted
3.1 The Receipt of the report of the Research Committee following its last meeting by the Academic Board (RC 2014 02)

4 EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS
Noted
4.1 The figure for Iberian studies in the report made to the last meeting had been checked and reconfirmed.

5 ANNUAL ROUND OF BUSINESS SCHEDULE
Noted
5.1 This would be presented at the next meeting of the Research Committee.

6 RESEARCH CENTRES
Received and Confirmed
6.1 The College guidelines for the establishment of Research Centres (RC 2014 03)

Received
6.2 The Schedule for the Committee’s rolling review of Research Centres (RC 2014 04)

Noted

6.3 Attention was drawn to the upcoming Research Centres to be reviewed by January 2015. It was confirmed that reports would be collated in December 2014 from the following centres:

- Centre for Scientific Analysis for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (Science)
- Contemporary Poetics Research Centre (Arts)
- Institute for Criminal Policy Research (Law)
- Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Social Issues (Science)
- London Centre for Corporate Governance

6.4 It was noted that the Commodities Finance Centre (BEI) which had been scheduled for review in October 2014 had not responded to communication and that its review would be rescheduled, with the Chair to be kept updated on all subsequent communication.

6.5 Research Committee reviewed three centres.

- Centre for Law and Humanities (School of Law)
- Centre for Media, Culture and Creative Practice (School of Arts)
- Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies (School of Arts)

The Centre for Law and Humanities

Received

6.6 The report of the Centre for Law and Humanities Research Centre (RC 2014 05)

Noted

6.7 The Centre for Law and Humanities reported a robust schedule of activities, including workshops, seminars and film screenings, all intended to promote research collaboration between the School of Law and humanities subjects such as history, psychoanalysis and film.

6.8 Funding for the Centre comes primarily from the School of Law budget although external funding options would be sought over the next year.

6.9 Overall good cross college links were evidenced by the Centre. The Committee asked the Centre to consider developing links with the Birkbeck Institute for Humanities and the School of Arts.

The Centre for Media, Culture and Creative Practice

Received

6.10 The report of the Centre for Media, Culture and Creative Practice (RC 2014 06)

Noted

6.11 The Centre for Media, Culture and Creative Practice has recently relaunched and is colloquially referred to as ‘the hub’. It is working to a three year plan centred around specific themes - the current theme is ‘ruins’ – in order to provide direction for research and help to streamline events.
The Centre reported increasing engagement with external speakers and a desire to increase cross college participation. The Committee suggested that 1-2 people from outside of the Film, Media and Cultural Studies department should be invited to sit on the Centre’s steering group, with a view to increasing cross college engagement.

The Committee asked the Centre to consider changing its name to something less generic, in order to more clearly signify the nature of its research focus.

Members noted the important role that this centre is currently fulfilling in supporting the development of a departmental research culture in the relatively new Film, Media and Cultural Studies department.

The Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies

The report of the Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies (RC 2014 07)

Noted

The Centre for Nineteenth Century Studies and its open access publication, 19, has recently come under new management and editorship. 19 is an active journal that is about to become part of the Open Library of Humanities. The Centre has a programme of exhibitions, panels, lectures, seminars and other activities, making it a model research centre.

Members were interested to note the Our Mutual Friend reading project, in which the book is being issued on a blog in monthly instalments, in keeping with its original piece by piece publication, with readers interacting through social media.

A proposal to establish a new research centre; the Architecture, Space and Society Network (RC 2014 09)

Noted

The proposal builds on the existing activities and collaboration of six academic staff from the History of Art, History Classics and Archaeology and Film Media and Cultural Studies departments, bringing together research on architecture and space extending across multiple disciplines and across time from pre-history to the present.

The proposed Centre currently has a limited budget but has nevertheless been able to organise termly events with external speakers and develop a reputation in London for hosting interesting outward looking events that connect issues of contemporary relevance to bigger questions and go beyond small areas of the history of architecture to try to elucidate common themes.

Funding for the work of the proposed centre is currently being sought on an ad hoc basis. Whilst research grant applications are being made for the work of individuals within the group, to have a central locus from which to make applications would be advantageous.
6.22 Research Committee supported the proposal, noting its interdisciplinary dimensions and its aim to reach outside the College in terms of collaboration. Members noted that the Centre’s activities could be of interest to colleagues working on urban sociology in the department of Geography, Environment and Development.

**Endorsed**

6.23 The proposal to establish a new research centre; the Architecture, Space and Society Network

7 **RESEARCH STRATEGY**

Considered

7.1 The College Research Strategy 2014-19 *(RC 2014 10)*

**Noted**

7.2 A final draft of the Research Strategy 2014-19 was returned to the Committee following a period of consultation with the Schools and members of the Academic Board. Feedback from this consultation has been overwhelmingly positive and has confirmed the Strategy’s value in capturing the College’s distinctive and highly valued research culture.

7.3 An accompanying operational action plan is being developed and should be available for review by the committee shortly.

7.4 Members noted the need for defined processes and management structures in relation to the next REF. It was particularly highlighted that the selection of Units of Assessment for the REF can be complicated when they involve staff from different parts of the College.

7.5 The Committee confirmed the official result date of the 2014 REF as being the 18 December 2014. It was noted that we would know our results on the 16 December and that they would be discussed at a meeting on the 17 December 2014, with information to cascade down through Executive Deans and School Managers subsequently.

**Endorsed**

7.6 The Research Strategy 2014-19

8 **RESEARCH PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Considered

8.1 A report on the development of institutional performance indicators for research *(RC 2014 11)*

**Noted**

8.2 The committee heard that HEFCE will soon introduce a requirement for HE institutions to submit an annual return confirming their governing body’s opinion that the institution is sustainable and delivering a clear mission and strategy. This is to be done through performance indicators for key aspects of activity including learning and teaching and research as well as financial indicators.
8.3 The committee recognised that HEFCE’s aim to have institutions assess their own sustainability has come at an opportune time for the College, given its current consideration of ‘who we are’ and ‘why we are here.’ This could provide an opportunity to look at our KPI’s and our mission statement and be sure that our stated aims reflect our real ones.

8.4 It was noted that other similar institutions have been utilising KPIs for quite some time and that the College should lend serious weight to this initiative in order to maximise research efficiency and impact.

8.5 The committee considered proposed aims for research against which performance can be measured:
- Research intensiveness across a wide range of subjects
- Research culture attracting distinctive and high quality staff and students

8.6 Members discussed potential measures, including the REF return and outcome, research student staff and student numbers, DTC participation and research grants and contracts. The Committee will keep the development of research performance indicators under review.

9 RESEARCH SUPPORT
Noted
9.1 Preparation for the 2014 REF, and the development of the Research Strategy, has initiated a discussion in the College on whether there is appropriate support for research. Members were updated on the current status of these discussions, which range across research grant and contract management, research student funding, research impact work, national policy agendas and the implementation of the Research Strategy.

9.2 A proposal is under development, and is being discussed with the Executive Deans. Given the diverse range of research taking place across the subject disciplines in the College, proposals for a centralised structure will need to take into account the differing needs of the five Schools.

10 RESEARCH STAFF MANAGEMENT
Noted
10.1 The College has started to consider its arrangements for managing research staff, partly in relation to the research strategy development and partly as a consequence of the national Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers. This will include consideration of the role that Principal Investigators have as managers and what support can be offered for all levels of research staff.

10.2 It was noted that the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy has already produced guidance for Principal Investigators which is generic rather than subject-specific and could be more widely used.

11 OPEN ACCESS
Noted
11.1 The Committee is keeping Open Access on its agenda, as the College will need to respond to HEFCE requirements in this area. An Open Access Research Seminar
open to all staff took place at the end of October, aiming to promote engagement amongst academic and professional support staff.

11.2 Members noted new work and academic appointments in the School of Arts which will promote Open Access. It will report further on this next term.

12 **RESEARCH IMPACT**  
Considered

12.1 HEFCE’s intended use of impact case studies submitted to the REF 2014 *(RC 2014 12)*

Noted

12.2 The Committee discussed the need to heighten the College’s focus on Research Impact and to have a clear reporting and support structure in place. It will ask School Research Committees to ensure the impact strategies that were developed for the REF are enacted. It is likely that the 2020 REF will have higher weightings for research impact.

13 **DATA MANAGEMENT**  
Noted

13.1 Last session Research Committee approved a strategy for research information and storage management. There is now a need to implement this as the better management, storing and sharing of our data will help to maintain funding from research councils and meet the requirements of EPSRC and RCUK.

13.2 Discussions on the resource aspects of this will take place in line with the wider research support and Open Access discussions and the College’s annual planning round.

14 **RESEARCH STUDENTS SUB-COMMITTEE**  
Noted

14.1 The Research Student Sub-Committee will meet on 4 November 2014 and will report to the Research Committee at its Spring Term Meeting.

15 **SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES**  
Noted

15.1 The reports from the School Research Committees from the summer term 2014 meetings:
- School of Arts *(Spoken Report)*
- School of Law *(RC 2014 13)*
- School of Business, Economics and Informatics *(RC 2014 14)*
- School of Science *(RC 2014 15)*
- School of Social Science, History and Philosophy *(RC 2014 16)*

15.2 The Research Strategy 2014-19 will require the School Research Committees to comprehensively report up to the Research Committee on the implementation of aspects of the strategy. Production of an annual business schedule for the Committee, along with the implementation plan for the new research strategy, will help to clarify the areas for School Committee reports to focus on.
16  EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS
Received
16.1  The reports of the Research Grants & Contracts Office:
   • Research income 2013-14 (RC 2014 17)
   • All research grants current and confirmed (RC 2014 18)
   • Grant Applications 2013-14 (RC 2014 19)
   • Grants started 2013-14 (RC 2014 20)

16.2  The Committee received its regular report from the Research Grants and Contracts office. It was pleased to note that the research income for 2013-14 was more than £11M, 20% higher than the previous year.

16.3  EU funding is an area of growth with the College being in receipt of several high value awards: last year EU funding provided greater income than UK Charity funding for the first time.

17  MEETING DATES 2014-15
Noted
17.1  The dates of the meetings of the Research Committee 2014-15
   • Wednesday 4 February 2015, at 2pm
   • Wednesday 13 May 2015, at 2pm