

Research & Enterprise Committee 19 January 2017

Summary of Proceedings

Then fifty ninth meeting of the Research & Enterprise Committee was held at 1400 on 19 January 2017 October 2016. Papers for the meeting are available on the Research & Enterprise Committee webpage [here](#). The Research & Enterprise Committee's proceedings are summarized below. Full minutes will be published on the website once they have been approved by the Committee at its next meeting on 23 March 2017.

Overview of Joint Examiners' report 2015/16

- (a) The Committee received a summary report on the research degree examinations held during 2015/16 which included an analysis of the joint examiners reports provided following viva voce examinations. There had been a large number of resubmissions which needed to be addressed. The feedback from examiners had indicated that students were well prepared for the oral examination but that improvements to the thesis structure were required. It was anticipated that the recent increase in the IELTS level required by international students may help to address this. Further enhancements would be made to the staff and student training programme and the feedback provided would contribute to the Professional Development Programme for Academic Staff.

Annual reports from the research institutes for 2015/16

- (b) The Committee received an annual report from the University Research Institute for Sport, Physical Activity and Leisure (IPSAL) for 2015/16.
- (c) The Committee received a report from the Institute for Health & Wellbeing which provided an update in relation to the Institute for Health & Wellbeing, which given its current state of transition, was being provided instead of an annual report for 2015/16.

Committee Reports

- (d) The Committee received reports summarising the work of the Research Degree Sub-Committee, Research Ethics Sub-Committee and each of the School Academic Committees.

Research Strategies

- (e) The Committee received a presentation and report from each of the Directors of Research which set out: how their school(s) would contribute to delivering the university research KPIs; the key challenges; the proposed direction for the school / unit; their strategy for increasing their REF return and the required level of change associated with the potential options; and their REF audit return as submitted in December 2016.

- (f) The Committee considered the research strategies in detail and a number of challenges which affected many units were identified. These included: the recommendations from the Stern Review, particularly in relation to the number of staff that were not currently research active; improving the quality of research outputs; the research environment, in particular the estate and its facilities; income generation; supervisory capacity and research leadership within units.

Consultation on the second Research Excellence Framework

- (g) The Committee received an update the consultation on the second Research Excellence Framework, which sets out the proposals by the four higher education funding bodies for the assessment of research in UK higher education institutions and incorporated the principles identified in Lord Sterne's Independent Review of the REF. Colleagues were asked to feed comments in to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Enterprise) so that a whole institution response could be provided by the consultation deadline of 17 March 2017. The Chair would also be representing the University at one of the HEFCE Research Excellence Framework Consultation Events in January 2017.