

Research & Enterprise Committee 23 March 2017 - Summary of Proceedings

Outcomes of the Short Life Working Group on Open Access

1. The Committee received a summary of the outcome of the short life working group on open access.

Report from the Director of Research & Enterprise

2. The Committee received a report from the Director of Research & Enterprise on the recent activities of the Research & Enterprise Service over the last period. There were a strong number of successful bids across the research portfolio, and there was increased peer review of the bids being submitted. A comprehensive audit of the University's current Research Excellence Framework (REF) position had been undertaken, based on the requirements of the 2014 review. The number of postgraduate research students had increased and the number of research students completing awards was also rising. Three University Business Centres were being launched over the next 12 months to support the regional engagement strategy. The approach taken to promote the University at the Northern Powerhouse Conference had been positive, with good feedback received in relation to the University's stand and some follow up activity was planned.

Response to the REF Consultation

3. Following consultation with the directors of research and other colleagues across the University, and consideration by the University Executive Team, a response had been submitted to the HEFCE Consultation on the STERN recommendations for changes to the next Research Excellence Framework. The response to the consultation was due in the summer.

Research Strategies – Summary report

4. The Committee received a summary of the eleven strategic research plans that were presented by the directors of research at the Committee's last meeting. A number of investment requests had been identified and these had been grouped into six themes: staff recruitment; research organisation; staff support; research support; research communication; and research environment. A policy judgement would need to be made about how the investment of the strategic funds could best benefit the University as a whole as the allocation of central funding would need to be considered as part of a longer term strategy. Further consideration would be given to possible options at the Committee's next meeting in June.

Proposals for new research centres:

5. The Committee considered proposals to establish a Centre for Psychological Research and a Centre for Dementia Research and recommended to the University Executive Team that the proposed centres be approved. The Committee also considered a proposal to change the name of the new Centre for Creative Practice Research to the Leeds Arts Research Centre and recommended to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Enterprise) that the proposed change be approved.

Research Ethics Policy

6. Consideration was given to proposed changes to the Research Ethics Policy and the Committee recommended to the Academic Board that the revisions be approved. The research ethics policy is being considered as a separate item on the Academic Board agenda.

Supervision arrangements for research students

7. Following feedback from colleagues in biomedical sciences the Research Degrees Sub-Committee had proposed a change which meant that the Director of Studies no longer needed to be the experienced supervisor (in terms of being the supervisor who had experience of supervision to successful completion) and instead that this experience could be spread across the supervisory team. The Research & Enterprise Committee approved this change to the decision-making practice of the Research Degrees Sub-Committee.

Committee Reports

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

HR Excellence in Research

9. The HR Excellence in Research Award was subject to a two year review and an updated progress report would be circulated to the Committee for comment prior to consideration by the University Executive Team.

Catherine Smith

Governance & Legal Affairs

29 March 2017