

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Humanities Research Strategy Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 March 2018

Present: Gerard Hodgkinson (Chair), Claire Alexander, Roy Gibson, Nicola Glover-Thomas, Ken McPhail, Chris Thornhill

In attendance: Simon Bains, Paula Dalzell, Laura Dobson (Secretary), Kellie Gallagher, Charlotte Jackson, Jared Ruff, Gillian Whitworth, Sarah Albutt (item 5), Louise Gorton (item 5), Elizabeth Langton (item 4)

1. Introduction:

- Apologies: Khalid Nadvi, Elaine Edwards, Raksha Parmar, Jonathan Starbrook

2. Minutes from 31 January away day and matters arising

Received:

- Paper 6/18

Agreed:

- The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3. Report from Associate Dean for Research

- **Simon and Hallsworth update**

Interviews will take place 20 – 22 March. One Simon fellowship and three Hallsworth fellowships, one of which is for Chinese Political Economy, are available.

- **Early Career Researcher development update**

Ian Fairweather has organised an event for researchers, the details of which will be circulated shortly. The event has been to encourage integrate of researchers into the wider faculty networks and to deal with reported feelings of isolation from researchers.

Action: SRDs to send NGT ideas for researcher development events at school level.

4. Quarterly report on Research Awards and Applications and School targets for grant capture

Received:

- Paper 7/18

Reported:

- Awards are higher at this point than in the previous four years. The value of applications is also higher than the previous four years.

- RG reported that a further £1m in awards have just been confirmed for SALC

Discussed:

- KMcP asked if we reported on spend or awards to APR – JR clarified that we report on both to APR.

Action:

- **EL to ask JS to circulate appendices to report, which show expected spend timeframe**

5. REF 2021 planning (boosting 3/4* output profile)

Reported:

- SoSS – sociology up to 80% 3/4*, 12% 4. Philosophy is ok, but tiny. Economics and Politics are up to 65% 3/4*, but low on 4* in Economics. Some subjects are dependent on monographs for 4* publications.
- SALC – 4* very low, but there are major publications still to be published. A school professorial leave scheme has awarded 32 months of research leave to encourage completion of 4* publications.
- AMBS – 94% at 3/4*. The challenge will be whether the school assessment corresponds with the panel assessment as KPIs are complex for one big UoA. There are currently 150 more 3/4* than are necessary for submission. A school 4* support fund and reward scheme have been set up. AMBS is particularly challenged in terms of research time because of the implications of 2020 for covering teaching. There is concern within the school about prioritising REF over TEF.
- Law – plenty at 3*, not many at 4*. School schemes to incentive 4* publications, including additional leave and intensifying reviewing procedures, have been set up. Approx. 25% eligible staff don't have 3* or 4* publications.
- SEED – there are 4 different UoAs within the school, 3/4* support schemes have been set up.

Action:

- **SRDs to send GH proposals for spending £50k budget for REF uplift.**
- **GH to convene meetings with schools to determine into which UoA staff should be entered, where there is a possibility of more than one UoA.**

6. School Research Director matters to raise (not discussed elsewhere)

None

7. Library update (Simon Bains)

Reported:

- Open access funds of £100k are available across the faculty (£20k per school) and monographs are eligible for funding.
- Simon is developing an investing in success training funding bid to bring in University of Leiden citation experts to deliver training.

8. Report from Vice-Dean for Research

- **Humanities research strategy**

GH is preparing a refresh of the Faculty research strategy, to include the integration of PGR into the faculty research structure. There will be minimal changes beyond this. SRDs will be sent a draft for comment either shortly before or after Easter.

- **Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund update**

GH will shortly convene a meeting of key people from selected institutes to discuss how to maximise our involvement in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. SRDs are asked to prioritise this meeting. Andrew James and Andy Westwood will lead the meeting with GH.

- **Annual SMT meeting with RI and Network Directors (3 May 2018)**

The focus will be on staff career development (particularly for transition from SL to Chair) with the aim of co-designing a programme to meet those needs, and share experiences and best practice.

- **RI Directors (discussion about inviting to attend HRSC twice a year)**

GH clarified that the purpose of these meetings will be to stimulate discussions around big upcoming themes for potential Humanities engagement.

Action: SRDs to consider GH proposals to theme this event around ‘the career lifecycle of research leaders’ and feedback to GH; LM to invite RI Directors to HRSC twice a year

9. **Any other business**

None