

**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

Humanities Research Strategy Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 May 2018

Present: Gerard Hodgkinson (Chair), Claire Alexander, Roy Gibson, Ken McPhail, Khalid Nadvi, Chris Thornhill

In attendance: Sarah Albutt, Simon Bains, Paula Dalzell, Elaine Edwards, Lynda McIntosh, Louise McMahon (Secretary), Jared Ruff, Gillian Whitworth, Andrew James

1. Apologies:

- Nicola Glover-Thomas, Kellie Gallagher, Louise Gorton, Charlotte Jackson, Raksha Parmar, Jonathan Starbrook

2. Minutes from 7 March meeting and matters arising

Received:

- Paper 8/18

Agreed:

- The minutes of the meeting on 7 March were accepted, with one minor amendment, as a true record

Action

- SB to chase up response on the Investing in Success application

3. Business Engagement progress report (Andrew James)

Received:

- Paper 9/18

Reported:

- Significant progress has been made over the last 3 years in increasing awareness and engagement with business across the Faculty
- Highlights from the last 12 months include the development of a Manchester Legal Tech research consortium (hard launch scheduled for June 2018), the establishment of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between SALC and the National Trust, the development of a relationship with the BBC around Data Science and a multimillion pound collaborative research project between AMBS, Chemical Engineering and Unilever. There has been an increase in business RGC income with a forecast of £1.6m for 2017/18
- AJ highlighted KTPs as a major untapped opportunity for Humanities and encouraged all Schools to engage with the University Knowledge Exchange team to explore the value of KTPs
- The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) was also highlighted as an opportunity. The themes of healthy ageing, audience for the future and next generation services

are of direct interest to Humanities. GH is hosting an ISCF meeting in May to bring key academics together to raise awareness and identify individuals to lead activity

- The Business Engagement team have introduced innovation labs as a mechanism for promoting engagement between academics and external partners. Sandpit events, such as the recent Data Analytics workshop co-led by Jackie Carter (SoSS), have proved highly effective. AJ encouraged SRDs to suggest themes, preferably cross-Faculty, to pursue for future events
- The Faculty faces 3 main challenges; University expectations of research income growth through large business funded initiatives, the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), and growing and supporting the pool of engaged academics
- AJ is keen to raise awareness of the support available for business engagement and asked Schools to think about the best forum for him to speak to colleagues at School-level, e.g. School Research Committees, workshops etc.
- The Humanities Business Engagement strategy is to be refreshed and AJ will be contacting Schools for their thoughts and input

Discussed:

- The need to encourage greater involvement of early career researchers in business engagement activity was discussed. AJ noted that the Business Engagement team have had some success in involving early career researchers in the innovation labs. KN stated that SEED had advertised for an AD on Business Engagement and Internationalisation to provide dedicated support in these areas and the expectation is that an early career researcher will take up this role
- KN noted that SEED is focused on the ISCF, with MUI and MERI particularly well placed to undertake activity in this area. In addition to the 3 challenges highlighted by AJ, prospering from the energy revolution and transforming construction also present opportunities for SEED
- Co-production of knowledge and strengthening the impact agenda by involving people from the outset of research projects was discussed; a similar approach should be taken with business engagement activity
- Each School, with the exception of AMBS, has an allocated contact in the Business Engagement team. Given the considerable resource in AMBS, particularly Executive Education, the Head of School and AJ made the decision to focus the resource on the other Schools
- The role of Business Engagement Lead sits with individuals in different positions across the Schools. It was suggested that it is not practical for a Head of School or School Research Director to hold this role and that an argument could be made for the creation of a separate position in Schools. KMcP noted that AMBS intends to advertise shortly for a position similar to the new AD role in SEED

Action:

- AJ to circulate Bupa blog post about the recent Data Analytics workshop
- SRDs to suggest to AJ themes, preferably cross-Faculty, to pursue for future innovation labs
- School Research Directors to consider the best forum for AJ to speak to colleagues about business engagement at School-level, e.g. School Research Committees, workshops etc.
- Schools and AJ to consider ways to encourage greater involvement of early career researchers in business engagement activity
- LM to circulate N8/ESRC report on Co-Production

- Discussion about having dedicated academic support for business engagement activity in Schools to be included as a future HRSC agenda item
- LM to circulate ESRC Business Boost Fund 2018 business plan

4. **Resourcing REF 2021**

Received:

- Paper 10/18

Discussed:

- It was agreed that the Faculty REF 2021 Fund would be more useful to support impact rather than outputs
- The funding could also be used to support external reviewing of outputs and impact. However, some concerns were raised about sharing the detail of impact case studies outside the University
- It was agreed that a recommendation should be made to DAG/HPRC to consider a development for PERL 2019-20 to support 'impact leave' - smaller buyouts of courses in recognition of the time commitment of impact case study authors as an incentive during the more intensive period of preparation. It was also recommended that any under-spend of the Humanities Strategic Investment Fund (HSIF) should be used to extend activities to maximise the REF 2021 return

Action:

- SA to amend 'Resourcing REF 2021' paper in light of HRSC discussion and send to HPRC

5. **Updates from School Research Directors**

- **Improving links from online content to research outputs and tracking the impact of engagement (Lynda McIntosh/Ken McPhail)**

Received:

- Paper 11/18

Reported

- Following discussion at HRSC in May 2017, means of improving links from online content to research outputs and tracking impact of engagement have been explored. This work, led by Lynda McIntosh (LMcl) and Ken McPhail, has involved the Faculty web team, Pure Support team and Library and is detailed in the circulated paper
- In unpicking this issue, LMcl and the Faculty Web, Digital and Content Marketing Manager have developed 8 Faculty web projects; 2 have been completed and the others are on track
- Currently 79% of academic and PhD profiles are publicly visible; the goal is to reach 90%
- Pure offers opportunities for researchers to link their research outputs and staff profiles to media coverage, activities and impacts related to their research. The preferred URL for online content would be a link to the publication records in Pure because this is most likely where an Open Access version of papers will exist
- The Faculty Communications and Marketing team will work with the Library and Central Communications and Marketing to explore how this can be rolled out to all Faculties

Discussed:

- There was some concern about the level of detail that should be disclosed publically
- External changes have affected the way the web team functions and there is no longer the resource that was previously available. As a consequence, the team are not always able to provide support as quickly as Schools require it
- The existence of two routes for updating staff profiles has caused some confusion. Staff profiles will be turned off at some point making Pure the single point of truth for the University
- CA noted that SoSS are thinking about finding a way of systemising the updating of profiles, perhaps annually through PREP or PDRs
- LMCI will keep HRSC updated on the progress of this work

6. Report from Associate Dean for Research**Received:**

- AD Research report May 2018

Reported:

- A written report on the Simon and Hallsworth endowments and the recent Early Career Researcher event were provided by Nicola Glover-Thomas
- Open Access/Library update (Simon Bains):
 - With the exception of SALC, Schools in Humanities have not yet spent their full allocation from the institutional Open Access fund. Funding must be spent by July 2018 and any underspend will be redirected to Schools that have fully committed their allocation
 - The Library is due shortly to launch a gateway service for research data. Full details will be circulated in mid-May; SRDs and RSMs are asked to disseminate this information to colleagues
 - The Library is intending to apply to a future funding call to create a secure space on campus where researchers can access sensitive data which cannot be sent to them directly

Discussed

- Simon and Hallsworth: concern was expressed about the profile of the 2018/19 Visiting Professors, which is predominantly white male. It was asked if more could be done at the recruitment stage to encourage a diverse range of applications

Action:

- Faculty Office to undertake equality and diversity audit of the Simon and Hallsworth Visiting Professorships
- SB to inform Schools of the amount of outstanding funding available in their institutional Open Access fund allocation
- Schools to send a plan of how they intend to spend their outstanding funding to Simon Bains by the end of May
- SRDs to inform Simon Bains of anyone in their Schools who should receive communications about the new research data gateway service, in order to cascade this information within the School

7. Report from Vice Dean for Research

Received:

- Paper 12/18, 13/18

Action:

- LM to circulate details of the bilateral seed-corn fund with Copenhagen
- Schools to submit report on 2017/18 annual review of research centres to Louise McMahon by Friday 21 September

8. Any other business

No further matters were raised

9. Date of next meeting: 20 June 2018