

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
SCHOOL OF LAW

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Tuesday 10th October 2017

Present: Professor Yenkong Ngangjoh Hodu (Chair), Ms Jackie Boardman, Ms Amy Cross, Ms Margaret Cunningham, Ms Helen Davenport, Dr Ian Fishwick, Mr Bill Hebenton, Dr Nick Lord, Ms Laura O'Donovan, Ms Edita Pymm, Ms Abi Robinson, Mr Dickson Wasajja

Apologies: Ms Samantha Sandilands

Unreserved Business

1. Minutes

Minutes received and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Noted No matters arising.

3. Chair's Report

Reported At the Faculty PGR Committee the following issues had been discussed:

- 1) the issue of creating a database of alumni, with the possibility of contacting alumni about being sponsors for scholarships
- 2) the problem of poor completion rates in relation to other Schools. It was felt there was a particular issue with students who returned from interruption.
- 3) the possibility of introducing a third party to look at students' work when they were in SPP. In SoSS a completion support supervisor had been introduced and this had worked well.

Agreed

- 1) to look at the completion data in relation to students who had had an interruption, and in relation to other schools.
- 2) to check with Carolyn about the possibility of supervisors being given credit for being a completion supervisor.

4. Admissions Report

Reported

- 1) For the September 2017 intake, there had been 10 home, full-time students; 5 overseas students; and 2 part-time students. The target had been for 10 overseas and 16 home students. There had been a 26% drop in home applications, but an increase in overseas applications. Two applicants had withdrawn or deferred. One applicant had requested a deferral for a third time and would not be allowed to defer again. The BMJ programme had 4 students, Criminology had 7 students and Law 7 students. Interviews had gone well. Other Schools had used questionnaires for their interviews.

2) For the January 2018 intake, 28 applications had been received. Half of these had been rejected. Five offers had been made and 8 applications were being considered.

5. Student Business

Reported

- 1) Some students had reported noise issues in the PGR rooms
- 2) A student who was in the process of resubmitting their thesis had had 2 hours of teaching taken away. The student should be advised to speak to Margaret Cunningham and Carolyn Abbot about their teaching.
- 3) Students had queries whether the PGR Support Awards are available during the SPP. It was confirmed that students should put in application for awards, and they would be considered on a case-by-case basis. The guidance has been updated to reflect further guidance about eligibility in SPP. The guidance is available to download from the PGR Handbook.

6. Athena SWAN Action Plan

Reported

No update on this item

7. Any Other Unreserved Business

Reported

- 1) At that time, there was a waiting list for desks in PGR rooms. Further checks with students about to finish were being done to see if they still needed their allocated desk.
- 2) The Library would be running several Research Essentials workshops including Research Data Management and ORCID. Staff can also use the Research Essentials tools.
- 3) The PGR Conference was on 18 October. This should be advertised to staff.