MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 7 April 2014
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:
Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Murray Cole (for Mike O’Boyle), Marcus Guhe, Jane Hillston, Neil McGillivray, Alan Smaill, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Attending:  Kerry Miller, RDM Services Coordinator, Keith Nichol, IT Consultancy Services (College)

Apologies:  Elizabeth Elliot, Nigel Goddard, Mike O’Boyle, Steve Renals, Dave Robertson, Tamise Totterdell

AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 1 – Approval of Minutes of previous meeting
The Minutes of the meeting of 3 March 2014 were approved.

ITEM 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 2 December 2013)

Item 4 – Management of confidential data
SOA paper circulated prior to meeting. The committee supported set up of a small working group for more thorough consideration of the issues. Group to report back to Research Committee.

Action
A/JF on working group formation

Item 5 – H2020 preparation
Also discussion on Societal Challenges pillar; 2014 and 2015 topics already announced, 600-800 range. BF already done preliminary mapping but this analysis will be refined.

Action
DR/BF/JF on refined analysis
(In progress)
ITEM 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 3 March 2014)

Item 3 – Discussion regarding REF 2020
a) REF 2013
Stephen Gilmore presented an outline of the best aspects and biggest problems of the REF. Pointers included understanding the jargon, large amount of paperwork, receiving inconsistent advice, requirement for fact checking, fact checking for impact case studies, definition of an excellent 100 word statement, staff engagement with the process, timeliness of staff responses, inadequate and superficial reviews, lack of plan/vision, benefits of a small team.

Action
SG to circulate sides to Committee
Actioned

b) REF 2020
SG said that it is not too soon to begin preparation for REF 2020 and that a REF czar should be appointed in the very near future.

Action
EE to talk to DR and Johanna Moore about academic staffing
Actioned

Item 4 – Update on research data management project
The University has a data management policy. At the moment individuals can only pool half of their space. It is expected that it will devolve to the School and Institutes. There was discussion about data management plans in research grant proposals. The roll out of the data store for Informatics is over the summer. There will be data management training for PGR students.

Action
TT to ask the Data Management Policy contact person to attend the next Research Committee meeting
Actioned

Action
EE to ask Alastair Scobie to attend the next Research Committee meeting
Actioned
(EE to join TT and Alastair Scobie)

Item 5 – Report on recent informatics research successes (Paper A)
There was discussion of options as to Paper A.

Action
EE to inform College
Actioned
Item 6 – Any other business

c) Data projectors
There are problems with the data projectors in 4.31/4.33 and MF2.

**Action**
EE will speak with the technicians
**Actioned** (new kit ordered)

**Action**
JH to ask for new projector in MF2 and for technicians to look at wiring (put in a ticket)
**Actioned** (ongoing consideration for kit for MF2)

ITEM 3 – Research data management project (Kerry Miller, RDM services coordinator)

JF introduced Kerry Miller, RDM Services Coordinator, who gave a presentation on the Research Data Management Project. This project has been approved by the University Court and will be phased in over the next few months. MANTRA is an online course designed for researchers or others planning to manage digital data as part of the research process. Many funders of research grants ask for a DM plan to be in place when submitting proposals. The DataStore, a facility for storing data from current research activities, and DataShare, the University’s repository for the open publication of research data, were also presented.

Keith Nichol from IT Consultancy Services (College) was also present; Keith stated that Angus Rae is the Informatics consultancy person.

**Action**
Marcus Guhe to provide feedback about training courses for young researchers to JF

**Action**
JF to speak with Stuart Anderson about the RDM

ITEM 4 – Rural affairs and the environment (RAE) consultation on research strategy for 2016-2021 (Paper A)

There was discussion about this paper.

**Action**
JH to forward to Peter Buneman, Mahesh Marina and Mike Fourman
ITEM 5 – Report on recent informatics research successes (Paper B)

There was discussion of options as to Paper B.

Action
NMcG to inform College

ITEM 6 – Any other business

REF 2020
Appointment of REF czar
There was positive feedback

Action
NMcG will take forward to Johanna Moore

Annual impact competition

Action (for new REF czar)
NMcG to talk to Johanna Moore

Switzerland and EU students
There was discussion about the status with respect to students with Microsoft scholarships. The Grad School is looking into this.

Informatics successes

Action
NMcG to look at ways of informing the School of successes

EIT/IC labs

Action
AS to circulate call to research staff; people to get in touch with David Richardson

ITEM 7 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 5 May 2014, 12:00 pm in the Turing Room.