



Academic Board

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 03 July 2024 in Room 7X111, Frenchay Campus.

Present: Prof. A Coffey (Chair), Prof. O Doran, Prof. G Edwards, Prof. J Green, Dr B Gross, Prof. J Hancock, Prof. J Lamond, Dr H Lewis-Smith, O Okeyoyin, P Shelton, Prof. D Sinnett, Dr R Thorn, F Kareem, Dr A Geary, J Hallett

Apologies: Prof. F Cramp, Dr L Duong, Prof. N Quenivet, Prof. D Greenham, H Hickman, C Evans

In attendance: T John (Secretary), V Richardson (Minute taker), Osaro Otobo (Halpin Observer), Catherine Bingham (in part 24.07.3.3)

RKEC.24.07.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

RKEC.24.07.1 Members were introduced and welcomed to the meeting; apologies were noted.

RKEC.24.07.1.2 No declarations of interest were raised.

RKEC.24.07.2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RKEC.24.07.2.1 Previous minutes

Paper RKEC.24.07.01 was received.

Members approved the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2024.

RKEC.24.07.2.2 Action sheet and matters arising

Paper RKEC.24.07.02 was received.

Members noted that the majority of actions were either completed or in progress. The following updates were provided:

1. Internal Investment Schemes; further work will be undertaken to ensure these are as effective as possible.

2. Research and knowledge exchange environment; Work will be undertaken over the summer on QR finding spend and strategic priorities.
3. Funding open access monographs; Discussions are ongoing regarding the REF open access policy recommendations.
4. PRES results; The PRES results have been shared with RKEC members and this action can now be completed.
5. Address access for PhD students; this issue is still ongoing and will be reported at the next meeting with a view of the item being completed.
6. Invite the CPO to present the People Strategy; In discussion, members decided that due to ongoing dialog regarding academic pathways and EDI developments, it would be best to remove this item until it becomes more relevant.

RKEC.24.07.3 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

RKEC.24.07.3.1 UWE Research Strategy Update

Papers RKEC.24.07.03 were noted

The Chair introduced an updated summary of the UWE Research Strategy highlighting that:

1. Members were advised the PVC RIKE role has been put on hold. DVC Provost will continue to lead the portfolio, with support from colleagues across the University.
2. The proposal is to focus on 3 Beacon areas, to showcase our research strengths and ensure investment is strategic

Members welcomed the papers and clarity.

RKEC.24.07.3.2 Research Excellence Framework Update

Papers RKEC.24.07.04 were received.

The Head of Research Excellence provided an update and highlighted the following key points:

1. It was stressed the need for research to be promoted more across the organisation and the wider sector.
2. Research England timetable has been published: note; the guidance for REF 2029 will not be available until 2026.

3. Internal preparation should continue to focus on key areas such as impact studies and publications.
4. An institution wide audit / review is proposed.
5. Noted that UWE Bristol was not selected to be part of PCE pilot. It is proposed that we undertake our own pilot, mirroring the process.

In discussion members commented:

1. Would future publications and pipeline book contracts be considered within the report statistics. It was suggested that they may be taken into account, however the rules and guidance will need to be considered.
2. Further work required on ensuring we have a comprehensive repository of impact.
3. Further work on HESA return and SRR to be undertaken.

RKEC.24.07.3.3

External Bidding Data

Papers RKEC.24.07.05- were received.

The Director of RBI introduced Catherine Bingham from PBI who presented an analysis of bid submissions, highlighting that:

1. The annual Research Income target in Strategy 2030 is £32 million, which looks increasingly like a hard stretch.
2. Following analysis and review of trend data it was suggested that £23-5 million would be more realistic while still providing stretch.
3. Benchmarking against other comparable universities, shows UWE is third highest post 1992 university in relation to research income. It was noted that Plymouth and Northumbria have both invested heavily in research before REF 2021.

In discussion members commented:

1. To aid research income target setting it might be helpful to show data by school. Comparative data and benchmarking would also be helpful.
2. Succession and pipeline planning is imperative in relation to research income generation.
3. Large amount of bidding is often under £100k. Aiming for bigger research opportunities will drive income generation further and should be an area of focus.

4. There are opportunities to be more strategic in resubmitting unsuccessful bids.

ACTION: To establish a working group to consider how we could be more strategic in relation to research income generation. The group will report to the RKEC committee (**Chair**).

RKEC.24.07.06

Review of Research Centres

Papers RKEC.24.07.06 were received.

The paper was presented to reassure the committee of the work being completed and the following key points were highlighted:

1. Some of the research centres do span across colleges.
2. A number of recommendations are being carried through, reducing the number of research centres of excellence, and ensuring strong leadership and regular review cycles. members of the committee felt reassured that the necessary process and due diligence has been completed. It is expected that the review will be completed by the end of July.
3. Research Centres will be soft re-launched in the next academic year.

RKEC.24.07.3.5

Sub-Committee Annual Assurance Reports

Paper RKEC.24.07.07 were received.

Paper RKEC.24.07.08 were received.

Paper RKEC.24.07.09 were received.

Paper RKEC.24.07.10 were received.

There were no comments. The reports were all accepted.

It was noted that the ToR for the Doctoral Academy Sub Committee is being updated and the membership is being reviewed. Once completed, the revised ToR will be submitted to the Academic Board for further review.

RKEC.24.07.3.6

RKEC Annual Assurance Report

Paper RKEC.24.07.11 were received.

The Secretary introduced the Annual Assurance report and highlighted the following key points:

1. The report reflects upon the work which the committee has been doing.
2. The Actions plans are listed along with the process made.
3. Trusted research has become an extensive feature this year.
4. Bidding and research data remains paramount.

Members of the committee approved to the report which will now be submitted to the Academic Board.

RKEC.24.07.4 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RKEC.24.07.4.1 Postgraduate research and Doctoral Academy update *Verbal update*

The Director of the Doctoral Academy provided the following update:

1. Success with the SWSDDP application for 1 post-doctoral fellowship. This is a highly competitive process.
2. Some progress has been made with the transformational single exam board structure. PGR progression is being fully integrated.

RKEC.24.07.4.2 Films and Banners

New research promotion materials had been shared for information

RKEC.24.07.4.3 Library Services Report *Paper RKEC.24.07.12 was received*

A proposal to discuss the open access reports will be brought to the committee in the autumn and a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

The issue of monographs was noted.

RKEC.24.07.4.4 University Ethics and Integrity Committee *Paper RKEC.24.07.13 was received.*

The report was noted for information

RKEC.24.07.4.5 Election of officers to RKEC

Academic Governance elections are currently in progress for research representative for CBL with 2 candidates standing

RKEC roles filled uncontested.

1. Research active represented for CATE: Daniela Paddeu
2. Representative of Professional Services Staff: Phillipa Shelton

RKEC.24.07.4.6 College Report – CHSS

Paper RKEC.24.07.14 was received.

The report was noted for information only.

RKEC.24.07.5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RKEC.24.07.5.1 Bid approval levels especially for smaller bids, requires investigation to make the process more efficient. Members were advised there is a review being completed to reexamine approvals levels.

RKEC.24.07.5.2 The technology transfer 'spin out' review has been completed and the 3 bids which the university are part of, remain ongoing. An IP audit will be required, and the IP policy will need to be realigned for the spin out review.

RKEC.24.07.6 DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The dates of the meetings for 2024/2025 are:

- 17th October 2024
- 30th January 2025
- 3rd April 2025
- 12th June 2025