UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Faculty of Humanities Research Strategy Committee (HRSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015

<u>Present:</u> Professors Colette Fagan (Chair), Dan Brockington, Nicola Glover-Thomas, Brian Heaphy, Stephen Hutchings

<u>In attendance:</u> Paula Dalzell, Laura Dobson, Jakob Edler (for Rudolf Sinkovics), Elaine Edwards, Louise Gorton, Kay Hodgson, Charlotte Jackson, Andrew James, Elizabeth Langton, Guy Percival, Jared Ruff, Andrew Stewart, Gillian Whitworth

Item	**Action**

1.   Apologies
Sarah Albutt, Simon Bains, Liz Fay, Patricia Gorham, Rudolf Sinkovics, Jonathan Starbrook

2.   Humanities and MHS collaboration on health-related research

Received: Presentation from Andrew Stewart, SRD-SPS and Kay Hodgson, Research Deanery, around the following key areas:
- SPS research priority areas
- SPS research methods
- Mapping of existing SPS/Humanities links
- Potential areas for stronger connections

Action
- Presentation slides and MHS Strategic Plan for Research to be circulated to SRDs   **LD**
- SRDs to work with School Committees to identify potential connections with SPS research and report back to June meeting   **SRDs**
- KH to contact CF/JR with details of EPS/MHS group event in the summer to discuss grand challenges   **KH**

3.   Business Engagement priorities and scoping exercise (Andrew James)

Reported
- AJ's remit as AAD Business Engagement and External Relations is to develop a strategy of strengthening business engagement across the Faculty and will be conducting a scoping exercise to inform the strategic development of this area. Business engagement includes private sector organisations, government, public sector and not-for-profit social and cultural organisations. The aims of the scoping exercise are to identify:
    - Current business engagement activities
    - Potential synergies between activities
    - Priorities of each School and Research Institute

- The outcome of the exercise will help identify:
    - Learning and good practice that can be shared across Schools

and Research Institutes
- Key external partners and cross-Faculty links
- 'Quick wins' – areas where significant progress on tangible new engagement activities could take place in the short-term.
- How the Business Engagement team and the new AAD-BEER can best support the activities of Schools and Research Institutes

- Business engagement income information has already been gathered, including:
  - PGR Team – current CASE studentships via DTPs/DTCs (all have external partners)
  - Research Support Teams – current collaborative research project partners
  - Management Accounts – consultancy information

- An email to School Research Directors and External Relations Directors will follow within the week, with a short form detailing the information needed from Schools. The form will include an Appendix with relevant data already gathered for each School. This data has been collected from RSS teams and has limitations.

- SRDs and ERDs are asked to provide the following information, linked to School Operational Priorities:
  - Current BE activity areas that have potential for further development and would benefit from additional investment in business engagement
  - Specific external partners the School would like to engage with (timescales etc.)
  - Key obstacles/barriers preventing better engagement with external organisations

Action
- AJ to circulate email requesting information to SRDs and SERDs	**AJ**
- SRDs to respond to AJ by 13 May	**SRDs**
- AJ to report findings to HERC by 3 June and produce interim report	**AJ**
- CF/AJ to schedule a joint meeting with SRDs and HERC in the Autumn to discuss next steps	**CF**

4. **Demand Management strategy and report from consultation with peer review college (Jared Ruff/Gillian Whitworth)**

Reported
- Peer review was discussed at the Away Day in January and a new policy in this area was approved at that meeting. Formal training of peer review panels will be considered in the Autumn.
- The Funding Development Working Group, led by Jonathan Starbrook, will be mapping a timeline for all major funding calls
- Demand management data from ESRC was received recently covering the period September 2013 to January 2015. GW and JR are in the process of analysing the data and will report to the next meeting.

Action:
- JR to request comparable data breakdown from AHRC — **JR**
- JR/GW to report back to next meeting if possible, and by June if not — **JR/GW**
- CF to return to issue of peer review training when Demand Management is next discussed and consult AHRC & ESRC peer review college members for guidance (consideration to be given to committing to running Faculty/School workshops) — **CF/JR/SRDs**

5. **School research centre review**

Received: School research centre report

Reported
- Updates on centres under review will be included in the next report. All such centres should be reporting annually.
- External websites for centres that have been discontinued should be converted into legacy websites or amended to become networks.

Action
- SRDs to ensure external websites are updated as above — **SRDs**
- SRDs to send their School research centre report templates to CF/NG-T — **SRDs**
- CF/NG-T to review and design template for SRDs to report to HRSC — **CF/NG-T**
- JR to contact Phil Moores to accelerate action on the technical aspects of converting sites to legacy status — **JR**

6. **Minutes from 28 January away day and actions**

Received: Minutes and actions from 28 January Away Day.
Agreed: The January minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

7. **Matters arising**

Reported
- CF provided an update on the ongoing actions from previous meetings; all actions have been dealt with or are in progress.

Action
- SRDs to provide draft report on research grant capture actions by end of March — **SRDs**
- SRDs to develop guidance on disciplinary norms for PREP — **SRDs**

8. **Report from the Deputy Dean for Research**

Received
- Deputy Dean (Research) report February
- Strategic funding opportunities update February

Reported

- HEFCE recently published details of funding intentions for 15/16, with expected increases in funding for 4* and 3* activity. Details beyond this timeframe are not clear due to the imminent general election.

Noted

- A request was made for specific funding information on National Science Foundation (NSF), Royal Society ad EU (H2020, ERC, Marie Curie).

Action

• LD to circulate link to HEFCE QR formula announcement	**LD**
• SRDs to cascade funding opportunities report to colleagues for use in mentoring	**SRDs**
• SRDs to contact JS with any additional funding opportunities	**SRDs**
• JS to develop funding briefs for NFS, Royal Society and the different EU funding streams	**JS**
• JR to send funding opportunities web link to SRDs	**JR**
• REF/RRE analysis to include Faculty breakdown of Research Fellow data from REF results	**CF/JR**

9. **Report from the Assistant Associate Dean for Research**

Simon and Hallsworth

- Current recruitment round: there are 2 Simon Fellowships available, 7 applications have been shortlisted and the interviews take place on 19 March; there are 3 Hallsworth Fellowships available, 8 applications have been shortlisted and the interviews take place on 20 March. There was a strong field of applications. Guidance for Schools will be revised for next year to include recommended limits on the number of applications per School.
- Visiting Professorships applications have all been approved. We are under subscribed.

Digital Humanities

- This project is being led by Guyda Armstrong in SALC. A capacity building call was circulated last week. Guyda will be contacting SRDs for help in scoping the Digital Humanities project.

Open Access

- The pilot study in Law last summer was successful and will be rolled out across the Faculty. Approval has been granted for a Grade 6 to support the project on a casual basis.

Action

• NG-T to circulate Digital Humanities Terms of Reference to SRDs	**NG-T**
• NG-T to arrange meetings with SRDs on open access as appropriate	**NG-T**

**10.	Updates from School Research Directors as identified in actions**
   Action: SRDs to send CF a report listing their panel members and peer
   reviewers, and dates of training workshops within 2 weeks   **SRDs**

**11.	Library update**
   Action: LD to add to agenda for next meeting   **LD**

**12.	University research ethics update**
   Action: LD to add to agenda for June meeting   **LD**

**13.	Any other business:** None

**14.	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 May 2015**