

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DEES) Research Committee

Wednesday 16th February 2021

ACTION MINUTES

Attendees: Professor Gordon Mcfiggans (Director of Research and Chair)
Prof Ray Burgess (Geosciences)
Professor Mike Burton (Head of Department)
Professor Cathy Hollis (Petroleum and Basins)
Professor Jamie Gilmour (Planetary Sciences)
Cassandra Kenny (Research Support Manager)
Dr Jon Pittman (PGR Director)
Professor Sam Shaw (Molecular Environmental Sciences)
Professor Suzanne Shultz (Ecology and Evolution)
Prof Roy Wogelius (Ancient Life)
Prof Jon Lloyd (Williamson Research Centre)

Reports:

 DHoR_Report_Feb_2022.docx
 MIB committee_Buckley.c
 Research Committee PGR
 UoM NERC DTP3 rep
 Manchester_NERC_notesvfinal[1].pdf
 Manchester virtual visit 10.02.2022[1].pc

Previous Actions Update:

- 1) Invitation for FSE Business Engagement team to present to DEES Research Committee about improving industrial funding of research put on hold for the time being.
- 2) The current process for DKO Fellowship applications bypasses local Departments, with HoD informed by the interviews happening in Faculty. It's difficult to coordinate and consult with all Departments for practical reasons, but more consultation has been requested. The hope is that DKO applicants will make contact with Departments themselves to seek sponsors but this doesn't always happen.
- 3) It was agreed that DKO Fellowship applications will be circulated to Research Group Leads (RGL's) in future for comments before responding. This has been difficult previously due to the short notice at which DEES receives candidate applications. Comments will likely need to be given with not much time to review. **(Action MB and RGL's)**
- 4) 'Who does what ' in research administration guide for PI's is in development **(Action CK)**

Key points and Actions:

- 1) The new Research IT structure was circulated and discussed. Some uncertainty remains about how this will work in practice. GM to feedback comments and seek clarification. **(Action GM)**
- 2) MB, HC and GM will be meeting Petri Uola (new Head of Research Finance) soon about problems in Research Finance.

- 3) Application total values appear relatively low across DEES compared to previous years. RGL's and line managers to ask PI's for ideas why and what obstacles are in the way of submitting proposals. **(Action RGL's and Group line managers)**
- 4) Prioritisation for NERC Strategic Capital Equipment bids was discussed (external deadline 5th April) and what factors would be key in selecting which bids go forward. Currently the pre-emptive Capital equipment items wishlist needs updating. S Shaw queried whether any additional technical resource would be provided by FSE to utilise the new items.
- 5) Academic staff recruitment was discussed. Some RGL's felt decisions and strategy behind new appointments were not transparent, and consultation with RGL's about key appointments would be valuable. MB has been recently involved in developing the process for appointments at Faculty, but there are some practical barriers which limit the number of people that can be involved in the recruitment process. Nevertheless, concerns are taken on board and will be fed back.
- 6) NERC are developing the DTP3 application process, currently this is in the consultation stage. During their recent visit what should be included in the bids, but this is still unknown until consultation finishes. Official guidance was to wait for direction before doing any preliminary planning. Nevertheless, planning progressed through MERI with Jon Pittman's DEES lead and subsequent discussion paper produced.

Dates of next meetings:

- Wednesday 25th May 2022, 2-4pm
- Wednesday 31st August 2022, 2-4pm
- Wednesday 30th November 2022, 2-4pm
- Wednesday 22nd February 2023, 2-4pm