

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DEES) Research Committee

Wednesday 14th September 2022

ACTION MINUTES

Attendees: Professor Cathy Hollis (Director of Research and Chair, Petroleum and Basins)
Dr Mike Buckley (MIB rep)
Prof Ray Burgess (Geosciences)
Professor Mike Burton (Head of Department)
Dr Katie Joy (Planetary)
Cassandra Kenny (Research Support Manager)
Prof Jon Lloyd (Molecular Environmental Science)
Dr Jon Pittman (PGR Director)
Professor Sam Shaw (Molecular Environmental Sciences)
Professor Suzanne Shultz (Ecology and Evolution)
Prof Roy Wogelius (Ancient Life)

Apologies: Hugh Coe, Jamie Gilmour

Reports:


Research
Committee PGR repc


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Previous Actions Update:

- 1) Apps and awards figures analysis show the average value of proposals is significantly lower than previous years but numbers of applications are roughly level. This may be due to focus on lower value NERC funding schemes such as Exploring the Frontiers.
- 2) Update on point of contact for technical issues. Committee agreed to have a rotating point of contact through the RGL's, with RB as the first volunteer. **Action:** RGL's to advise CH which kit items are in frequent use and complete shared equipment spreadsheet. CH will then collate into a list.

Key points and Actions:

- 1) PGR space allocations will be confirmed soon. The PGR team is also investigating what process to follow to obtain any necessary ATAS clearances. The UKRI stipend has increased but it's expected student numbers will decrease slightly.
- 2) Some concerns raised about student applications being sent to the wrong teams, JP has advised this is a known problem and the team is working on a solution.
- 3) The committee proposed putting together a repository for PGR and research specific information. Blackboard may be suitable. **Action:** CH to investigate options.
- 4) The PGR team is currently under-resourced and under pressure. The committee expressed appreciation and thanks for Claire Erskine and the PGR team's hard work and continued efforts.
- 5) Some concerns expressed over the lack of oversight PI's have of studentship P code budgets. MB

advised Non-Research Finance are looking to improve this and allow supervisors a better view of existing budgets.

- 6) NERC DTP – the call has not yet been announced but staff are eager to discuss the focus of our DTP proposal. An all staff meeting has been proposed to discuss and give a status update.
- 7) MIB has started a teams channel for PI's to collaborate. Resource booking tools are being improved.
- 8) CH and MB are meeting Chris Muryn and Kevin Jackson about the Technical Restructure. RGL's have been asked to send their comments to CH and MB in advance of the meeting. The Firs transition to the PPMS booking system has been problematic, so these facilities can't be costed on grants yet. **Action:** CH to share spreadsheet on which RGLs can list small pieces of equipment not on PPMS which can be booked/used within the department
- 9) **Action:** CK to do further analysis on application and awards figures
- 10) **Action:** CH asked RGL's to discuss with their groups what barriers are preventing research proposal submissions and if there are any suggestions on how to remove these barriers, ahead of the next Research Committee.

Dates of next meetings:

- Wednesday 30th November 2022, 2-4pm
- Wednesday 1st March 2023, 10am-12pm
- Wednesday 10th May 2023, 10am-12pm
- September 2023 TBC