



SLASH RESEARCH BOARD

Monday 2 December 2013

MINUTES

Present:

Prof. Cheryl Thomas	Vice-Dean for Research, Faculty of Laws (in the Chair)
Dr Henriette Bruun	SLASH
Prof. Susan Collins	SLADE
Ms Laura Cream	Museums and Public Engagement
Dr Paulo Drinot	Institute of the Americas
Dr Mark Ford	English
Dr Martin Holbraad	Anthropology
Prof. Mark Kalderon	Philosophy
Dr Dilwyn Knox	SELCS
Dr Jacob Leveridge	SLASH
Prof. Anson Mackay	Vice-Dean for Research, SHS
Prof. Tim Mathews	Vice-Dean for Research, AH
Prof. Neil Rose	Geography
Prof. Sacha Stern	Hebrew & Jewish Studies
Prof. Albert Weale	Political Science
Prof. Maria Wyke	Greek & Latin

Dr Benet Salway (Faculty Graduate Tutor, SHS) was in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Adam Cresswell (REF), Dr Louise Martin (Archaeology), Prof. Susan Morrissey (SSEES), Prof. David Price (VP: Research) and Prof. Jonathan Wolff (Dean, AH).

1. MINUTES

Approved

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2013 were approved as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 There were no matters arising

3. INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

Noted

3.1 The Board noted that International Strategy would be deferred to the next meeting, at which Mr Nigel Percival would be invited to speak on the subject.

4. SCHOOL RESEARCH FACILITATORS' REPORT

Received

4.1 The Board received a report from the SLASH research facilitators.

Reported

4.2 It was reported that Horizon 2020 had been launched. This was to be the biggest Research and Innovation programme to date, with with 79 billion euros of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020).

4.3 Dr Bruun reported on the upcoming funding opportunities available through European Research Council. The Board was briefed on the publication date, criteria and application deadline for ERC Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants. Further details would be supplied in a bulletin which would be circulated to the Board.

4.4 The Board was reminded that the deadline for submission of Leverhulme applications to the Faculty Office was 31 January 2014.

5. UCL PRESS

Received

5.1 The Board received a report on UCL Press from Prof. Mathews.

Reported

5.2 Dr Mathews reported on the launch of UCL Press. It was reported that a Project Manager and membership board had has been appointed. It was intended that a prospectus would be produced, and that there would be further communications in term 2.

5.3 It was further reported that UCL Press would be housed in and run through Library Services. A link to Open Access had been established, and the intention was that UCL Press would be responsive to UCL's publishing needs in ensuring that Open Access serves the UCL community and anyone interested in research publishing.

Discussion

5.4 The Board discussed the launch of UCL Press at length. Key questions were raised and discussed in relation to its mission and reputation building strategy. It was reported that the overall mission of UCL Press was to be attractive and responsive. It was further reported that a mission statement was being developed for students and journals.

5.5 The Board discussed the question of where UCL Press would sit in terms of publishing. It was reported that UCL press was a not for profit organisation with old fashion values in terms of publishing. A move to UCL Press would help students by providing an Open Access publishing outlet.

5.6 Concerns were raised regarding the gap created by UCL not having its own means of publishing. It was reported that the Department of Information studies was looking at innovations in publishing. It was further reported that UCL Press intended to find ways to work with the best publishers without trying to supersede other publishing services.

5.7 It was suggested that as the topic would be ongoing, UCL Press would be added to the agenda for update in Terms 2 and 3. It was also suggested and agreed that Dr Paul Ayris or a member of the UCL Press team be invited to attend a future meeting to give a presentation.

Action

5.8 The Board would be updated on UCL Press in Terms 2 and 3. Dr Ayris and/or a member of UCL Press team would be invited to give a presentation in a future meeting.

6. POST-REF REVIEW

Discussion

6.1 The Board had a lengthy discussion post REF. Members of the Board shared their views and experiences with and highlighted lessons to learn as a means of best practice sharing (Appendix 1). It was suggested that a summary of these views be submitted to the Vice Provost (Research), and circulated to the board members.

6.2 It was noted that there had been a supportive and civilised spirit from UCL in dealing with REF.

6.3 Concerns about IRIS, and the need for a more robust data management system were raised and discussed. It was suggested that these issues be brought to the attention of the Vice Provost (Research).

6.4 The Board discussed future REF strategy. It was suggested that future strategy could be raised as an agenda item at Senior Management Team meetings.

6.5 During the discussion on future strategy, it was noted that plans were being made for some of the REF and Impact Team staff to be kept on. The Board also discussed ways in which the Research Facilitators and the Public Engagement team could be more visible in light of REF.

Action

6.6 Draft feedback on REF at Board and Departmental Level to be circulated to the Board for comment before being submitted to the Vice Provost (Research)

6.7 Chair to discuss issues with IRIS and data management needs with Vice Provost (Research).

7. PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted

7.1 Dates of the remaining SLASH Research Board meetings for 2013/14 were noted as follows:

- 17 March 2014, 4pm in South Wing (G12) Council Room; and
- 8 May 2014, 4 pm in Malet Place Eng 1.20.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8A FUTURE OF THE RESEARCH BOARD

Discussed

8.1 There was a brief discussion on the future of the Research Board as it was felt that the structure, purpose and membership of the Board were unclear.

8.2 It was suggested and agreed that terms of reference for the Board be drafted following investigation into any existing terms of reference and consultation with the Vice Provost (Research).

8.3 The Board also discussed the creation of an intranet page where Research content could be publicised. It was however noted that the Research Board did have a section on the Joint Faculty Intranet where the membership, meeting dates, and papers were stored.

Action

8.4 Secretary to speak to Deputy Faculty Tutor regarding the Research Board's section on the Joint Faculty Committee Intranet pages.

8.5 Secretary to contact Victoria Brown regarding the possibility of creating a Research page using UCL Press Board.

8B CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE DYNAMICS OF CIVILISATION (CREDOC)

Reported

8.6 Prof Wyke briefly reported on the creation and aims of the centre for research on the dynamics of civilisation (CREDOC), which was due to launch, on 16 December 2013.

Noted

8.7 It was noted that funding was available within the centre to support and facilitate the running of events, discussions and workshops.

8.8 The Board noted that the upcoming events:

- CREDOC Provocation: "The problem of progress: Life humanity civilisation" - 28 January 2014, 5:30 – 7pm in 1.02 Lecture Theatre, Malet Place
- CREDOC Launch Lecture: "China's self-identity as a modern civilisation" – 13 February 2014, 6:30 – 8pm in Institute of Archaeology Lecture Theatre.

Further details on CREDOC could be found at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/research-frontiers/civilisation>.

Action

8.9 A link to CREDOC to be created on new SLASH Research Intranet page

Distribution: Members of the SLASH Research Board, Academic Support

CE

Shared views/experience on REF

Positive points to note:

- UCL was supportive and there was a civilised spirit in dealing with REF.
- Fatimah Rajah mentioned specifically for being very helpful
- It was mentioned that there was good moral support in relation to impact case studies

Issues raised:

- Variations in cut off dates creates increased pressure (until HEFCE issue REF guidelines, dates unknown)
- Unclear lines of responsibility.
- Problems collating data regularly – it was mentioned that departmental staff were tied up to too many systems. It was thought that data entered once (IRIS) would be stored.
- IRIS – two views (public page and confidential page), is misleading to staff as it looks like confidential information will become public. Fundamental interaction problems
- RPS not good. Information systems failures. Badly designed systems create user resistance
- Some things users had didn't match language needed
- Confidentiality of appraisal information was raised as a concern
- Substantial variations between units meant that environment templates can't be standardised
- Counting period for PhD students – not included in REF (depends on time of year).

Suggestions for future REF activities:

- Impact in REF terms needs to be more strategic in Jan 2014
- Departments should be preparing for next REF
- Practical support - a designated liaison officer for departments was suggested
- Spreadsheet to harvest funding activities should be done.
- **Departments to be asked what categories they need** } (needs amendment and/or clarification)
- **Impact case studies – find students earlier** }
- Strategy in relation to faculties – need assistance in this area
- Seeing statements that did well
- Make sure things progress in all areas of UCL (distribution of knowledge)
- Environment and impact – templates and guidance briefings needed in these areas
- Data management systems fit for purpose needed