



UCL

Confirmed

Research Degrees Committee

Wednesday 4th November 2020

11am 1pm

Minutes

Present Members: Professor David Bogle (Chair); Dr Helen Matthews; Ms Elizabeth Halton; Dr Sam Smidt; Ms Helen Notter; Professor Stephen Marshall; Dr Simon Banks; Dr Efrosyni Ko5mtid497.47 Tm03n

June 2020.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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4.

4.1. The chair welcomed the following new members of RDC. New Faculty Graduate Tutors included Dr Richard Freeman (Institute of Education), Professor Alex Mills (Laws), Professor Jasmina Jovanovic (Life Sciences), and Dr Alan Ingram (Social and Historical Sciences). New elected members included Professor Richard Bucknall (Engineering), Dr Efrosyni Konstantinou (Built Environment), and Dr Mark Newman (Institute of Education). New nominated member included Professor David Spratt (Vice Head of the Do5pratt (Vice Head of the

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- 5.5. The next step was to produce an action plan which would identify which teams/people would be responsible for each issue, and to provide costing for the actions.
- 5.6. It was noted that Office for Students and Research England had more put out a call for bids to support BAME Research Students. Each institution could lead on one, and be partners with another three. EDI issues had high political profile, and there was strong support across institutions to take it forward.
- 5.7. **Approved** it was noted that the paper was formally approved by RDC.

6. Student Complaints Annual Report (PGR)

- 6.1. Received - the paper at RDC 1-03 (20-21). The Deputy Director (Casework and Governance) introduced the item which summarised the Complaints received from PGR students in 2019/20.
- 6.2. It was confirmed that there were no significant issues or concerns with the rates of PGR complaints which had been lower than both UG and PGT statistics within the same period.
- 6.3. It was noted that PGR complaints typically have a very wide scope and draw upon numerous sources of potential dissatisfaction across a long period of time. The importance of good record keeping was identified as good practice to ensure complaints can be addressed satisfactorily.
- 6.4. The Chair noted that the Institution of Education numbers were high due to a range of legacy issues and that the Doctoral School had met with the Faculty to build a plan to address this.
- 6.5. It was noted that although the numbers were low for formal complaints, it did not necessarily reflect the amount of time spent within Faculties handling informal complaints and issues. It was acknowledged it was difficult to capture

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- 7.7. It was suggested that a recommendation paper be drawn up on regulations for PGR students supervising Taught students. The Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Faculty of Population Health Sciences

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10. Modernisations to exam regulations

10.1. Received - the paper at RDC 1-07 (20-21). The Deputy Director (Doctoral School) introduced the item which outlined modernisations to exam regulations as a result of Covid-19.

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Universities had already implemented an electronic copy only policy successfully which suggested that these issues were surmountable.

