

Research Degrees Committee

23 May 2023

Confirmed Minutes

Present Members: Professor David Bogle (Chair); Hamza Ahmed; Professor Simon Banks; Dr Josephine Barnes; Karen Barnard; Professor Annie Britton; Dr Andrew Flinn; Emma Francis; Elizabeth Halton; Professor Jasmina Jovanovic; Dr Rebecca Lindner; Professor Colin Marx; Professor Tania Monteiro; Professor Jill Norman; Helen Notter; Professor Jane Perryman; Paula Speller; Professor Dave Spratt; Dr Andrew Stoker.

Attendees: Zoe Harrison (for Minute 41) Dr Benet Salway (for Minutes 38 & 39); Gary Smith (for Minute 40) and Matthew Redmond (Secretary).

Apologies for absence: Dr Ruth Siddall; Professor Jane Holder; Professor Stan Zochowski;

Research Student Log and InkPath. It was noted that a system for Studentships was still required, and that work was on-going to progress this. Members were asked to ensure that they advocate for updated and new systems to support PGR administration in other forums to emphasise their importance. It was noted that PGR will be included in the review of admissions systems at UCL and if members had anything to raise in relation to PGR Admissions they can feed this back to the Doctoral School via the Doc School email address so it can be included in discussions.

- 37.3. It was highlighted to members that two links on Artificial Intelligence (AI) had been provided within the meeting agenda for their consideration. These related to engaging with AI in assessment and managing AI in relation to academic misconduct. The Chair recommended that AI was made a focus of discussions at the next RDC meeting. To support this a paper will be requested from the Digital Education Team outlining the impact of AI on Postgraduate Research awards. It was noted that a working group may need to be formed following this discussion to consider any changes to practice, regulations and guidance that may be required in relation to AI.
Action: Secretary to request a paper from the Digital Education Team on the impact of AI on Postgraduate Research awards.

Part II: Matters for Discussion

38. Research Degree Regulations Working Group - Changes to Research Degrees Framework, Section 3, Supervisory Arrangements

38.1.

Action: Prof. Simon Banks to monitor issues related to staff on the Teaching Track and supervision in light of the updated Guidance and bring paper to future RDC if issues persist.

38.6. **Approved** - The proposed changes to

41. Student Complaints Annual Report (PGR)

- 41.1. Received the paper at RDC 3-05 (22-23) containing an annual report on PGR student complaints,

**44. New and Amended Programmes and Qualifications Approved by RDC
Action**

44.1. Approved - the paper at RDC 3-08 (22-23)

45. Any other business

45.1. The Chair expressed the thanks of the Committee to Helen Notter and Dr Rebecca Lindner who would both be leaving UCL shortly.

45.2. The Chair re-iterated to members to ensure papers are notified to the Secretary well in advance of the meeting. This enables them to be taken into consideration during agenda setting which occurs 2/3 weeks before RDC takes place.

46. Dates of Meetings for 2023-24:

Matthew Redmond (RDC Secretary)