

13. Matters Arising from the Minutes

13.1. Arising from Minute 3.4, the Chair had liaised with the Head of Research

- f. The Horizon Europe funding guarantee had been extended to cover all calls that closed on or before 31 December 2022, but it was currently unclear if the guarantee would be extended.
- g. It was noted that unallocated research grant income would need to be spent by HEIs by March 2023 in the three areas of research capital, QR and Talent.
- h. In light of this, University Management Committee (UMC) had brought forward UCL's research capital spend for future years and was working with UCL Commercial and Procurement Services to be selective in allocating spend in this area by March 2023.
- i. One priority project to look at better options for freezers that were needed to operate at minus 80 degrees had been identified given UCL spent some £1.8m per year in this area.
- j. In terms of QR and Talent, the current financial forecasts were looking stable for AY 22/23 and suggestions were welcomed on possible areas of spend in these categories by March 2023.

14.2. During discussion, the following points were made:

- a. In terms of research income, it was noted the Institute of Education had seen a slight decrease in the number of research grant applications submitted whilst the award value remained constant. Therefore, the underlying metrics were important.
- b. There was a nuanced picture across UCL and that in some faculties there was a decrease in both grant awards and income which was of concern.
- c. It was noted that there was a new UCL Tableau dashboard on staff trends that might be of interest to the committee.
- d. It was suggested that this slight decrease in application rates could be attributed to workload issues. However, UCL set expectations around research, innovation, translation and teaching as well as outputs for academic staff and that the Academic Careers Framework should act as a guide for staff.
- e. Overall, it was considered that UCL was still strong on research income but it needed to continue to thrive despite the current financial situation.
- f. In relation to Horizon Europe, it was suggested that visas deterred individuals from making an application, although it was highly likely that such costs would be covered by Horizon Europe funding.
- g. In terms of possible spend before March 2023 in the three above areas, it was suggested that under the 'Talent' category more resources could be assigned to support Early Career Researchers.

15. Confidential: Future REF Action Plan (2-08)

15.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

15.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

15.3.

16.2. The Chair expressed his thanks on behalf of the Committee to the Executive Director and the I&E team for all the activities being undertaken in their area and noted the breadth of the team's work.

16.3. RIGEC:

- a. Noted that the Secretary would add the items shown in the proposed schedule of I&E business at Paper 2-09 to the annual planner for RIGEC.

17. Enhancing UCL's Research Culture: Roadmap and High-Level Delivery Plan (2-10)

17.1. Emma Todd, Director of Research Culture, introduced the draft Research Culture Roadmap and the associated High-Level Delivery Plan. The key points made were:

- a. The Roadmap set out the proposed framework that UCL would use to organise work to enhance its research culture over the next ten years. The Delivery Plan set out the approach to delivering against the Roadmap over the next three years 2022/23-2024/25 that would be funded by RE.
- b. The Roadmap identified five themes by which activities would be organised.
- c. The importance that individuals placed on the values of care and respect were recognised and were included in the environment needed to create the desired research environment at UCL.
- d. The Director of Research Culture was in the process of recruiting a dedicated specialist Research Culture team consisting of some ten members of staff to support effective delivery of research culture initiatives across faculties.
- e. Some 10 early projects (6 UCL projects; 4 collaborative with other institutions) had been identified as priorities and would form part of a first phase of work.
- f. Whilst progress had been made in research culture activities across UCL, the "how" would be challenging. Therefore, ensuring that both the governance oversight and engagement with this area of work was right would be crucial to rolling out the Roadmap.

17.2. During discussion, the following points were made:

- a. The Chair expressed his thanks to the Director of Research Culture for all her work and the progress made in taking forward research culture initiatives across UCL.
- a. In relation to the project on promotions review, this was in the discovery phase and considered to be a key issue in culture discussions.
- b. It was commented that within the Faculty of Laws, for example, there was a common view that career progression varied based on diversity and took time whilst gender equality varied across grades. Professor Carsten

research ethics could be flagged more clearly in the statement, especially in relation to training. It was noted that more departmental level training information in relation to research ethics would be made available for 2022-23 as the local RECs would have to produce an annual report on low risk research and training at a departmental and/or faculty level.

Research, Innovation and Global Engagement Committee Minutes