

Research, Innovation and Global Engagement Committee

Thursday 20th January 2022, 10:00am
Video-conferencing meeting on MS Teams

Minutes

Present Members:

Professor David Price (Chair), Professor David Bogle, Professor Carsten Gerner-Beuerle, Ms Claire Glen, Professor Stephen M. Hart, Professor Jennifer Hudson, Mr Richard Jackson, Professor Sam Janes, Professor Jeffery, Dr Jane Kinghorn, Ms Sarah Lawson, Ms Viktoria Makai, Mr Benjamin Ayris, Mr Jeremy Barraud, Dr Matthew Blain, Professor David Bogle, Professor John King, Dr Ben Caddick, Ms Sarah Chaytor, Mr Andrew Cooper, Mr James Davis, Professor Carsten Gerner-Beuerle, Ms Claire Glen, Professor Stephen M. Hart, Professor Jennifer Hudson, Mr Richard Jackson, Professor Sam Janes, Professor Jeffery, Dr Jane Kinghorn, Ms Sarah Lawson, Ms Viktoria Makai, Mr Benjamin

especially welcomed those who had been invited to serve on RIGEC as agreed at its last meeting.

7. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021

7.1. RIGEC approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 [Minutes 1-5, 2021-22].

8. Matters arising from the Minutes (Paper 2-03)

8.1. Arising from Minute 3.1, some amendments have been made to RIGEC's terms of reference and constitution and membership as agreed at its inaugural meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, it has been proposed that the UCL Clinical Research Governance Committee should report upwards to RIGEC instead of to the new Health Partnerships Committee. It was considered that RIGEC's terms of reference and constitution and membership might require further minor amendment in the future once it became more established.

8.2. RIGEC:

- a. Approved its further revised terms of reference and constitution and membership that would be submitted to University Management Committee (UMC) for formal approval.

Part II: RIGEC Approved its

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undertake research needed to be communicated as connectivity and where collaboration happened.

- f. The development of the Covid vaccine set high public expectations and misunderstandings about R&I as it normally took about 25 years to develop a vaccine and research was at the centre of the solution.
- g. While UCL celebrated its research grant funding awards, this was not done by anyone externally, nor the longevity to achieve the award.
- h. The BritainThinks research into public perceptions of universities showed that the wider public were neutral about HEIs but did not really understand research and what HEIs did and their impact (see <https://issuu.com/universitiesuk/docs/public-perceptions-uk-universities->).
- i. The Wellcome-funded Discovery Decade project being led by CaSE was also making an important contribution to understanding public attitudes to and support for research.
- j. The Wellcome Trust had recently announced that its funding would increase by 60%, although much of this was likely to be allocated to international and strategic activities.

10.3. RIGEC:

- a. Agreed that Professor Reid be invited to give an update on implications arising from the government's Budget and Spending Review announcement at a meeting of RIGEC to be held in the summer term.

11. Understanding UCL's Research Culture (Paper 2-04)

- e. The three main elements of the project were a consultation; training and development mapping; and a behavioural science pilot, all of which were delivered and drawn upon to make high-level, data-led recommendations on how to develop UCL's research culture.
- f. It was noted that £33m of Enhancing Research Culture Funding had recently been allocated to HE providers through Research England. UCL was awarded £1m+ in January 2022 for the 21/22 financial year. Internal allocation of the funds was based on the following model: 57% for central proposals benefitting the whole institution; 33% for Faculties for more local activities; 10% for programme and project management and strategy development.
- g. It was proposed that the Research Culture Operations Group chaired by the Pro-Vice-Provost (Library, Culture, Collections and Open Science) would develop a Research Culture Action Plan and that RIGEC would have strategic oversight of the Plan.

11.2. The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. The Chief People Officer considered the report to be an excellent piece of work and it offered the opportunity to make a big difference to the culture at UCL. Consideration would need to be given to how to link this work on research culture into other culture work being undertaken across UCL.
- b. It was suggested that in allocating the £330k for Faculty level proposals, a selection process would be needed that could be monitored, as well as monitoring of the progress of the successful proposals themselves.
- c. It was noted that Faculties were keen to see the central level research culture proposals that had been agreed before preparing faculty level ones. However, there were timelines associated with the funding and all the monies allocated should be spent by 31 July 2022.

11.3. RIGEC:

- a. Approved the proposals as set out in the report including that RIGEC act as the Steering Group for the development of a Research Culture Action Plan.

12. Research Ethics Strategy Board

12.1. Professor Cheryl Thomas QC, Chair of the Research Ethics Strategy Board (RESB) gave an oral update report on the Board's work. The key points made were:

- a. The RESB was established in 2021 by the former Research Governance Committee and started its work in earnest in the Autumn Term.
- b. It had strategic oversight of research ethics at UCL, including developing and reviewing research ethics policies and practices across UCL as well as monitoring and auditing all bodies at UCL that looked after research ethics.

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training was made available soon, applications from both faculties would have to continue to be submitted to the UCL REC for approval.

- e. It was noted that ethics involving innovation and enterprise was not included in the Board's terms of reference and the RESB Chair and the Executive Director of Innovation and Enterprise would discuss offline whether a structure covering these areas was needed.

Part III: Other Busin