



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meeting held on 28 November 2015
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the paper.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Advisory Group is to develop and monitor strategies and policies for research and research support in QMUL. • The members of the Group are the VP (Research) (Chair), the Faculty Deans for Research, the Deputy Deans for Research Degrees (one of whom is the Director of the Doctoral College), the Deputy Deans for Research Impact, and the Director of Research Services and Business Development. Heads and representatives of relevant Professional Services departments are invited to attend the meetings as appropriate.
Questions for Senate to consider	<p>The paper is provided for information.</p> <p>This report provides an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • terms of reference and membership (section 2); • the review of research support (section 3); • Research Councils UK open access policy (section 4); • research staff survey results (section 5); • the Government consultation on postgraduate doctoral loans (section 6); • terms of reference for the Joint Clinical Research Board (section 7).
Regulatory/statutory reference points	Under the QMUL Delegation Framework, the VP (Research) has responsibility for the leadership of cross-QMUL research and research degree matters, including academic standards and the development and delivery of the QMUL Research Strategy.
Strategy and risk	n/a
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	For report to Senate.
Authors	Mary Childs, ARCS, secretary to the Advisory Group
Sponsor	Professor Bill Spence, Vice-Principal (Research)

SENATE

VICE-PRINCIPAL RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summary of the meeting held on 28 November 2016

For a full set of notes please contact the Secretary: Mary Childs
m.childs@qmul.ac.uk

An update from the Vice-Principal (Research) is also available on the agenda.

1. Summary

This report summarises the main areas of discussion of the Research Advisory Group to the Vice-Principal (Research) at the meeting held on 28 November 2016.

2. Terms of Reference and Membership

The Group reviewed its terms of reference and membership, reported to Senate at the last meeting.

It has agreed to amend the membership to include the new roles of Faculty Deputy Deans for Research Impact.

The revised terms of reference and membership are annexed.

3. Review of research support

The Vice-Principal reported on the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to review the organisation and levels of research support at QMUL, assess these in relation to the current and likely future environment as well as the situation in comparable universities, and make recommendations for possible further reviews or changes. The group will report to QMSE.

The review is set in the context of the current external environment for research funding which presents a number of challenges. These include research concentration, a greater stress on partnerships and external engagement, the evolving research impact agenda and the increasing focus on interdisciplinary responses to major societal challenges. Further areas of concern are Brexit, open access and data, and increased levels of compliance regulation.

The members of the group are:
the VP (Research), Chair
External member: Director of Research Management and Innovation, KCL
Chief Strategy Officer
Chief Operating Officer
The Faculty Deans for Research
Executive Officer (Research)

4. Research Councils UK open access policy

The Group received an update on compliance with the RCUK open access policy for publications. QMUL met the RCUK requirement for 2015-16 of 60% compliance.

It is noted that there is still significant work to do to more efficiently capture publications data for monitoring and analysis; particular problems still exist around the consistency of acknowledging funding, and reliance on external data sources for information regarding when publications result from researchers funded by RCUK awards. There is also a separate REF open access policy with some different criteria and action is being taken to ensure that both policies are met.

5. Research Staff Survey Results

The Group received a report on results from the Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) and the Principal Investigators and Research Leaders Survey (PIRLS). These are national surveys for collecting feedback from research staff, and academic staff, respectively, based on various aspects of their experience in UK Higher Education. Results are benchmarked against the responses from other Russell Group (RG) institutions, for reference.

Further work is being undertaken to corroborate the results with other data sources, where available, and to develop action plans. The results will be circulated to faculty executive groups for review.

The surveys will run again in 2017 and efforts will be made to increase the low QMUL participation rates.

6. Consultation on postgraduate doctoral loans

The Group reviewed the draft response to the consultation which will also be discussed at the Queen Mary Senior Executive Group.

Under the proposals eligible individuals would be able to borrow up to £25,000 for the duration of their programme. The maximum course length would be six years. The loan is intended as a contribution to the cost of study, rather than to specifically cover tuition fees or living costs. The loan would be available only to individuals studying any level 8 doctoral qualification.

The Government's objectives in introducing doctoral loans from 2018-19 are to:

- Support take-up in doctoral study by providing access to finance to those not currently in receipt of a Research Council studentship.
- Broaden and strengthen the UK's research base.
- Benefit the economy by increasing the supply of workers with the high level skills needed to meet demand from employers and the research base, and to stimulate an innovation-led economy.

7. Terms of Reference for the Joint Clinical Research Board

The Group approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Clinical Research Board between QMUL School of Medicine and Dentistry and Barts Health.

The paper is provided for Senate to approve as a separate item on the agenda.

8. Reports

The Advisory Group receives oral reports at each meeting from the Faculty Deans for Research and the Director of the Doctoral College.

Oral and written updates were received from the following other groups:

- HSS Research Advisory Group
- S&E Research Advisory Group
- Professional Services Research Advisory Group
- Doctoral College Management Group
- VP Public Engagement and Student Enterprise Advisory Group.

9. Date of next meeting

16 January 2016

Vice-Principal's Research Advisory Group

Terms of Reference and Membership, 2016-17

Terms of Reference

To develop and monitor strategies for research, including:

- To develop and monitor the delivery of internal and external KPIs for research at institutional level
- To make recommendations regarding policy on relations with external funding organisations and collaborators
- To make recommendations regarding the exploitation of research to the benefit of QMUL and staff
- To develop and monitor research support within QMUL, including costing and pricing, research grants management, business development, IP and commercialisation activities
- To develop, promote and support interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research, including identifying institutional level research themes and priorities
- To develop QMUL's strategic approach to internally and externally funded interdisciplinary Research Centres and Institutes and to monitor the success of these structures
- To develop and monitor high ethical standards in research in all research activities
- To monitor allegations of fraud and misconduct in research through an annual report on allegations and outcomes
- To be responsible for the oversight of risk management arrangements and the assessment of risk relating to research activity
- To be responsible for the oversight of the Doctoral College, including the recruitment, funding and training of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, and other strategic matters concerning these groups. The Research Advisory Group shall receive regular reports from the Doctoral College Management Group.
- To consider research ideas and proposals raised through other research forums.

Membership

Core members

Vice-Principal for Research (Chair)

Director of the Doctoral College (normally one of the Faculty Deputy Deans for Research Programmes)

Dean for Research, Humanities and Social Sciences

Deputy Dean for Research Programmes, Humanities and Social Sciences

Deputy Dean for Research Impact, Humanities and Social Sciences

Dean for Research, Medicine and Dentistry

Deputy Dean for Research Programmes, Medicine and Dentistry

Deputy Dean for Research Impact, Medicine and Dentistry
Dean for Research, Science & Engineering
Deputy Dean for Research Programmes, Science & Engineering
Deputy Dean for Research Impact, Science & Engineering
Director of Research Services and Business Development

In attendance

Executive Officer (Research)
Secretariat: Mary Childs, RDO, ARCS

Heads and representatives of relevant Professional Services departments are invited to attend the meetings as appropriate.

Secretary
Mary Childs, ARCS
m.childs@qmul.ac.uk
Ext. 5859

Approved by the Vice-Principal's Research Advisory Group on 28.11.2016