

Senate Update September 2017: VP Research and Life Sciences Interim Director

LS land agreement with BHT

A headline agreement has been signed between Barts Health NHS Trust and QMUL for the purchase of land at Whitechapel to support joint aspirations in the life sciences. The agreement will provide QMUL with land sufficient to develop 40,000 square metres of space that will support research, innovation, translation, education and public and patient engagement activities. The development will be primarily located at the western end of the Whitechapel site, adjacent to QMUL's existing campus buildings.

Dean for Life Sciences

Panos DeLoukas, Professor of Cardiovascular Genomics at the William Harvey Research Institute has been appointed as the new Dean for Life Sciences. The Dean will play a key role in the next stage of the development of this major initiative.

REF 2021 – HEFCE initial decisions

HEFCE released initial decisions on some aspects of REF2021 in early September and a summary of key points was circulated to Schools and Institutes. Known changes include an increase in the importance of impact and 100% submission of staff. Some preliminary modelling of the overall potential effects of these changes has been undertaken and shared with Faculties. Further information on output portability and staff selection is expected in autumn 2017.

REF dry-runs 2018

Following consultation with Schools and Faculties on the best use of external assessors, the dry-run timetable for 2018 has been approved by VPRAG and QMSE and will be circulated shortly to Schools and Institutes. Full guidance notes and templates will be circulated by the end of October.

Research Support Services Review

The final meeting of the Research Support Services Review was held in mid-September. A report on the findings and recommendations of the group is being prepared and will be published following approval from QMSE.

Strategic grants

- An internal call for expressions of interest for a £10m Leverhulme Research Centre has been launched.
- Morag Shiach is coordinating QMUL's proposal for the AHRC Creative Industries Clusters Programme (~£8m) and is in discussion with a number of other potential collaborating institutions.
- QMUL are involved in two bids for HEFCE's Connecting Capabilities Fund, which supports collaborative knowledge exchange projects of £3-5m: A bid led by Imperial focussed on tech transfer and skills training for early career researchers; and a creative industries-based bid in collaboration with a number of HEIs.
- Notice has been given of the intention to submit four projects for the £20m GCRF call 'Interdisciplinary Research Hubs to Address Intractable Challenges Faced by Developing Countries', with leads Andy Prendergast, Graham McGregor, Stefan Priebe and Paul Heritage.

HR data project

Work on improving internal data validation processes to enhance the quality of HR data has continued with input from the VP Research Office. The project will ensure the veracity of the annual HESA return, which feeds into the REF submission, as well as numerous league tables.

Academic and professional development services

The restructure of the CAPD is now complete. Professional Development, led by Ian Roberts, is now part of Human Resources and the Student and Academic Services Directorate (SAS), led by Sarah Cows, now contains the Academic Development group, headed by Sally Mitchell.

Open Research Data

The VP Research is a member of the [Open Research Data Taskforce](#), set up by the Minister for Universities and Science to produce a 'roadmap' and recommendations for national open research data infrastructure. The group's first [report](#), describing the current landscape, was published in June. QMUL researchers provided input to a number of case studies that it is planned to publish later this year, and the final report will be presented early in 2018.