



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meeting held on 27 September 2017
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); • Research Excellence Framework (section 3); • Lancet REWARD Scheme (section 4).
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 27 September 2017

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 27 September 2017.

2. Terms of Reference and Membership

The Group reviewed its terms of reference and membership for 2016-17 and approved these for 2017-18 without amendment. The Group is followed by meetings of the Strategic Grants Advisory Group which has similar membership.

The terms of reference and membership of the Research Advisory Group are annexed.

3. Research Excellence Framework

The Group received an update on REF2021 initial decisions on profile weightings and units of assessment.

The three profile weightings compared to the previous REF will be:

- Outputs 60% (decreased by 5%)
- Impact 25% (increased by 5%)
- Environment 15%

Scoring of sub-profiles and the overall profile will be on a five-point scale (1*- 4* and Unclassified).

Several UoAs have been revised:

- There will be a single UoA for Engineering (combining the previous UoAs 12, 13, 14 and 15)
- UOA 17 is to be split into UOA 14 Geography and Environmental studies and UOA 15 Archaeology
- Film and Screen studies will be located in UOA 33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts and Screen Studies

HEFCE has requested further input on questions relating to staff eligibility and output portability by 29 September 2017. QMUL will submit an institutional response.

HEFCE are inviting applications for sub-panel chairs by 12 noon on Wednesday 11 October 2017 and QMUL staff are encouraged to consider applying.

The Group also considered and approved the QMUL REF Dry Run Timetable for 2017-18 including input from external assessors. This will be circulated to schools and institutes and discussed at Faculty Dean for Research Advisory Groups and equivalent bodies.

4. Lancet Reward Scheme

The Group agreed to endorse the recommendation of the SMD Vice-Principal (Health) that QMUL should sign up to the Lancet REWARD Statement <http://www.thelancet.com/campaigns/efficiency>

This is as follows:

The REWARD Statement

We recognise that, while we strive for excellence in research, there is much that needs to be done to reduce waste and increase the value of our contributions. We maximise our research potential when:

- we set the right research priorities;
- we use robust research design, conduct and analysis;
- regulation and management are proportionate to risks;
- all information on research methods and findings are accessible;
- reports of research are complete and usable.

We believe we have a responsibility not just to seek to advance knowledge, but also to advance the practice of research itself. This will contribute to improvement in the health and lives of all peoples, everywhere. As funders, regulators, commercial organisations, publishers, editors, researchers, research users and others – we commit to playing our part in increasing value and reducing waste in research.”

If your organisation would like to sign up to *The Lancet's* REWARD campaign, and you endorse and support the statement above, [click here](#) to send your logo and URL to Sabine Kleinert and Tamara Lucas, for display on *The Lancet's* REWARD campaign page.

5. Date of next meeting

23 November 2017

Vice-Principal's Research Advisory Group

Terms of Reference and Membership, 2017-18

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 Degree Programmes, Humanities and Social Sciences

Deputy Dean for Research Impact, Humanities and Social Sciences

Dean for Research, Medicine and Dentistry

Deputy Dean for Research Degree Programmes, Medicine and Dentistry

Deputy Dean for Research Impact, Medicine and Dentistry
Dean for Research, Science & Engineering
Deputy Dean for Research Degree 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
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Approved by the Vice-Principal's Research Advisory Group on 27.09.2017