Queen Mary
University of London

Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meeting held on 12 May 2014
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to **note** the paper.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	• The purpose of the Advisory Group is to develop and monitor strategies and policies for research in QMUL. • The members of the Group are the Faculty Deans for Research and Director of the Doctoral College. Heads and representatives of relevant Professional Services departments attend the meetings as appropriate.
Questions for Senate to consider	The paper is **provided for information**. This report covers discussion of: • REF: internal review of QMUL processes and response to HEFCE REF process review (section 2); • review of policies related to research activity (Open Access, IP, Research Misconduct) (section 3); • the Doctoral College Annual Reports on training of PhD supervisors and training opportunities for research students (section 4).
Regulatory/statutory reference points	n/a
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

MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2014

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

Updates from the Vice-Principal (Research) are available at
http://connect.qmul.ac.uk/research/VPRI%20Updates/index.html

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 12 May 2014.

2.   **REF and new annual research reviews**

        REF
        At this meeting the Advisory Group received the summary report on the QMUL REF
        2014 process review and a copy of the QMUL response to the HEFCE Review of
        REF2014. The results of the REF equality analysis were noted. The information
        gathered through the QMUL REF process review will be used to inform developments
        of internal processes supporting research and in the longer term will be taken into
        account in making decisions on the organisation of the next REF exercise.

        Annual Research and Innovation Reviews
        The Vice-Principal (Research) is meeting with the Heads and Directors of Research of
        each School in HSS and S&E in April/May to discuss the approach to research
        strategy post-REF. Various research data are being provided prior to these as
        background.

3.   **Research policy work**

        • **Open access in the post-2014 Research Excellence Framework**

          HEFCE has introduced a new policy for open access in relation to research
          assessments after the 2014 REF. The policy states that, to be eligible for
          submission to the post-2014 REF, authors' final peer-reviewed manuscripts
          must have been deposited in an institutional or subject repository on
          acceptance for publication. Deposited material should be discoverable, and
          free to read and download, for anyone with an internet connection. The
          requirement applies only to journal articles and conference proceedings with
          an International Standard Serial Number. It will not apply to monographs, book
          chapters, other long-form publications, working papers, creative or practice-
          based research outputs, or data. The policy applies to research outputs
          accepted for publication after 1 April 2016. The Task and Finish Group which
          prepared the QMUL Open Access statement has been reconvened to review
          the QMUL statement.

Library Services Research Support team has reviewed the requirements that need to be in place to meet the HEFCE policy and will be adapting Queen Mary Research Online (QMRO) to meet the additional duties on research organisations. The team will also be providing briefing sessions and guidance on the new responsibilities of authors concerning the creation of bibliographic records for their publications on PubLists at the point of acceptance by a publisher, and depositing publications in QMRO or another suitable online repository. Publists is also being enhanced through the annual licencing of additional functionality to expand the publications management system into a wider research information management system. The options for a formal Research Information System are being explored with support from ITS Research, JRMO and Library Services. It is hoped to purchase and install a new comprehensive grant management system in 2014-15, covering all aspects from applications and costing to post-award management and reporting.

- **The Research Facilities Task and Finish Group** audit of research equipment and facilities has been completed. The information has been uploaded to the site equipment.data (http://equipment.data.ac.uk/) supported by EPSRC and RCUK. This enables online searches for items of equipment that might be used by other researchers.

- **The IP Policy Task and Finish Group** is reviewing the QM Intellectual Property Policy. The intention is to set out a statement of the overarching principles governing the policy, with a set of underlying sub-policies on specific themes. VPRAG discussed a draft of the overarching statement which has also been discussed at QMSE and at the Senior Leadership Group. Comments will feed into a further iteration.

- **Review of research misconduct policy**
  A review of the Queen Mary policy on research misconduct has been initiated. Queen Mary is working with Barts Health NHS Trust to produce a single joint policy statement and a joint procedure for investigating allegations of research misconduct.

4. **Annual Reports from the Doctoral College**

The Vice-Principal's Research Advisory Group is responsible for the oversight of the Doctoral College and receives reports from the Doctoral College Management Group. At this meeting VPRAG received annual reports on the training of academic staff involved in the supervision of research students, and on training for research students. The Advisory Group found the reports very interesting, providing examples of the developments led by the Doctoral College and the Faculty Deputy Deans for Research to assure the quality of supervision received by research students and to provide students with a wide range of opportunities to develop new skills. The reports are available from Alex Tompkins, the Doctoral College Manager (a.k.tompkins@qmul.ac.uk).

(a) Supervisor Training

As part of its on-going work to improve the quality of supervision, and culture of timely completion, the Doctoral College provides training for those academic staff who act as PhD supervisors. Full-day workshops for new supervisors or those new to Queen Mary have been introduced this academic year. The workshops are run by the Faculty Deputy Deans for Research and explore the regulations and models of good

supervision. So far this academic year 68 academics from all three faculties have attended training for new supervisors. One additional workshop for new supervisors will run in June 2014.

The Doctoral College also runs a programme of refresher training for current supervisors. This training ensures that experienced supervisors remain up-to-date with QMUL regulations and best practice, in line with the QMUL Code of Practice for Research Degrees. Refresher training is organised and run within the faculties. Directors of Graduate Studies are responsible for maintaining records of the training undertaken by supervisors in their School or Institute.

Overall attendance for supervisor training has been substantial over the past two academic years as training for supervisors has become more formalised and embedded. The majority of active supervisors in most Schools and Institutes have now attended either new or refresher supervisor training.

(b) Postgraduate Research Training 2013-14

QMUL provides broad training for PhD students, catering to the needs of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students, across all three faculties. The Doctoral College, Schools and Institutes work in co-operation to provide subject specific and generic training, with focused provision at particular points in the PhD cycle. The report covered training provided by schools and institutes, Doctoral Training Centres, the Doctoral College, and the Researcher Development team within the Centre for Academic and Professional Development and the QMUL Careers and Enterprise Centre. The report included data on attendance and evaluation of centrally provided training.

All School/Institute and centrally provided training is captured by the Skills Points Database system which allows PhD students to claim points and map their development against the four domains of the RCUK endorsed Vitae Researcher Development Framework. Following a pilot initiated in 2011-12, the system was reviewed in January 2014. Key recommendations which will be sent out for final consultation with schools and institutes include: lifting restrictions on the points needing to be accrued each year to allow greater flexibility for students to fit their training around their particular needs; awarding students who gain 210 points (in line with RCUK's recommendation for PhD training) a QMUL Certificate of Researcher Development Training; and allowing those students who have significant development training prior to enrolment (for example through previous employment) to accrue points for that training.

5. **Date of next meeting: Monday 14 July 2014**