



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meetings held on 9 December 2013 and 10 February 2014
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 in QML. • 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	<p>The paper is provided for information.</p> <p>Discussions have focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of the new Research Strategy (section 2); • research grant funding matters (section 3); • review of policies related to research activity (section 5); • the Doctoral College Annual Report and PRES 2013 results (sections 8 and 9).
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

MEETINGS HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2013 AND 10 FEBRUARY 2014

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

1. Summary

This report summarises the main areas of discussion of the Research Advisory Group to the Vice-Principal (Research) at meetings held on 9 December 2013 and 10 February 2014.

2. Development of the new QM Research Strategy

In December the Group discussed provisional ideas of what might be covered by the new Research Strategy for 2015-2020, and in February considered a first draft set of indicators of progress on the strategic aims.

3. Research grant matters

(a) EU funding

Vicky Byers, Head of the EU Unit in the Joint Research Management Office, presented a paper to the Group in December summarising applications for EU funding and outcomes for 2010-11 to 2012-13. The strength of performance in many of the EU schemes was noted, with above average success rates in several strands. The forthcoming funding opportunities through Horizon 2020 were also discussed. The establishment of an EU Unit Advisory Group was noted.

(b) Overhead recovery on research grants

The Joint Research Management Office is working with the Group to ensure that appropriate staff costs are being charged to FEC bearing awards, and to increase overhead income on research grants and commercial grants. Proposals discussed at the February meeting are to be piloted. JRMO will report on the effectiveness of the proposals to VPRAG in July.

(c) Renewal of annual subscription to Research Professional

In December the Group approved the continuation of the annual subscription to Research Professional at a cost of £23,514 plus VAT for 2014.

4. **Monitoring Research Performance**

The Advisory Group monitors research-related performance indicators, the research components of the College and Faculty risk registers, and other research activity data.

At the meeting in February the Group considered the QML Strategic Risk Register and Faculty Risk Registers for items relating to research, allowing the opportunity for comparisons of risks identified across the four registers, and to note or highlight particular risks and actions. It was noted that the Faculty risk registers are being reviewed in PAR, and that a new QML Risk Register was being developed, at the request of the Audit and Risk Committee, with a smaller number of items.

5. **Research policy work**

- **Policy on Research Integrity**
The Group has reviewed the new draft policy on research integrity being developed by the Ethics of Research Committee, also considered by Senate at its meeting in December.
- **Compliance with the UK Research Integrity Concordat**
A Task and Finish Group has been set up to review the concordat against QML practice, and to make recommendations on any action that may be required to ensure compliance.
- **Research Data Management Group**
At its last meeting Senate approved the draft revised policy prepared by the Research Data Access and Management Task and Finish Group. The new Research Data Management Group is now meeting to oversee implementation of the policy and the development of guidance for staff.
- **The Research Facilities Task and Finish Group** is auditing facilities and will consider issues relating to facilities organisation and management, overhead recovery, and IT support;
- **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. A first draft was presented to QMSE in January 2014, and was also discussed at the Senior Leadership Group meeting in February 2014. VPRAG will discuss the draft in May.

6. **Research grant progress reports**

The Advisory Group receives twice-yearly reports on major grants held at College level, such as interdisciplinary and interfaculty grants, in order to assess progress and to monitor any risks associated with such grants.

At the meeting in December final reports were received on:

(a) **Impact QM**

This grant was funded by EPSRC under its Knowledge Transfer Account scheme. It contributed significantly to QM's development of an industry portfolio.

(b) **EPSRC Additional Sponsorship Award 2012 / Joint QMUL Warwick Collaborative Research Awards**

In February the Group received an update on

(c) the EPSRC Impact Accelerator Account which is progressing well.

7. Renewal of QM's "HR Excellence in Research Award" and the concordat implementation plan (Concordat to support the career development of researchers)

The two year evaluation of QML's 'HR Excellence in Research' badging, awarded in Jan 2012, has been completed by the Centre for Academic and Professional Development and HR. Most of the actions are on track or completed, and other remaining actions are now a focus for timely completion.

8. Doctoral College Annual Report

At the December meeting the Group welcomed the first annual report from the Doctoral College. It provides useful information on the variety of support for doctoral students. The report is available from Alex Tompkins, the Doctoral College Manager (a.k.tompkins@qmul.ac.uk).

9. Postgraduate Research Student Experience Survey 2013 results

In February the Group received a report from each faculty on its analysis of the PRES 2013 survey and the action being taken by schools/institutes and at faculty level. The Group was impressed by the thoroughness of the review which was co-ordinated by the Faculty Deputy Deans for Research and the Director of the Doctoral College.

10. Date of next meeting: Monday 12 May 2014