Queen Mary
University of London

Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group **Executive Summary of the meeting held on 14 July 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 provides an update on: • the new Annual Research and Innovation Review meetings (section 2); • HESA Research Performance Indicators 2012-13 (section 3) • Digital Initiative Network (section 7)
Regulatory/statutory reference points	n/a
Strategy and risk	n/a
Reporting/ consideration route for the paper	**For report** to Senate.
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Sponsor	Professor Bill Spence, Vice-Principal (Research)

SENATE

VICE-PRINCIPAL RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2014

For a full set of notes please contact the Secretary: Mary Childs
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Updates from the Vice-Principal (Research) are available at
http://connect.qmul.ac.uk/research/VPRI%20Updates/index.html
and
http://www.qmul.ac.uk/vpresearch_nl/vpresearch_July14.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 14 July 2014.

2.   **Annual Research and Innovation Review meetings**

        The Group received summaries of meetings held in April/May with the Heads and
        Directors of Research of each School in HSS and S&E. The meetings aimed at
        higher-level discussions of strategy and current issues, supported by an extensive set
        of comparative data. The meetings were chaired by the VP-R and attended by the
        Faculty Dean for Research. Discussion of research activity in SMD institutes has
        taken place as part of the on-going organisational and activity review in SMD. SMD
        institutes will be included in the Annual Research and Innovation Review (ARIR)
        meetings in 2014-15.

        The appropriate locus for discussions with schools and institutes as part of an annual
        review of research degree programmes was discussed. These are intended to support
        schools/institutes in reflecting on and enhancing their provision for research students.
        The development of an appropriate mechanism for the annual review of research
        degree programmes in 2014-15 is being taken forward by the Director of the Doctoral
        College.

3.   **HESA Research Performance Indicators 2012-13**

        The Group received reports prepared by the Strategic Planning Office analysing data
        provided by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on QMUL research output
        performance indicators (PI) for 2012-13 and sector data to enable benchmarking.

        Overall, QMUL had improved its ranking against the sector for PhDs awarded per QR
        allocation and there had been a slight improvement in the research grants & contracts
        per QR allocation indicator ranking. On several measures the QMUL position
        appeared to be below the sector average.

        However, it was noted that the sector had not expressed confidence in these

performance indicators in a recent consultation by HEFCE. Therefore HEFCE has decided to develop new research PIs and to discontinue the current set of indicators.

4. Research policy work

(a) **IP Policy**
VPRAG reviewed a revised draft of the policy. (The policy is on this agenda for Senate). The new policy aims to support researchers in developing applications of their research, to recognise the value of this work within our systems and procedures, and to encourage Schools and Institutes in this by providing them with a significant share of any benefits. It also aims to clarify some generally complex questions.

(b) **Research Integrity Concordat Task and Finish Group**
The interim report from the group was discussed, summarising the main outcomes of the mapping of the commitments in the UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity with QMUL practice. The recommendations of the group are being finalised for discussion with the VP-R.

5. Progress Reports on interdisciplinary / cross-cutting research grants

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. Reports were received on:

(a) **Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF5)**
HEIF funding is intended to "support and develop a broad range of knowledge-based interactions between universities … and the wider world which result in economic and social benefit to the UK". The HEIF funding falls into three main areas: industrial engagement, public engagement, and entrepreneurship and employability. The QM HEIF5 strategy is available on http://connect.qmul.ac.uk/research/funding-internal/index.html The Group received a financial report on spend to date and agreed budget forecasts, and brief project updates.

(b) **Creative Works London KE Hub**
The Group received the Executive Summary to the Annual Report provided to AHRC covering the period 1June 2013 to 31 May 2014.

6. Responses to recent consultations

The Advisory Group received the QMUL responses to the following external consultations:

(a) BIS consultation on proposals for long-term capital investment in science and research
(b) UK Science and Innovation Strategy 2014: call for input by HEFCE and RCUK
(c) HEFCE review of the role of metrics in research assessment
(d) EPSRC research data management expectations

7. Digital Initiative Network

The Advisory Group received the proposal for the new DIN (Digital Initiative Network). The purpose is to bring together scholars across Queen Mary who employ digital technologies in their research, or who wish to do so. It aims to facilitate and support

collaborations between those working in disciplines traditionally less engaged with the digital (broadly, the Humanities and Social Sciences) and those who are at the cutting edge of digital computational research (broadly, Science and Engineering). It will provide a focal point connecting these researchers and foster digital research, allowing participants to pool knowledge and experience.