



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meeting held on 15 February 2016
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 and Deputy Deans for Research (one of the Deputy Deans is the Director of the Doctoral College), 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"> • discussions on the development of institutional level international research priorities (section 2); • agreements to support Open Access to research outputs (section 3); • the Stern Review of the Research Excellence Framework (section 4); • the joint QMUL and Barts Health Trust review of Research Policies (section 5); • compliance with EPSRC research data management requirements (section 6).
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 15 February 2016

For a full set of notes please contact the Secretary: Mary Childs
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An update from the Vice-Principal (Research) on current projects 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 15 February 2016.

2. International research priorities

The Group is working with Professor David Sadler, VP(International), to identify the various approaches that might be taken to the development of priorities for international research collaborations at institutional level. One of the aims is to enhance QMUL's position to be able to respond to overseas research funding opportunities as these arise. It was agreed that some guidance in this area would be helpful to academic departments and individual researchers as the research base for larger scale partnerships and grant applications often develops out of the previous collaborations of individual researchers. The VP-International and VP-Research are preparing a paper for the next meeting of the Research Advisory Group. This is a wide-ranging discussion, exploring the types of partnership opportunities, research themes, and countries and territories that might align most closely with the goals in the QMUL Research and International Strategies.

3. UK Scholarly Communications Licence

QMUL is participating in sector discussions through the Research Libraries UK network about adopting a new form of agreement between individual members of academic staff and their employing institution which would help to meet the requirements of funding and other bodies around open access to the results of research supported from public funding, whilst also protecting the rights of authors to share, use and re-use the accepted manuscripts of their research findings. The licence has been used at Harvard and MIT and other universities very successfully. Faculty Research Advisory Groups will discuss and comment on the proposal as a first step in gathering feedback, and HR will be invited to give an initial view on any implications for staff contracts.

4. Stern Review of the Research Excellence Framework

The Group noted the government review of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) to ensure that future university research funding is allocated more efficiently, offers greater rewards for excellent research and reduces the administrative burden on institutions. The review will be chaired by the President of the British Academy and

former World Bank Chief Economist Lord Nicholas Stern. The review report is expected to be submitted to the government in summer 2016. The deadline for submission of comments to the consultation is 24th March.

The review web page is

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/research-excellence-framework-review-call-for-evidence>

Schools and Institutes have been invited to provide comments on the review questions by the end of February to eo-research@qmul.ac.uk.

The VP-Research has circulated information to schools and institutes about QMUL plans for preparing for the next REF in 2021 and specific actions for this year.

5. Research Policies

The Group approved the revised set of QMUL and Barts Health Trust Joint Research Policies. These had previously been circulated to school/institute Directors of Research for their comments. The final set of policies is on this agenda for Senate to approve on behalf of QMUL. The policies will also be considered for final approval by Barts Health Trust at the end of March.

The Group noted that a joint QMUL and Barts Health Trust Task and Finish Group has been set up to review the policies and procedures on research misconduct and public interest disclosure (whistle blowing). The VP-Research will chair the group. The review is being led by the Director of Research Services and Business Development.

6. Research Data Management

The Group received a report from the Research Data Management Group (RDMG) about compliance with EPSRC and other funder group open research data access requirements. RDMG has communicated the requirements regarding EPSRC open research data access and management expectations for funded projects to all EPSRC grant holders. QMUL is compliant in the pre-award processes due to the new processes established for the guidance and costing of all EPSRC grant applications. The Group discussed what further steps could be taken to ensure that researchers are aware of their obligations to funders for action post award. A joint message will be sent from the VP-Research and Chair of RDMG to all EPSRC grant holders about the actions to be taken, and there will be further discussion at relevant groups, such as the S&E Faculty Executive and S&E Research Advisory Group.

7. Reports

The Research Advisory Group receives oral reports at each meeting from the Faculty Deans for Research, the Director of the Doctoral College, and the Director of Research Services and Business Development. Other oral and written updates were received from or about:

- Professional Services Research Advisory Group;
- Doctoral College Management Group;
- VP Public Engagement and Student Enterprise Advisory Group;
- S&E and HSS Research Advisory Groups;
- Applications for research degrees for 2016-17 entry.

8. Date of next meeting 16 May 2016