



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meeting held on 16 May 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 covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the new UK Research Council Strategic Priorities and Spending Plan 2016-20 (section 2); • new research task and finish groups (section 3); • Researchfish (section 4); • report on grant overhead recovery (section 5); • REF action groups (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.
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Sponsor	Professor Bill Spence, Vice-Principal (Research)

SENATE

VICE-PRINCIPAL RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summary of the meeting held on 16 May 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 16 May 2016.

2. UK Research Council Strategic Priorities and Spending Plan 2016-20

The role of the Research Councils is to enable research and develop research capability, engaging with key stakeholders and addressing international challenges. The Group discussed the new plan and managing the identification of opportunities for QMUL research and co-ordinating responses to cross-council calls for research proposals. The plan is available at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/strategicprioritiesandspendingplan2016/>

The document indicates RCUK plans over the summer 2016 to consult and engage with the research and stakeholder community to help inform priority areas and build research and innovation capability in both the UK and the developing world. It highlights the role of the Research Councils to identify opportunities for longer-term engagement and collaboration with partner countries, and the resources supporting this activity provided through the Global Challenges Research Fund and the Newton Fund.

3. Research Task and Finish Groups

Research Services is leading on two new task and finish groups. The Research Advisory Group received the terms of reference and membership of these two groups.

(a) Task and Finish Group to review the QMUL procedure for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct

This is a joint review with Barts Health NHS Trust of the policies and procedures on research misconduct and public interest disclosure (whistle blowing). The VP-Research chairs the group.

(b) Task and Finish Group on clinical trials and from Good Clinical Practice compliance joint implementation group

A joint Implementation Group is being established to implement the recommendations of the task and finish group in both QMUL and Barts Health NHS Trust. There were:

1. to establish formal governance arrangements for joint oversight of clinical trials through a Joint Clinical Research /R&D Board;
2. that Institutes, Clinical Academic Groups (CAGs) and Trust Site Teams have clearly delegated responsibility for trials undertaken under their auspices;
3. to clarify the role of the JRMO acting on behalf of QMUL and BHT as sponsor of clinical trials;
4. to increase the breadth of Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) provision;
5. to increase support, development and training for CIs, PIs and their teams encouraging a culture of compliance, teamwork and respect

4. Research Fish

Research Fish was a recent exercise organised by RCUK to collect and record outcomes of RCUK funded research projects from research staff and research students. Researchfish has replaced the use of Final Reports for reporting to the relevant Research Council on the outputs/outcomes/impacts which arise from the vast majority of Research Council awards. QMUL achieved an excellent response rate: 100% by research staff (national response rate 98%) and 98.5% by research students (national response rate 80%).

The Research Advisory Group approved a letter of feedback on the exercise to RCUK concerning its organisation, communications and the system used for data collection.

5. Reporting on research grant overhead recovery rates

Arising from an internal audit report from KPMG on research grant overhead recovery rates within QMUL (in summer 2015), the Research Advisory Group was asked to have oversight of overhead recovery rates on all grant income through quarterly reports produced by JRMO. The Group received a report covering the period 2010-11 to 2014-15, and 2015-16 projections.

6. Preparing for the next Research Excellence Framework exercise

To support and co-ordinate work in preparing for the next REF the VP-Research reported on several new groups:

- REF Data Group
- REF Strategy Group
- REF Co-ordination 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;
- EU Advisory Group;
- QMUL response to the Stern Review of REF;
- Applications for research degrees for 2016-17 entry.

8. Date of next meeting 4 July 2016