



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meeting held on 21st January 2020
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 Queen Mary. • The Group is chaired by the VP (Research and Innovation) and membership includes the Deputy Vice-Principals for Research (Enterprise), Research (Impact) and Research Excellence, the Dean for Life Sciences, the Faculty Deans for Research, the Director of the Doctoral College, and the Director of Research Services. • 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"> • Research Board and ToR • Demand management (Section 5); • SE demand management (Section 6); • Feedback from Deans (Section 7);
Regulatory/statutory reference points	Under the Queen Mary Delegation Framework, the VP (Research and Innovation) has responsibility for the leadership of cross-University research and research degree matters, including academic standards and the development and delivery of the Queen Mary Research Strategy.
Strategy and risk	n/a
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	For report to Senate.
Authors	Elizabeth Powell, Executive Support Officer (Science and Engineering)
Sponsor	Professor Andrew Livingston, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)

ACTION SUMMARY

Section	Action	Person(s)	Due date
1.	AL/SE needs to have a clear indication what is happening in all the Faculties regarding open grant calls/deadlines	AL/SE	February meeting
2.	SE and AL to meet to discuss to propose the way forward regarding Research Institutes.	SE/AL	February meeting
3.	SE to ask School/Faculty what their current arrangements are on equipment audit with dates when items will need replaced or repaired.	SE	February meeting
4.	AL said he wants every grant over ½ million listed with a title, person, amount, school/institute. Also tracking of income and overhead recovery at School/Faculty levels compared with previous years every quarter. SE to action this for the next meeting.	SE	February meeting
5.	SE to add an agenda item at a later VPRAG on fee wavers at later meeting	SE	February meeting
6.	Every third VPRAG meeting to be held at Charterhouse.	KB	

VPRAG
21st January 2020, 1300-
1500 E102
Notes and Actions

Item	Details	Action	Due Date
1.	Attendees: Andrew Livingston (AL), Sharon Ellis (SE), David Lee (DL), Paul D Allen (PdA), Yang Hao (YH), Panos Deloukas (PD), Adrian Smith (AS), Mauro Perretti (MP), Elizabeth Powell (EP)		
2.	Notes of previous meeting of VPRAG not discussed		
3.	<p>Matters arising and updates on actions.</p> <p>Not discussed</p>		
4.	<p>Research Board and ToR</p> <p>An Introduction was given from AL. AL gave an overview of his thoughts surrounding Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research first money second - Support success - Rewarding research levers – return of funds for individuals who generate grants - Evidence not assertion – we are what we say we are - Bottom up not outside in – to grow what we have and engage everyone we can to achieve our goals - Humble, but to have ambition 		
5.	<p>Demand management</p> <p>Bid support</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding being more strategic about bid support. We need a structure that is clear and transparent, the activities in the paper were supported.</p> <p>AL said we need to ensure that there is some way that requests for leverage come through to VPRAG. SE noted that we need to do some proper guidance around thresholds of things that are expected to be handled in the School/Faculty and what needs to come to VPRAG.</p> <p>If there is a deadline for large grant calls, VPRAG needs to know in advance to best mobilise resources.</p>		

	<p>There was a discussion about how academics already access information about open calls/deadlines. The Deans suggested this was already happening through Faculty or School structures and a central initiative was potentially going to confuse. AL wants to be able to set clear deadlines for what is coming up for people who want leverage. We need some way of doing that?</p> <p>AL wants to know, for example, with Leverhulme Fellowships, are we applying for them.</p> <p>AL wants to know if there is a call coming up do we have a colleague to apply.</p> <p>ACTION: AL/SE needs to have a clear indication what is happening in all the Faculties.</p> <p>If lists for calls are already being sent out by the Faculties, SE and AL to be copied in. And then they can indicate what needs to be coming to VPRAG. But some work around guidance needs to be done first so there is clarity on things like thresholds.</p> <p>Research Institutes A discussion took place regarding Research Institutes. How do we know what these are going to be? Who has the authority to decide what those institutes are? AL said that VPRAG should be deciding this. What process will we adapt to arrive at what topics they should be?</p> <p>SE suggests revisiting the four areas of strength in the strategy Work has already started on a SMD led initiative on disasters and from H&SS on the Creative Sector/Economy.</p> <p>ACTION: SE and AL to meet to discuss to propose the way forward.</p> <p>Research Facilities A discussion took place regarding the mechanisms we have in place for monitoring our Research facilities.</p> <p>ACTION: SE to ask School/Faculty what their current arrangements are on equipment audit with dates when items will need replaced or repaired.</p>		
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<p>6.</p>	<p>SE Demand Management</p> <p>SE explained that the data in the report is positive. The overall grant application volume is down but the value has increased.</p> <p>SE asked VPRAG what they want as a regular report.</p> <p>AL said he wants every grant over ½ million listed with a title, person, amount, school/institute. Also tracking of income and overhead recovery at School/Faculty levels compared with previous years every quarter.</p> <p>ACTION: SE to action this for the next meeting.</p> <p>A discussion took place on Fee wavers</p> <p>ACTION: SE to add an agenda item at a later VPRAG</p>		
<p>7.</p>	<p>Feedback from Deans</p> <p>AS noted that HSS have rolled out a new scheme for UKRI income to release time to develop grant applications.</p> <p>Life sciences are developing a number of working groups for research and innovation.</p> <p>Grant around precision medicine – identified Empire House for staff to be based. PdA to come to the next VPRAG meeting – then he and AL can decide if PdA is going to continue to attend.</p> <p>YH noted that S&E have been focusing on the planning round.</p>		
<p>8.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Every third VPRAG meeting to be held at Charterhouse.</p>		