



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meetings held on 18 March and 21 April 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	The paper is provided for information . <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	Actions	Person(s)	Due date
1.	School/ Faculty audit	SE	May 2020
2.	Fee Wavers – May 2020.	SE	May 2020
3.	Turing Institute – AL and SE to discuss our interaction with the Turing Institute.	AL SE	May 2020
4.	Look at the finance system for studentships for QR.	SE	May 2020
5.	DL and SE to meet to discuss what they want regarding Proof of Concept fund.	AL SE	May 2020

VPRAG
18 March 2020, 1300-
1500 Via Zoom Notes
and Actions

Item	Details	Action	Due Date
1.	<p>Attendees: Andrew Livingston (AL), Sharon Ellis (SE), David Lee (DL), Panos Deloukas (PD), , Mauro Perretti (MP), Adrian Smith (AS), Kavita Datta (KD), Eram Rizvi (ER), Aurelija Povilaike (AP), Elizabeth Powell (EP)</p> <p>Apologies: Yang Hao, Paul Allen (PA)</p>		
2.	Notes of previous meeting of VPRAG agreed.		
3.	<p>Matters arising and updates on actions.</p> <p>DL updated on the latest Proof of Concept and Impact Acceleration Account work. DL to report back at the March VPRAG on IAA/PoC funding streams.</p> <p>Turing Institute – AL and SE to discuss our interaction with the Turing Institute. Push back to next meeting.</p>		
4.	<p>KEF update – DL</p> <p>DL updated on KEF</p> <p>The group agreed that despite everything happening with Covid-19, we should stick to our original timeframe of the end of April in writing our narratives.</p>		
5.	<p>University Research Institutes</p> <p>AL to refine the incentivising Research paper before taking it to SET. AL said that we will hire a Director for DERI by the next VPRAG meeting. Once we get DERI up and running then we will look at topics for the other centres.</p>		

6.	<p>SE demand management bids</p> <p>There are two externally managed calls. UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship managed call and Rosetree trust.</p> <p>EP collated the scores from VPRAG members.</p> <p>VPRAG members made the following suggestions for changes to the bids.</p> <p>The panel decided to put forward Dr Michelle Lockley, Dr Christopher Jones noting that the research history needed to be easier to find in the documentation. Their record of accomplishment needed to be more prominent.</p> <p>UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship</p> <p>VPRAG agreed to put Dr Iris Benohr and Dr Kiki Tianqi Yu forward. Specific feedback for Benohr that the bid doesn't bring out enough what is new and what the outcomes could be. It needs to be rewritten to avoid repetition.</p> <p>Dr Kiki Tianqi Yu needs to spell out how this will develop their leadership further.</p> <p>ER noted that there was a piece of work to be done with all the applications, in shaping them better.</p> <p>SMD submissions</p> <p>The panel agreed to put Dr Benjamin Werner and Dr Sheena Lindsey Waters through.</p> <p>Dr Benjamin Werner needs more attention to details regarding how the bid is presented and the leadership development needs much more thought.</p> <p>Dr Sheena Lindsey Waters needs to give serious consideration to how the information is presented, and needs to reformat her submission.</p> <p>S&E submissions</p> <p>The panel decided to put Dr Guifen Chen and Dr Alexandre de Mendoza forward. Both need to develop the leadership element in their proposal.</p> <p>The panel decided not to put Dr Congkao Wen through. He already has a fellowship and it was not clear to the panel what advances he had made during this fellowship for him to be considered for a further one. He needs to be clear about what advances he made during this fellowship for him to be considered for a further one.</p>		
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7.	<p>Match funded PhDs to support NERC CDT</p> <p>AL noted that there is a NERC CDT call out.</p> <p>Action from the PGR – Look at the finance system for studentships for QR.</p> <p>We need to see the data for the supply and demand for PHDs – so we can respond to requests.</p>		
8.	<p>PoC/IAA update</p> <p>DL's paper outlined the funding sources and mechanisms used to select projects for funding. A series of proposals are provided for discussion including to increase the size of the Proof of Concept fund from the current £400k p.a. to £800k p.a. with the flexibility to increase funding levels of biopharma lab-based projects to £100k-£150k. This will allow certain projects to be progressed to significant milestones, which can make the difference between successful outcomes and project failure. This proposal should be considered in conjunction with the opportunity to join Apollo Therapeutics phase 2.</p> <p>DL noted that we need to manage the impact, set out in the paper.</p> <p>It was noted that we need data regarding the Proof of concept legacies.</p> <p>Action DL and SE to meet to discuss what they want.</p>		
9.	<p>Apollo Therapeutics</p> <p>AL discussed – Apollo Therapeutics is a unique £40M collaboration for therapeutic innovation, with the aim to produce high quality, licensable drug discovery assets from emerging science, with a 50% of return to University; 50% divided proportionally to its members</p> <p>VPRAG agreed to explore more to see what they are looking for.</p>		
9.	<p>AOB</p>		

ACTION SUMMARY

Section	Actions	Person(s)	Due date
1.	School/ Faculty audit. SE to ask School/Faculty what their current arrangements are on equipment audit with dates when items will need replaced or repaired.	SE	May 2020
2.	Fee Wavers – May 2020.	SE	May 2020
3.	Turing Institute – AL and SE to discuss our interaction with the Turing Institute.	AL SE	June 2020
4.	DL and SE to meet to discuss what they want regarding Proof of Concept fund.	AL SE	June 2020
5.	SE has received information from QMI on the Apollo investment – SE will send this to VPRAG.	SE	May 2020
6.	HEIF allocation SE will bring back a piece of work with ideas on HEIF how we might refocus our HEOIF strategy and budget for May meeting. Looking to approve approach in June.	SE	May 2020

VPRAG
21 April 2020, 1300-
1500 Via Zoom Notes
and Actions

Item	Details	Action	Due Date
1.	<p>Attendees: Andrew Livingston (AL), Sharon Ellis (SE), David Lee (DL), Panos Deloukas (PD), , Mauro Perretti (MP), Adrian Smith (AS), Kavita Datta (KD), Sam Astley (SA), Yang Hao (YH), Adrian Armstrong (AA), Elizabeth Powell (EP)</p> <p>Apologies: None noted</p>		
2.	Notes of previous meeting of VPRAG agreed.		
3.	<p>Matters arising and updates on actions.</p> <p>May VPRAG we will go back to HEIF allocation and focus on next strategy and PoC.</p> <p>SE will bring back a piece of work with our position on HEIF for May meeting. We will discuss how to use the budget at the May VPRAG, draw up a short paper, and table/ approve in June.</p> <p>SE and DL to meet next week to consider the scale of PoC budgets.</p> <p>SE has received information from QMI on the Apollo investment – SE will send this to VPRAG (done).</p>		
4.	<p>Covid-19 Update</p> <p>Latest Research Grants and UUK Position</p> <p>How is Covid-19 affecting research?</p> <p>QMUL is doing research in relation to Covid-19. We are still having ongoing conversations to look at other area.</p>		

	<p>Interruption to research contracts</p> <p>Russell group meetings have come out with a proposal for the government to help out universities based on DI costs of active grants due to finish in the next 2 years.</p> <p>Universities UK have put in a request to double QR and increase UKRI grant cover from 80% to 100% FEC</p> <p>A request is being put forward to the government for assistance with Research grants. The government job retention scheme probably won't be available to universities. We are still looking into what help will be given from UKRI and the government.</p> <p>PHD students – UKRI funded final year and Wellcome funded students will be given an extension for up to 6 months (if need is proven).</p> <p>Other students Look at case by case basis for students for work that has come to a standstill, and depending on the degree of interruption. We are unlikely to have a blanket funding mechanism. SE and Research Services have been working on a paper and AL will sponsor at SET.</p> <p>AA said that that they are possibly looking at a banding system, but said the case by case approach would have a big impact on the work of the Research office.</p> <p>What is our exit strategy?</p> <p>Possible thinking: Looking to first open labs for Covid-19 funded research. Open labs that require on campus facilities. Open campus completely. Look at social distancing on campus. Having labs on shifts and open for 24 hours. AL to discuss further with SE. AL to speak to Health and Safety and Estates.</p>		
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5.	<p>Strategic Infrastructure Funding</p> <p>A brief discussion on the University's position post July</p> <p>SE recapped on our financial commitments. We are likely to have an underspend, and we need to come up with a plan on how we are going to use that underspend. SE noted that we may be able to add underspend into next year's budget. Alternatively, we can use it for immediate Covid-19 related needs.</p>		
6.	<p>Research Dashboard</p> <p>SA provided an update on the new Research dashboard, to provide better information on Research data and who is doing what.</p> <p>SE noted that the dashboard is a great starting point, but asked VPRAG what else they would want to use if for, then we can upload the data into Power BI.</p> <p>DL asked if we can look into the final part of Research projects in terms of REF – SE noted that we can look into this.</p> <p>AS noted that we need information by FTE and funding. He also said that it would be meaningful to have a set of benchmarking data e.g. where we sit in comparison to the rest of the Russell group</p> <p>SE said that they can split out overhead recovery and the funder.</p> <p>AL suggested that the overheads totals be presented in the same way as the total funding, and showed as a fraction of the total funding applied for and awarded on the graphs. AL also asked the capital funding applied for be shown in a separate Table/graph.</p>		
7.	<p>2020 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists</p> <p>AL asked if we are putting anyone forward?</p> <p>YH noted that S&E are collecting names – which will hopefully be ready for the next VPRAG.</p>		

8.	AOB DL mentioned the proposed changes to the REF timetable. DL noted that we are working on how the REF Strategy group feeds into the institutional response. Allocation of studentships MP noted that we have submitted a British Heart Foundation renewal. SE noted that the QMI Director has resigned and a conversation will be had regarding the role. Start the conversation at June VPRAG.		
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