



Thursday 2nd November 2023, 10:00am

South Wing Council Room with facilities to join the meeting online via MS Teams

Professor Geraint Rees (Chair); Professor Ibrahim Abubakar; Professor Lynn Ang; Dr Paul Ayris; Jeremy Barraud; Michael Brown; Professor Stella Bruzzi; Sarah Chaytor; Andrew Cooper; Rebecca Edwards; Fran Hartop; June Hedges; Professor Carsten Gerner-Beuerle; Professor Jacqui Glass; Claire Glen; Professor Jennifer Hudson; Dr Jane Kinghorn; Sarah Lawson; Dr Nick McNally; Ciaran Moynihan; Professor Courtenay Norbury; Professor James Phillips; Issy Smith; Professor Cheryl Thomas KC; Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker; Emma Todd; Nicholas Tyndale; Dr Kathryn Walsh

Professor David Bogle; Marie Gallagher; Alex Hall; Martin Moyle; Professor Simon Walker-Samuel; Professor Andrew Wills

For Minutes 1-15: Gail Adams, Director of
Rachel Port, Governance Manager: Research Integrity

- 1.1. Research, Innovation and Global Engagement Committee (RIGEC) approved its Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership for 2023-24 session.
- 1.2. RIGEC agreed that the REF Strategy Group be added to the list of sub-committees reporting to RIGEC.

1.3. The Chair welcomed the new members to the Committee: Fran Hortop, Associate Director, Campaign Proposition, Office for the Vice-President (Advancement); June Hedges, Head of Liaison and Support Services, Library Services; Issy Smith, Students' Union Postgraduate Officer; and Emma Todd, Director of Research Culture.

2.1. RIGEC approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 [Minutes, 42-52, 2022-23], subject to an amendment to the confidential minutes.

2.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

3.1. There were no matters arising.

4.1. The Chair gave an oral report on any relevant developments since the last RIGEC meeting. The following points were made:

a. The UK had agreed a deal to associate to Horizon Europe in September 2023. The Chair expressed his thanks to UCL's European Research & Innovation Office for all their work to support researchers whilst the UK was outside the programme. It was considered that there were even more opportunities for projects given the push for bilateral arrangements with Europe and increased applications by UCL researchers for Horizon Europe Funding were to be encouraged.

b. UCL had performed very strongly in the third Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) results. UCL scored top marks in the areas of intellectual property and commercialisation, research partnerships, working with business and working with the public and third sector. ~~Share~~(s)912 (o 216

- d. The Chair had attended all the recent UK party political conferences on behalf of UCL and undertook the panel work. This was a new initiative for UCL to attend such events. At ministerial level, it was important to indi1

on their respective initiatives/projects and this would also be covered by UCL's REF Strategy Group.

- f. The Chair expressed this thanks to the Director of Research Culture and her team for all their work. Members were encouraged to consider internal excellence and research culture and to disseminate the report at departmental level.

5.3. RIGEC received the Research Culture Programme Annual Report 2022-23.

- b. It was important to acknowledge the core funding contribution that the UCLH Biomedical Centre made to both the TRO and Academic Careers Office too.
- c. In Global Engagement (GE), it was noted that Early Career Researchers (ECRs) were encouraged to act as lead applicants for seed funding, and they started running workshops with faculty Vice-Deans (International) when calls opened to support those who wished to apply. GE aimed to ensure a minimum of 30% of its funding was allocated to ECRs, and was keen to explore how it might standardise practice across RIGE and develop stronger links into UCL's research culture activities.
- d. In relation to queries over the success rate data, it was noted that this varied between schemes which affected the overall average. It was intended, however, that the data to be shared with faculties would cover past awards only.
- e. It was suggested that the report findings could be used at Faculty Executive meetings.

6.3. RIGEC:

- a. Endorsed the approach for RIGE funding around the four ambitions to help inform their future development.
- b. Received the RIGE Funding Programmes Annual Report.

7.1. The Director of Compliance and Assurance (Research and Innovation) introduced the paper setting out a revision to UCL's governance structure for research ethics. The following points were made during the presentation:

- a. At the last meeting RIGEC approved the proposed approach was to combine the strategic functions of the Research Ethics Strategy Board (RESB) and the current central REC (with revised membership and terms of reference) as a new central UCL REC; the review of high-risk research ethics applications to be divided between three new committees; and a new oversight committee for low-risk review and Local RECs (LRECs) would also be created.
- b. RIGEC had noted the associated risks around the scale and pace of the proposed changes and further consideration had been given to the detail of the implementation.
- c. It was intended that the revised structure be implemented in two phases, with the setting up and implementation of the new RI. was insenoated tsofer04 Tc56()Tj

UCL Code of Conduct; as well as several research culture projects.

- 8.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
- a. It was noted that the two posts within the Research Integrity Team were currently vacant and it was intended that the staffing resource be moved to the Compliance and Assurance area in Research and Innovation Services
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- f. One further suggested improvement to raise compliance related to internal staff being prompted to make a declaration upon being promoted.
 - g. It was intended that a review of the policy be undertaken in Autumn 2023 and that an internal audit focussing specifically on disclosure and management of conflicts be carried out in 2024. It was acknowledged that this aspect of the policy had a more complicated workflow and that greater clarity on data sharing was needed.
- 9.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
- a. The Chair commended the improvement in the rate of compliance and that the VP RIGE Office had not reached 95% compliance.
 - b. In relation to encouraging colleagues to make declarations, the Executive Director, I&E, intended to contact Organisational Development who were working on revising UCL's appraisal process about linking the policy into that process to help increase compliance.
 - c. It was noted that the new DoI dashboard on Tableau database was not publicly available but it was hoped that the visibility of compliance rates would drive those up across UCL for the 2023-24 declaration year.
 - d. In terms of disclosures of conflict, it was noted th

