

These minutes are for information only. Any corrections to the minutes will be recorded in the minutes of the subsequent meeting of the committee.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 8th May 2008, at 1:15pm in Room 116

MINUTES

Members: Professor P Robb (Chair)
Mr A Abreu
Dr M Bentham
Professor I Brown
Dr P Cullet
Professor R Fardon
Professor MJ Hutt
Professor U Kratz
Dr C Lapavitsas
Dr D Martinez
Ms K Oatey (Secretary)
Mr D Perrow
Mrs S Yates

In attendance: Professor G Furniss
Dr A Leduc-Pagel
Mr R Whiteing

Apologies: Professor M Craven
Mr D Das
Professor R Fardon
Dr A Karlsson
Dr Costas Lapavitsas

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 31st January were **APPROVED**.
- 1.2 There were no matters arising.

2. Presentation by the School Librarian

- 2.1 The School Librarian made a presentation outlining the library's strategic plan (attached), subject to the approval of Academic Board.
- 2.2 The Committee **NOTED** that the infrastructure of the e-prints repository, SOAS Research Online, was in place, fully operational and ready to receive

content. Recently there had been significant growth in the number of citations stored but yet to be resolved copyright issues had limited the number of full text articles available online.

- 2.3 The Committee **NOTED** that, the repository was to be the sole centralised database of staff publications data. Data held on the repository fed individual staff pages on the SOAS web site and would constitute the basis of the bibliographical information submitted to any future external assessment of the School's research activity.
- 2.4 The Committee **AGREED** that, given the importance of the data held by SOAS Research Online, Deans would ensure that Faculty colleagues understood the necessity to keep their own publications details accurately updated.

3. Internal Research Funds – Awards Advisory Panel

- 3.1 The list of awards made by the Awards Advisory Panel in February was **NOTED**.

4. Allocation of funds from fEC grants

- 4.1 A paper explaining the revised method for the allocation of funds from fEC grants to Faculties was **NOTED**.
- 4.2 It was **AGREED** that the paper would be circulated by Deans amongst colleagues in their Faculties and published by the Research Manager on the Research Office intranet pages.

5. Post RAE observations by the RAE Director

- 5.1 The RAE Director presented his paper of post RAE observations.
- 5.2 The Committee discussed the significance of the comparative provision of research leave at different institutions and whether or not there were major differences between the 1994 Group and the Russell Group.
- 5.3 The possibility of individuals compressing a year's teaching into one term to free up two consecutive terms for research leave was raised. The Committee **NOTED** that the resulting impact on the modelling of the School timetable would need to be taken into account before any such arrangements were put in place. The Chair emphasised that departmental management considerations always had to be taken into account before the approval of any period of research leave.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 The Chair invited comments regarding the functioning and membership of the Committee for inclusion in the annual report.
- 6.2 The apparent overlap between the various School committees was discussed. In particular, clarification was needed regarding the administration of “third stream income” and the distinction between research and consultancy. The Committee **NOTED** that any revisions to committee memberships and the committee structure would have to be made in the light of the findings of the ongoing review by external consultants, Oakleigh.
- 6.2 The need to communicate senior management decisions to the School more effectively was discussed. It was **AGREED** that the Chair would raise the matter with Executive Board.
- 6.3 On behalf of the Committee, the RAE Director thanked the Chair, who was stepping down at the end of the session, for his hard work over the past five years.

ACTION POINTS

Minute 2.4

Deans to ensure that Faculty colleagues enter and maintain accurate and up to date publications data on the e-prints repository, SOAS Research Online.

Minute 4.2

Deans to circulate fEC paper to colleagues.

Minute 4.2

Research manager to publish fEC paper on the Research Office intranet.

Minute 6.2

Chair to raise the need to improve the communication of senior management issues at Executive Board.