

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

To be held on Wednesday, 27th October 2010 at 10.00 am in room 116

AGENDA

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|-------------|---|------------|
| I | Terms of Reference and Membership
To note | Appendix A |
| II | Procedure and conduct of meetings
To note | Appendix B |
| III | Minutes of the last meeting
To approve | Appendix C |
| IV | Matters Arising | |
| V | REF planning
To note | Appendix D |
| VI | Research Students - enrolment figures
To receive a report from Registry | |
| VII | Doctoral School update
To discuss the Pro-Director's paper | Appendix E |
| VIII | ESRC recognition
To receive an update | |
| IX | Monitoring Research and Enterprise strategy
To discuss | Appendix F |
| X | Research and Enterprise applications 2009-10
To note | Appendix G |
| XI | Any other business | |
| XII | Date of next meeting
Wednesday 23 February 2011 at 10.00 in room 116 | |

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 AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 27 October 2010 at 10.00am in Room 116

MINUTES

Members: Professor G Furniss (Chair)
Dr M Bentham
Professor I Brown
Professor M Craven
Mr A Doherty
Professor B Fuehrer
Dr D Johnston
Dr K Laachir
Professor T McKinley
Dr U Pagel
Professor A Pauwels
Mr Peter Phillips
Mr Milaad Rashid
Dr I Standish

In attendance: Mr M Cerny
Dr A Leduc-Pagel
Ms K T Oatey (Secretary)
Dr D Thomas

Apologies: Professor N Rao
Mr J Robinson

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed new members of the Committee.

2. Terms of Reference

The Terms of reference, membership of the committee and procedures for the conduct of meetings were all noted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

4. REF Planning

The Committee received a paper setting out the way in which the REF preparations will be managed. There will be a panel, chaired by the relevant Dean, for each of the ten units of assessment. The membership of each panel was listed, along with the membership of the REF administrative committee and the overall REF advisory group.

The Pro-Director (R&E) explained that the Code of Practice will be issued after the HEFCE Guidance has been published.

5. Research students enrolment figures

Marcus Cerny presented a tabled paper. Enrolment figures for research students for this year exceed the target set in the current Research and Enterprise Strategy, although it is important to note that some applicants will withdraw. An emphasis on completion rates has entailed closer monitoring and control of progression. With degree awarding powers we might consider moving away from the traditional MPhil upgrade process to PhD registration. There was a discussion about numbers of part time students. Overseas students cannot be part time. The ratio of home and overseas students are considered in setting the targets in Faculty Plans for recruitment.

6. Proposal for a Doctoral School

This paper will be considered by Academic Board. The proposition is to establish a Doctoral School. SOAS needs clear co-ordination between departments, faculties and students and a central point of reference for doctoral students. We need to clarify and rationalise services, not create an additional layer so we plan to keep within the existing administrative resources and redeploy staff.

7. ESRC recognition

We hope to hear the result of our ESRC recognition bid in December 2010 or January 2011. The Dean of the Institute of Education Doctoral School is cautiously optimistic about the outcome.

8. Research and Enterprise Strategy monitoring

The Committee received a report on the School's progress to date in implementing the Strategy. Some objectives have been achieved and can be removed, others will be added and some will be revised. Targets may well be changed in light of the revised Financial Strategy and the Faculty Plans. The next stage to revise this strategy will be discussed in the meeting in February 2011 and then a revised strategy will appear before the committee in May 2011. Targets in all sub-strategies will be revised next year in light of the current financial situation.

9. Research Grants and Enterprise funding 2009-10

The number of successful research grants has decreased from the previous year, although more applications were made. Enterprise income reached the target set for 2009-10. There was discussion about the best way to increase our research grant income. It was suggested that we increase targets and performance measures for academics, but this would not improve the quality of applications or increase the success rate, only the application rate. It was also suggested that academics should stop applying for small grants and only spend time on large applications. Again, this would only increase the amount of funding applied for, not the success rate. Large applications are more likely to be successful if they follow a productive small project or workshop which can strengthen a collaboration or provide initial data to support a large grant application. The Chair mentioned that external funders might cease to provide small

grants, in which case institutions will have to give more internal grants for seedcorn funding to enable projects to be developed.

10. AOB

We received nine applications for the Bloomsbury PhD Studentships and we selected the top five to forward to the Bloomsbury Research Committee, from which we will be awarded two scholarships.

The Consultancy Policy has been agreed. It should be announced and put on the website.

The Chair thanked Desmond Thomas for his service to the Committee and to the School and congratulated him on his new appointment.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 23 February 2011 at 10.00 in room 116.