

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

To be held on 23 February 2011 at 10.00 am in room 116

AGENDA

- | | | |
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| I | Apologies | |
| II | Minutes of the last meeting | Appendix |
| A | To approve | |
| III | Matters Arising | |
| IV | Research Council funding | Appendix |
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| | ESRC and AHRC delivery plans | Appendix |
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| V | British Academy funding | |
| | Update on internal research funding | |
| VI | Revised Research and Enterprise strategy | Appendix |
| D | To discuss | |
| VII | REF update | |
| | To receive an oral report | |
| VIII | Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research | Appendix |
| E(i) | To receive an update from the Director of R&E | Appendix |
| E(ii) | | |
| IX | Research Students - enrolment figures | |
| | To receive a report from Registry | |
| X | Doctoral School update | |
| | To receive an oral report | |
| XI | ESRC recognition | |
| | To receive an oral report | |
| XII | CISD PhD programme | Appendix |
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| | To note | |
| XIII | Any other business | |
| XIV | Date of next meeting | |
| | Wednesday 23 May 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 23 February 2011 at 10.00am in Room 116

MINUTES

Members: Professor G Furniss (Chair)
Dr M Bentham
Professor M Craven
Professor B Fuehrer
Dr D Johnston
Dr K Laachir
Professor A Pauwels
Mr Milaad Rashid (student representative)
Mr Alexej Ulbricht (student representative)

In attendance: Mr M Cerny
Ms K T Oatey (Secretary)

Apologies: Professor I Brown
Mr A Doherty
Professor T McKinley
Dr U Pagel
Professor N Rao
Mr J Robinson
Dr I Standish

12. Minutes of the last meeting

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

13. Research Council Funding

13.1 The Chair tabled an extra paper giving a summary of the funding plans for the British Academy, the ESRC and the AHRC. The Chair went through the Research Councils' delivery plans and drew the committee's attention to the most relevant points. There is a very strong message from funders that HEIs must practice demand management and there will be sanctions if this is not effective. Research grant applications must be subjected to peer review either through Faculty Research Committees, Faculty Research Panels or mentors. It is important that Deans and ADRs forward this message and the Research Councils' delivery plans to Heads of Departments and members of Faculty Research Committees, Faculty Research Panels and mentors. The Secretary will send electronic copies of the delivery plans to ADRs and Deans.

13.2 The research councils intend to concentrate funding on larger, collaborative, interdisciplinary grants. The Research Manager will look at the priority subjects for the AHRC, ESRC and RCUK and set up meetings inviting academics across faculties to consider possible themes which would fit these criteria.

13.4 The AHRC will support research students in a similar way to the ESRC's Doctoral Training Centres when the Block Grant Partnership is renewed in two years' time.

14. British Academy Funding

The British Academy will no longer provide small grants and support for conferences. The Government assumes that HEIs can fund this from QR money. The School has been considering how much support it can provide and the best mechanism for doing so. Central internal research funds were devolved to the faculties and it has not yet been decided whether these extra funds will be awarded centrally by the REC, or also through the faculties.

15. Revised Research and Enterprise Strategy

The Committee discussed the revised Research and Enterprise strategy and made some minor amendments to the wording which did not change the substance of the strategy. The Secretary will find out from Library staff if teaching fellows are able to include their publications on SOAS Research Online repository.

16. REF Preparations update

The Research Manager gave a report on the REF preparations to date. Professor Craven asked if it was known whether sub-panels would be using external advisors, given that panels now have a wider range of subjects and fewer experts on the panel. Professor Pauwels asked if outputs would be permitted in foreign languages or if we could only include those published in English. More information will be available on these questions once the Guidance is published in mid-2011, after the panels establish their criteria.

17. Concordat for Public Engagement with Research

The Concordat and the need for public engagement were noted. The REO Director will speak about this item at the next meeting of REC. It was suggested that we contact UCL, who are setting up Beacons to deal with public engagement, after discussion with faculties and departments.

18. Enrolment figures for research students

18.1 Marcus Cerny presented two tabled papers. Enrolment figures for research students up to the end of October 2010 are 159.5 which exceeds the target of 157. Numbers of applications have increased twenty percent since we revised the fees.

18.2 Dr Johnston pointed out that we need to look at the support offered to students, especially in their first year, now that we have increased the numbers of PhD students and made it necessary to complete in four years.

18.3 We also need to consider the amount of support and information given to supervisors. Some now have increased numbers of PhD students and this affects conversion rates and workload models. Research tutors also find it difficult to carry out their role and fulfil the amount of reporting that is now required.

18.4 We need to determine the best way to use the log book, and implement tracking mechanisms, and improve reporting methods. The Faculty of Languages and Cultures uses BLE to post comments on students' profiles.

18.5 The Research Students Management Group (RSMG) will discuss this question and Marcus Cerny will send the Code of Practice to ADRs, supervisors and research tutors.

19. Doctoral School update

The majority of responses to the consultation were positive, though there was some opposition to the idea. It has been decided to draw up a proposal in greater detail which will then be considered by the School, including research student representatives.

20. ESRC recognition

The Bloomsbury bid for recognition as an ESRC DTC has been successful. SOAS has been awarded 0.5 studentship in Politics (shared with Birkbeck), one studentship in Social Anthropology, and two in International Development in conjunction with other Bloomsbury colleges. We now need to move fast to set up scholarships and advertise them. Proposals need to go through Faculty research committees and go to REC for approval in May 2011. It might be necessary for the Chair to approve them by Chair's action before 25 May 2011.

21. AOB

There was no other business.

22. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 25 May 2011 at 10.00 in room 116.