

## **SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES**

### **RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE**

To be held on Wednesday 25 May 2011 at 10.00 am in room 116

#### **AGENDA**

- |             |  |                   |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>I</b>    | <b>Apologies</b>   |                   |
| <b>II</b>   | <b>Minutes of the last meeting</b><br>To approve   | <b>Appendix A</b> |
| <b>III</b>  | <b>Matters Arising</b>   |                   |
| <b>IV</b>   | <b>REF update</b><br>To receive an oral report from the REF Information Officer              |                   |
| <b>V</b>    | <b>HEIF funding</b><br>To receive an oral report from the DREO                               |                   |
| <b>VI</b>   | <b>Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research</b><br>To receive an update from the DREO | <b>Appendix B</b> |
| <b>VII</b>  | <b>Publications report</b><br>To receive a report from the Publications team                 | <b>Appendix C</b> |
| <b>VIII</b> | <b>RSMG report</b><br>To receive a report from Marcus Cerny                                  | <b>Appendix D</b> |
| <b>IX</b>   | <b>RERG report</b><br>To note  | <b>Appendix E</b> |
| <b>X</b>    | <b>Research Ethics Panel</b><br>To approve amendments to the Research Ethics process         | <b>Appendix F</b> |
| <b>XI</b>   | <b>Research Students - enrolment figures</b><br>To receive a report from Registry            |                   |
| <b>XII</b>  | <b>Doctoral School update</b><br>To receive an oral report from Pro-Director (R&E)           |                   |
| <b>XIII</b> | <b>International Development PhD programme</b><br>To note Chair's action                     | <b>Appendix G</b> |
| <b>XIV</b>  | <b>Internal small grants funding</b><br>To receive an update from the Pro-Director (R&E)     |                   |
| <b>XV</b>   | <b>Any other business</b>  |                   |

**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 25 May 2011 at 10.00am in Room 116

#### **MINUTES**

**Members:** Professor G Furniss (Chair)  
Professor I Brown  
Professor M Craven  
Dr D Johnston  
Professor T McKinley  
Dr U Pagel  
Professor A Pauwels  
Professor N Rao  
Mr J Robinson  
Dr I Standish

**In attendance:** Mr M Cerny  
Mr R Jacquet (for item VII)  
Dr A Leduc-Pagel (for item IV)  
Ms K T Oatey (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Ms J Ames (student representative)  
Dr M Bentham  
Mr A Doherty  
Professor B Fuehrer  
Dr K Laachir  
Mr Alexej Ulbricht (student representative)

#### **23. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

#### **24. Matters Arising**

Arising from paragraph 18.5, Marcus Cerny will circulate the new Code of Practice which will be finalised in July 2011. Other action points have been completed or are ongoing.

#### **25. REF Preparations update**

The REF Information Officer reported on the REF preparations. The second round of internal REF panel meetings is taking place this term. Except for one panel all external assessors have been appointed. Hard copies of publications that will be

submitted to external assessors are being collected and scanned. Outputs are being sent to assessors to be read and the first round of assessment is currently taking place. The School's relationship with external assessors will continue with new outputs being assessed for quality and suitability as we proceed in compiling the REF submission. The SOAS Code of Practice for the REF will be published in August 2011. It is already clear from HEFCE that only the proportions of submissions which are graded 3\* or 4\* will be funded.

It was stressed that the administration and co-ordination of the REF submission is being done centrally through the REF Information Officer and departments should not compile their own data. Recommendations about which are staff are included and which outputs are submitted are made by academics on the internal panels.

## **26. HEIF funding**

The Pro-Director (Research and Enterprise) reported that we had been successful in being allocated HEIF funding for the next 3-4 years and, although the figures had been challenged by some institutions, we still expected to retain a favourable amount.

## **27. Publications report**

Raphael Jacquet presented the report on the progress of the SOAS journals. The Chair recorded his thanks to Dr Julia Strauss for her hard work and dedication to The China Quarterly, which she has edited for the last nine years; and also to Dr Ulrich Pagel and Dr Konrad Hirschler for agreeing to be editor and deputy editor of The SOAS Bulletin. John Robinson suggested bringing a paper to the next meeting about the Library Subscriptions Campaign.

## **28. Research Students Management Group report**

Marcus Cerny presented the report on the activity of the Research Students Management Group for the last year.

## **29. Research Ethics Review Group report**

The Committee received a report on the requests for ethical clearance which had been referred to the Research Ethics Review Group in the last year.

## **30. Research Ethics Panel**

It was agreed that there is a need to change the Research Ethics Review Group (RERG) into a more formal panel and to strengthen the terms of reference and the membership. If this is approved by Academic Board and Executive Board, it is hoped that the new Research Ethics Panel will take effect at the beginning of the 2011-12 session. The Committee recommended this proposal to Academic Board.

## **31. Enrolment figures for research students**

Marcus Cerny presented the figures, which were noted. Recruitment is above the target for this year and provisional figures for next year (2011-12) are looking very favourable. We need to be able to offer more studentships and there will be a paper

at the next meeting about all the research studentships and scholarships held at SOAS.

### **32. Doctoral School update**

The Chair reported that initial planning for a Doctoral School would indicate that, if approved, it would start in the 2012-13 session. Refurbishment of the premises at 53 Gordon Square will take 12-15 months and therefore occupation of a proposed site would most likely be either in October 2012 or January 2013. The organisational structure of the Doctoral School will be presented for approval in October or November 2011 and be implemented so that there is a six month period leading up to September 2012 in which to organise the creation of the School.

### **33. International Development PhD**

The Chair formally reported to the Committee that he had taken Chair's action to approve an International Development PhD Pathway programme. This is one of the pathways included under the ESRC Bloomsbury DTC programme.

### **34. Internal small grants funding**

External funders such as the British Academy are ceasing to provide small grants for conferences, travel, pilot studies etc. There is an expectation that HEIs will provide support for these activities from QR funds. Consequently, the School is increasing the amount of internal research funding by an extra £50,000 pa. This money will be devolved to the Faculties and administered by them in the same way as existing internal research grants. Faculties will be expected to report to REC in October each year on the distribution of these funds in the previous session.

### **35. AOB**

35.1 Nirmala Rao asked a question about quantitative research methods training for undergraduates. Research methods training seems to be undertaken differently in different faculties and departments. It was decided that ADD would undertake an audit of current research methods training in the School.

35.2 Marcus Cerny raised the matter of a workload allocation for external members of supervisory committees. We need a workload allocation model for the supervisory committee which is School-wide stipulating the number of hours each member of the committee is required to commit to supervision duties for each student they supervise.

35.3 Deborah Johnston asked about the response to the ESRC demand management consultation. This is being co-ordinated by the Research Manager, who will forward the responses to the Pro-Director (Research and Enterprise).

### **36. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday 26 October 2011 at 10.00 in room 116.