University of Glasgow

College of Science and Engineering Council

Minute of Meeting held on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 14.00hrs in Level 5 Sir Alwyn Williams Building

Present: Professor John Chapman (Convener and Head of College), Stephen Clark, Tim Dempster, Pat Duncan, David Fearn, David Forrest, Nik Gadegaard, Robert Hadfield, Stefan Hild, Trevor Hoey, Jim Hough, Nader Karimi, Kostas Kontis, Heather Lambie, Stephen McGinness, Syed Nabi, Miles Padgett, Sheila Rowan, David Simmons, Ian Strachan, Paul Younger, Hossein Zare-Behtash

In Attendance: Mrs Jacqueline Ross,

SECC/2014/1 Head of College business

Professor Chapman reported on progress within the College since the meeting of Council on 17 December 2013 and highlighted:

- Research grant order book (£70M).
- International student growth.
- Athena SWAN Bronze Award.
- Launch of the Mentoring pilot scheme for COSE and MVLS.
- Estate developments.
- Estate aspirations - comments can be submitted via scieng-estate-strategy@glasgow.ac.uk.

Congratulations to:
Professor Miles Padgett for his award of FRS
Professor David Cumming and Professor Xiaoyu Luo for their award of FRSE
Professor Lee Cronin, EPSRC RISE Leader

His presentation can be found at:
https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/colleges/scieng/College%20Council/Forms/AllItems.aspx

SECC/2014/2 IMPACT – Professor Miles Padgett

What was Impact? How can it be quantified? How will it relate future REF? How can we evidence the positive impact of research to society and public engagement?

The REF will for the first time explicitly assess the impact of research beyond academia, to reward universities’ engagement with business, the public sector and civil society organisations. This is in the form of impact case studies.

The official REF definition of impact is the effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life beyond academia. Impact includes, but is not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit to:
- the activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding;
- of an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals;
• in any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally;
• Impact also includes the reduction or prevention of harm, risk, cost or other negative effects.

To qualify for REF, impact had to occur during the period 01/01/2008 - 31/07/2013. The underpinning research originating the impact must be of high quality, and carried out by the University from 01/01/1993 onward. Impact is being assessed jointly by academics and research users on the REF expert panels.

Impact case studies must clearly set out:
• what the research was
• how it led to the impact
• what the impact was – who benefitted and what changed
• evidence of the impact
• how these claims can be verified.

Underpinning research had to be at least 2* quality to be eligible for REF 2014 impact case studies.

Impact case studies will be assessed in terms of their reach and significance regardless of the geographical location in which they occurred, whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

The challenges the University faces in developing impact case studies for the next REF submission are multiple:

• Impact only occurs when research is applied outside the academic environment to “make a difference” to society or the economy. The timeline for this process can potentially be very long. **What are we doing:** we need to ensure the impact agenda is at the forefront of researcher’s minds and becomes an integral part of the planning and delivery of research activities.

• Unless there is a direct transfer of intellectual property rights from the University to an external organisation, it can be often be difficult to keep track and obtain evidence of how research has contributed to the delivery of impact. It can be even more problematical to quantify the reach and significance of the impact. Also relationships with external entities are regulated by contracts that are sometimes bound into confidentiality which can hinder the sharing of information on how research may have impacted the economic performance of a business - even when we are in possession of such information. **What are we doing:** we need to ensure that any relationship established with external partners and the knowledge exchange projects developed are structured towards the development of impact and include the collection of evidence. This is particularly important for our public engagement activities which are required to be structured with solid evaluation plans so that the impact of activities can be clearly measured and evidenced. Jamie Gallagher the Public Engagement Officer would be available to meet with Schools to explain how his role supports the process of planning public engagement in a way that supports evidence collection.

More broadly the contracts team has been working in reviewing model contract agreements to make sure that these include provision for accessing and using information required to submit the next set of impact case studies potentially emerging from these relationships.

As part of the development of impact for the next REF the Impact Acceleration Account and the GU Fund play a key role in fostering relationships and pump-prime impact development projects.

The Research Strategy and Innovation Office led by Dr Neil Bowering can assist with evidencing impact. The Knowledge Exchange Team is focused on identifying, facilitating and growing institution-wide knowledge exchange initiatives. RSIO manages a number of strategic KE projects and initiatives, including the Impact Acceleration Account, Encompass, the Glasgow KE Fund, and Easy Access IP. The team also focuses on raising the profile of the University within the Knowledge Exchange arena and forging long-term strategic
partnerships with national and international organisations to enable the realisation of the potential of the University’s research outcomes to create impact.

Support for IP and Commercialisation of GU research is delivered by Mr Mel Anderson’s team.

**SECC/2014/3 Research**

Professor Padgett, Dean of Research’s report highlighted the following:
- REF.
- Open Access.
- Diversification of funding opportunities.
- Quantum Technologies.

Professor Padgett’s report is available at:
https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/colleges/scieng/College%20Council/Forms/AllItems.aspx

**SECC/2014/4 Learning & Teaching**

Professor Fearn, Dean of Learning and Teaching highlighted:
- Teaching Excellence Awards.
- Recruitment and admissions.
- Student mobility.

Professor Fearn’s report is available at:
https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/colleges/scieng/College%20Council/Forms/AllItems.aspx

**SECC/2014/5 Internationalisation**

Professor Hoey, Internationalisation lead, reported on:
- University-wide and College strategic approach to the development of international partners.
- University’s International Strategy being refreshed by Professor Jim Conroy (VP Internationalisation). Feed any specific ideas through Trevor Hoey who will discuss with Jim.

Professor Hoey’s report is available at:
https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/colleges/scieng/College%20Council/Forms/AllItems.aspx

**SECC/2014/6 Graduate School**

Professor Jon Cooper, Dean of Graduate Studies’ report highlighted:
- International PGR recruitment

Professor Cooper’s report is available at:
https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/colleges/scieng/College%20Council/Forms/AllItems.aspx
The next meeting of the College Council will be held in November/December 2014, venue to be confirmed.