



Department of Governance

<b>RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>Minutes of the meeting held 28 November 2018</b>		
<b>Present:</b>	Dr B. Ahmed, Dr L. Gray (Chair), Dr S. Hagan, Dr K. Halcro, Dr M-A. Houston, Ms A. Jorgenson, Professor A. Klemm, Mr M. Marshall, Professor O. Pahl, Dr B. Stansfield, Professor B. Steves	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Ms D. Dickie, Mr D. Moore, Dr G Poulter, Mr P. Woods (Secretary)	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr W. Javed, Professor J. Harris, Professor D. Harrison, Professor B. Steves	
<b>MINUTES</b>		
<b>018.024</b>	<b>Considered</b>	Minutes of the meeting of the Research Degrees Committee 3 October 2018 (RDC17/8/01).
<b>018.025</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	That the minutes be approved as correct record.
<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>		
<b>018.026</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that there were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.
<b>RPABS – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b>		
<b>018.027</b>	<b>Considered</b>	Refresh of the RPAB documentation to account for changes in University structures etc – proposed composition (RDC18/09/01)
<b>018.028</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The changes were in the composition section. The following suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Prof Doc rep there.</li> <li>• Experienced supervisors – call for nominees??</li> <li>• Reps from other Schools – suggested not to be prescriptive but to ensure that workload is evened out.</li> </ul> <p>Representativeness was mentioned. Dr Stansfield stated that it was not intended to be representational but simply to ensure sufficient expertise to provide an oversight.</p>
<b>018.029</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	Revise for next meeting.

<b>SUMMARY .OF HESA PGR DATA, TRENDS AND PROCESSES</b>		
<b>018.030</b>	<b>Considered</b>	i. A summary of latest HESA PGR Data and Trends ( <b>REC18/06/01</b> ). ii. PhDs: New Admissions and Funding Processes ( <b>REC18/07/01</b> ).
<b>018.031</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that the report outlined the HESA returns on the PGRS on census date of 31 July from 2011-12 to 2017-18. PG Certificate and MRes were included in 2017-18 for the first time.
<b>018.032</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Members asked why the numbers did not necessarily add up i.e. numbers carried forward. Suggested that this was because of suspension of studies etc. Members were intrigued by the big increase in student numbers between 2011-12 and 2012-13.  The Chair stated that completions within the normal timeframes would be interesting and important. More data breakdown necessary.  Plateau – factors such as tougher visa conditions for overseas students.
<b>018.033</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	Data splits????
<b>PHDS: NEW ADMISSIONS AND FUNDING PROCEDURES</b>		
<b>018.034</b>	<b>Considered</b>	PhDs: new admissions and funding procedures ( <b>REC 18/07/01</b> ).
<b>018.035</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that this was the new admissions process and included funding procedures for PhD studentships. This would be a rolling process replacing the old competition system and technically students could apply at any stage and be considered for funding by a School admissions panel.
<b>018.036</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Members felt there were still issues with the new process albeit different ones to the previous system. Without a deadline in any advert there was no pressure on prospective applicants to apply. It was conceded that introducing a deadline makes the process a bit like a competition again. Prioritising was also an issue.  It was thought that the advert should be about self-fund with the potential for funding.  Overall members thought there were positives to the new approach.
<b>AOCB</b>		
<b>018.38</b>	<b>Reported</b>	By the Chair that replacement for the WAM model was being discussed. Staff involved in research had been unhappy about the allocation of time for supervisions and for duties as SPGRT or PGRT. This was an opportunity to make the argument for the value of research and research student supervision.
<b>RESEARCH DEGREE EXAM APPROVALS &amp; AWARDS</b>		
<b>018.034</b>	<b>Received</b>	A record of examinations and awards ratified since the previous meeting of RDC ( <b>RDC18/10/01</b> )
<b>NEW PGRT RESEARCH DISCIPLINE PORTFOLIOS AND NEW CONTACTS LIST</b>		
<b>018.035</b>	<b>Received</b>	New PGRT Discipline Portfolios and contacts list ( <b>REC18/09/01</b> )

<b>RESEARCH DEGREE EXAM APPROVALS &amp; AWARDS</b>		
<b>018.036</b>	<b>Received</b>	<p>The confirmed minutes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. SCEBE RPAB 23 May 2018 <b>(RPAB/SEBE/17.90)</b></li> <li>ii. SCEBE RPAB 27 June 2018 <b>(RPAB/SEBE/17.114)</b></li> <li>iii. SHLS RPAB 31 January 2018 <b>(SHLSRPAB/17/45)</b></li> <li>iv. SHLS RPAB 28 March 2018 <b>(SHLSRPAB/17/54)</b></li> <li>v. SHLS RPAB 27 June 2018 <b>(SHLSRPAB/17/72)</b></li> </ul>

Common/Senate/RDC/minutes/November2018