



Department of Governance

RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE		
Minutes of the meeting held 19 April 2017		
Present:	Mr C. Daisley, Dr L. Gray (Chair), Professor J. Harris, Professor D. Harrison, Mr A. Mandal, Mr B. Oyemomi, Dr B. Stansfield, Professor B. Steves	
In attendance:	Ms D. Dickie, Dr K. Halcro, Mr P. Woods (Secretary)	
Apologies:	Professor A. Boateng, Ms J. Broadhurst, Professor O. Pahl, Professor J. Woodburn	
016.069	Considered	Minutes of the meeting of the Research Degrees Committee held on 8 February 2017 (RDC16/15/01) .
MINUTES		
016.070	Considered	Minutes of the meeting of the Research Degrees Committee held on 23 November 2016 (RDC16/12/01) .
016.071	Resolved	That the minutes be approved as correct record.
MATTERS ARISING		
Unsatisfactory Academic Performance and Progress of Research Students: Policy and Procedure (Arising on RDCM 016.055)		
016.072	Reported	By Professor Steves that the Graduate School newsletter would address outstanding communications issues.
IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PG RESEARCH STUDENTS AT GCU		
016.073	Considered	A verbal update by the Chair.
016.074	Reported	By the Chair that the working group had met on 7 March and would be meeting for the second time on 3 May. One key point was the need to ensure communication of progress and decisions already taken and this would be via the Graduate School, as

		<p>noted above.</p> <p>The Chair would prepare a paper for discussion at the next meeting of the group.</p>
CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE FOR PGRS		
016.075	Considered	A summary of School mechanisms for allocating funds to PGRS conference attendance (RDC16/16/01).
016.076	Reported	By the Secretary that the information collated from each School was summarised in the paper.
016.077	Discussion	<p>Members considered the possibility of a greater standardisation within the parameters of subject area differences and different funding. It was thought that a set of guidelines or principles could be developed, rather than actual policy statements.</p> <p>It was also suggested that processes could be simplified.</p> <p>Members were largely in agreement on developing a set of principles with the recognition that funds available would differ both between and within Schools in some instances.</p> <p>Members discussed the existing processes and preferences for funding models. In the context of limited funds it was noted as good practice to encourage students to seek external funding, where many have been successful and which is also beneficial in career development terms.</p>
016.078	Resolved	That core principles for conference attendance be developed. (Action: Director Graduate School).
CHANGES TO PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE		
016.079	Considered	A description of the process by which the thesis word count change is to be introduced (RDC16/19/01).
016.080	Reported	By Dr Halcro that the process for cohort 10 (start January 2016) beginning their thesis in May would be offered choice of following routes a) Existing rule i.e. 60,000 words, but flexibility of what their School decides whether to go as high as 80,000 words (as this is what they are validated for) or b) Offered opportunity to do new thesis set up 55,000 word thesis + 5,000 word self-reflection?
016.081	Discussion	<p>Members asked if the thesis plus self-reflection constituted 2 separate elements. Dr Halcro stated that these were separate elements but both were required to pass overall. Technically it could be possible to pass the thesis and fail the self-reflective report (and be required to resubmit).</p> <p>Members discussed if this was a fit with current regulations. It was thought that some minor clarification would be required to reflect the potential resubmission outcomes.</p>

016.082	Resolved	That the regulations/forms/guidelines be updated as required. (Action: Director Graduate School/Secretary RDC).
AOB		
PDDM Module		
016.083	Reported	By Dr Halcro that ProfD students complete a module called PDDM which is the equivalent of the RDC2 stage for PhD students. The PDDM is completed before the RDC1 so is out of sequence with the PhD route. There have been difficulties with the RDC1 holding up progression when students have already completed PDDM i.e. the equivalent of RDC2. He asked members if there was a possible solution in completing RDC1 a month into PDDM or even automatically assuming completion of RDC1 on completion of PDDM.
016.084	Discussion	Members thought the issue was more complicated. It was recognised that there could be an issue with progress through RPABs due to the sequence. However it was felt that the RDC1 was vital to the programme and required to be completed in order to assure ourselves that everything was in place.
016.085	Resolved	That a subgroup of the Committee (Chair, Director Graduate School, Director Prof. Doctorate, SPGRTs) discuss further to seek a solution. (Action: Committee Secretary)
External Funding Opportunities		
016.086	Reported	By Mr Oyemomi that he would be interested to find out if there were plans to make opportunities more visible to students.
016.087	Reported	Professor Steves said that this is part of a plan within the Graduate School which would involve developing the website and potentially developing a workshop.
Training for GCU London Students		
016.088	Reported	By Mr Daisley that there were no training workshops at GCU London requiring students to attend at Glasgow.
016.089	Reported	By Professor Steves that there had been discussions between the Graduate School and the Research Lead in GCUL on improving the process. There was a feeling that visiting Glasgow should be retained to some extent but also to provide solutions to provision in London, e.g. through local HE networks.
016.090	Reported	By Dr Lukic that there were plans to organise more provision in London and measures to ensure that training opportunities in London and Glasgow were available to GCU London students.
Graduate School updates		
016.091		By Professor Steves that there were a couple of matters to draw to the

		<p>attention of members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Celebration on 5 May, an event developed by the PGR student Leads. 2. Surveys due to begin, PRES (closing on 18 May) and CROS and PIRLS slightly later.
RESEARCH DEGREE EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS		
016.092	Received:	A record of Examination Arrangements and Awards approved by RDC Chair's Action (RDC16/17/01).
RESEARCH DEGREE's Committee Chair's Action		
016.093	Received	A chair's action approving a RDC1 form by RDC Chair's action (RDC16/18/01).
RESEARCH PROGRESSION AND AWARDS BOARDS		
016.094	Received:	<p>The confirmed minutes of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEBE RPAB 9 November 2016 (RPAB/SEBE/16/53). 2. SHLS RPAB 22 June 2016 (SHLS/RPAB/15/49). 3. SHLS RPAB 14 September 2016 (SHLSRPAB/16/22). 4. GSBS RPAB 28 September 2016 (RPAB/GSBS/15/67).