

THE UNIVERSITY OF READING

JOINT UNIVERSITY/UCU COMMITTEE

19/01 A meeting of the Joint University/UCU Committee was held in Committee Room,1 Whiteknights House on Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 10.30am.

Present:

The Acting Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair)
The President of Reading UCU
Dr M Schroeter
Mrs S Pellow
Ms R Balestrini
The University Secretary

In attendance:

Director of Human Resources
Head of Student Information Systems (Secretary)

Apologies were received from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor G Brooks), Dr C Fuller and Mr S Alexander.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor P Yaqoob), Ms Wanda Tejada and Ms Rachel Thorn

19/02 Code of Practice for the Research Excellence Framework

The Committee received a brief presentation on the work of the group responsible for drawing up the Code of Practice for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) submitted in June 2019. Professor Yaqoob explained that academic staff with significant responsibility for research needed to be included in the REF and that the research outputs were not formally linked to individuals in distinction to the arrangements in the last REF. The Committee noted that consultation with members of UCU was required, particularly in relation to the arrangements for the REF.

Minute 18/20 (18/04): Report of the President of Reading UCU

The Director of HR reported that the final version of the probation arrangements had been published on the university website, and he undertook to forward the document in pdf format

UCU representatives.

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Minute and action	Action for	Outcome
19/02 <u>Code of Practice for the Research Excellence Framework</u> It was agreed that the initial draft of the Code of Practice should be circulated in the next two weeks as soon as it was complete, and that meetings should be established to take the discussion forward. The President of Reading UCU undertook to nominate members to be part of a working group or to attend the meetings of the existing group, as appropriate.	President of Reading UCU	
19/03 <u>Matters arising</u> <u>UCU postBrexit Policy Charter</u> The Director of HR reported that the new online form for staff to provide feedback at exit from the University was in final testing mode before being launched, and he undertook to provide a test login for Reading UCU members. <u>Report of the President of Reading UCU</u> The Director of HR reported that the final version of the probation arrangements had been published on the university website, and he undertook to forward the document in pdf format to the President of Reading UCU. He also reported that the actual arrangements for grades 6 to 9 had been mapped, with a view to being harmonised; the arrangements were being considered by Legal Services, and he undertook to arrange a separate meeting to discuss these with Reading UCU representatives. <u>Review of the support provided for UoR staff seconded to UoRM</u> The Director of HR reported that the concerns raised had been put on the agenda for the January meeting of the UoRM Board; he undertook to provide an update on the outcome. <u>Formal status and transparency of university Working Groups</u> In response to a question about the availability of information previously collated as part of the University Calendar, the University Secretary explained that a governance area on the website had replaced this	Director of HR Director of HR Director of HR Director of HR Director of HR University Secretary	

information, and undertook to check that the appropriate links were in place.

Staffing Committee

The University Secretary reported that the relationship policy was close to being completed and he undertook to share the final version with the President of Reading University as soon as it was available.

Report of the President of Reading UCU

The University Secretary undertook to raise the issues around screen usage in the EMA programme with the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Brooks), and suggested that a meeting would be helpful to discuss the matter with UCU representatives.