



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

### **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

3.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### **4.**

4.1. It was noted that the research student, nominated by the St \_\_\_\_\_ was still in the process of being finalised, and would be in-place for the next RDC.

4.2. It was confirmed that \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Executive Officer (Doctoral School) \_\_\_\_\_ -place for the next RDC.

4.3. The Chair thanked all of those involved in developing Faculty Strategies, and confirmed there will be meetings with all Faculties in the New Year. Initial invitations will be for Faculty Graduate Tutors, Vice Dean, and Director of Operations. However, this list is not prescribed and some Faculties may wish to bring others.

4.4. The Chair noted they had recently co-organised a conference in September \_\_\_\_\_ diverse mix of higher education researchers and practitioners. The conference highlighted the different ways Doctoral Education operates around the world, and how different indigenous knowledge systems impact this. They released a set of recommendations, which were provided to members of RDC in printed format, as well as via email after the committee. It is still being discussed how the overall outputs should be published.

4.5. Members of RDC were also provided with \_\_\_\_\_ Open Science: an essential introduction for researchers \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the different facets of Open Science: Open Access, Open and Fair Data, Research Integrity, and Citizen Science. It was noted Open Science is quite a broad area, and covers access, data, and integrity as some of its areas. Open Access is quite mature, but Open Data remains a considerable challenge.

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- 4.6. The Chair noted that UCL is now in a better position to look forward to potential improvements to the Research Student Log. ISD will be consulting with the staff and student community, and add suggested improvements for consideration and prioritisation by the Log Management Board.

## **Part II: Matters for Discussion**

### **5. Annual Research Degrees Committee Annual Report to Academic Committee**

- 5.1. Received - the report at RDC 2-01 (19-20). The Secretary introduced the item which outlined the main issues covered by RDC in the 2018-19 session, with the Chair reporting this to Academic Committee. The following topics will be highlighted to Academic Committee: the introduction of Joint/Double Research Degrees, PGR Space Issues, the new PGTA code of practice, and potential for E-theses.
- 5.2. E-theses are still in the early stages of consideration, but given the potential introduction of these would require other areas of UCL then Academic Committee being aware of this could help.

### **6. Annual Report on Minutes of Meetings of Faculty Committees Responsible for Overseeing PGT Student Provision**

- 6.1. Received - the paper at RDC 3-01 (19-20). The Secretary introduced the item which covered the key issues arising at Faculty Research Degree Committees, and summarised the main areas of discussion.
  - a. Graduation fees for Research Degree Students were highlighted at one FRDC as potentially too costly for students who wanted to bring family with them. Many students had been found to be disappointed with having to pay for their parents to attend their graduation, in addition to extra costs for Academic dress (robes) hire.
  - b. Provision of mental health services for PGR students was noted, with concerns being raised that services seemed to be targeted to Taught students as they are not available outside of term time. It was felt that access to such provisions should be available at all times.



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supported by SSW, and there is a feeling that the majority of information is geared forwards taught students particularly online, at inductions, in handbooks, and the general language used.

- 8.3. One way to address these issues may be to create a mobile app specifically for the PGR community, which would contain features such as calendars of what is happening relevant to them, suggested meetings, induction events, message boards, and other events. It was noted that this would be particularly useful to help PGR students who are not based at UCL to help them feel part of the community. A rollout for 2020-21 was considered a possibility, and more details will follow.
- 8.4. Training is to be developed for both supervisors and students to better manage their relationship. The training for supervisors will involve highlighting student vulnerabilities, and making sure they are aware of the student support that is available. For students, the training will involve points on managing their relationship with supervisors and the generic skills required of a PGR student. This could possibly be made into a module for all students to attend. It was noted that this should be developed and delivered in tandem with Arena and the existing Supervisor training.
- 8.5. The SSW team have also developed a new SORA template to make it easier for students to complete if required. They have also been working on providing more information for PGR students, and worked on making the procedure more accessible for funding support for students. It focuses on improving the student experience area as students can get sent around to different departments, when signposting should be more effective and seamless.

## **9. PGR Mental Wellbeing**

- 9.1. Received - the paper at RDC 1-06 (19-20). HR indicated that some actions were being undertaken regarding PGT Mental Wellbeing, but it was noted that RDC is expected a full report to assess all of the 22 actions.

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9.2. A more formal report is promised from HR for the next RDC, and this should be prioritised for discussion.

## **10. Development Opportunities for Experienced Supervisors**

10.1. Received - the paper at RDC 1-07 (19-20). The Associate Director (Early Career Academic and Research Supervisor Development) introduced the item, which provided an update on Development Opportunities for Experienced Supervisors.

10.2. It was noted that there have not been major changes to the Arena supervisor development programme from last year, but the revised training launched in 2018 had prompted discussion about the need for ongoing training for experienced Supervisors.

10.3. Last year the UKCGE piloted their new professional recognition scheme for experienced supervisors and UCL was invited to participate. Four UCL supervisors volunteered and all were successfully recognised by the scheme. All four indicated this was useful and they would implement the training into their work.

10.4. Following a wide consultation exercise about the pilot, UKCGE officially launched Tf1 0 0 1 98t3(t)8(h)-3(e)-3( re)-2(vis(( co)4(n)-3(s)10o)nBT/F1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 107.4







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versus distance and mixed mode). The Working Group will discuss these issues in more depth, and bring forward for discussion proposals on these issues at a future RDC.

- 13.4. It was confirmed that the Working Group were still aiming to publish all of the new regulations at once, with an intended publication for the 2020/21 academic year.

### **Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information**

#### **14. Anonymised Suspension of Regulations Report**

- 14.1. Received - the paper at RDC 1-11 (19-20).

#### **15. New and Amended Programmes and Qualifications Approved by RDC**

- 15.1. Received - the paper at RDC 1-12 (19-20)

#### **16. Dates of Ne6(te)-5(n)6(d)-3(e)-3(d)6( p)-5(u)6(b)-3(li)34**