

**Disclosable**

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
02/07/10	27	HEFCW/10/74

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**1 Issue**

This paper presents for information the unconfirmed notes of the fifth meeting of the Council's Research, Innovation and Engagement (RIE) Committee held on the 19 April 2010, which are attached at **Annex A**.

**2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper**

The RIE Committee is a standing committee of the Council, established in 2009, which brings together the former Third Mission Committee and Research Sounding Group. It advises the Council on the development and delivery of HEFCW's corporate plan as it relates to the research and innovation and engagement (third mission) capacity and activities of the HE sector in Wales.

**3 Recommendations**

The Council is invited to:

- i. Receive the unconfirmed notes of the RIE Committee meeting held on 19 April 2010.
- ii. Note that the Committee has established a fixed-term Research Sub-Group to help address a number of issues identified at earlier meetings of the Committee (**item 5 of Annex A**).

**4 Timing for decisions**

There are no immediate decisions arising from this paper .

**5 Council members' interests**

No conflicts of interest have been declared in advance of the meeting.

## 6 Further information

All documents referred to in this paper and its attachments are available from Teresa Cooper (Tel 02920 682304; E-mail: [Teresa.Cooper@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:Teresa.Cooper@hefcw.ac.uk)) or Linda Tiller (Tel 02920 682228; E-mail: [Linda.Tiller@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:Linda.Tiller@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## 7 Background

- 7.1 The RIE Committee meets up to four times a year. Its membership is drawn from senior managers and practitioners from the higher education (HE) sector, together with representatives from the public and private sector with a vested interest in the research and third mission outputs of HE.

## 8 Minutes of the meeting of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee on 19 April 2010

- 8.1 The unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the RIE Committee held on 19 April 2010 are attached at Annex A.

- 8.2 In particular members are asked to note:

- a) The discussion of European and International Opportunities and Challenges for Welsh HE (**Item 4 of Annex A**). The Committee received a presentation from Berwyn Davies, Head of Wales Higher Education Brussels (WHEB). The presentation was very well received and provoked a great deal of debate. This resulted in the identification of a number of actions that could be taken by RIEC members, HEFCW and HE institutions in Wales, as set out in paragraph 4.3.
- b) The Committee's decision to establish a Research Sub-Group, which will operate on a fixed-term basis to help address a number of the issues identified at earlier meetings of the Committee. The core membership of the sub-group will be Professor Robin Williams (Chair), Professor Richard Davies (RIEC Committee member), Professor Teresa Rees (PVC Research, Cardiff University) and Dr Graeme Reid (Deputy Director of Economic Impact, DBIS). The core membership will be augmented as and when appropriate by additional representation from business and the wider HE sector.

## 9 Financial Implications

- 9.1 No new financial implications arise immediately from this paper.

## 10 Publicity Implications

- 10.1 No immediate publicity implications arise from this paper.

## 11 Diversity & Equality Implications

- 11.1 When submitting their third mission strategies all institutions are asked to consider how they will address the needs of potentially disadvantaged groups (in relation to race, gender, disability and age, including monitoring arrangements). In addition, institutions are asked to consider the needs of Welsh speakers, Welsh learners and Welsh speaking communities and, where appropriate, take account of their institution's/institutions' role/roles in the new sector Welsh medium strategic framework and development plan. Under GO Wales, although new EU funds were agreed in December 2008, officers have continued to manage the programme in line with both WEFO's own diversity and equality requirements and those set out in the original, successful bid to WEFO. However, there are no immediate implications arising from this paper.

## 12 Risk Assessment

- 12.1 Details of identified risks are provided below:

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
Council fails to deliver its strategic aim of "benefiting society and economy" as derived from its remit letter and <i>For Our Future</i>	RIE Committee established to offer Council advice and guidance on the development of policy in this area.
Council fails to deliver its strategic aim of building a strong, dynamic and sustainable research base in Wales that stands comparison with others in the UK and contributes to economic prosperity.	RIE Committee established to offer Council advice and guidance on the development of policy in this area.
Council fails to deliver on the key priorities embedded in <i>For Our Future</i> of contributing to a buoyant economy and delivering social justice	RIE Committee to advise Council on the development of policy in this area.