

Meeting
12/03/15

Agenda Item
27

Reference No
HEFCW/15/33

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper presents the unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the Council's Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee (RIEC) held on 10 February 2015.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 The RIEC is a standing committee of the Council, established in 2009. It advises the Council on the development and delivery of HEFCW's corporate plan as it relates to the research and innovation and engagement capacity and activities of the HE sector in Wales.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Council is invited to receive the unconfirmed notes of the RIEC meeting held on 10 February 2015 (attached at **Annex A**)

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 There are no decisions arising from this paper.

5 Council members' interests

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

6 Further information

- 6.1 All documents referred to in this paper and its attachments are available on the HEFCW Extranet, or from Linda Tiller (Tel 029 2068 2228; Email: linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk) or Tove Oliver (Tel 029 2068 2264; Email: tove.oliver@hefcw.ac.uk).

7 Background

- 7.1 The RIE Committee meets twice 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 an interest in the research and innovation & engagement outputs of HE.

8 Meeting of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee on 10 February 2015

- 8.1 The unconfirmed notes of the meeting of the RIE Committee, which was held at HEFCW on 10 February 2015 are attached at **Annex A**.

- 8.2 In particular members are asked to note:

- a) The Committee's discussion on the outcomes of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). The Committee reflected in particular on the sector's experience of the impact element, where Wales' had performed very strongly, and the research environment, where collaboration and critical mass appear to be key factors for success. We intend to take forward the lessons learnt from the 2014 REF to help support the sector's preparations for the next REF. **(Minute 4 refers)**.
- b) The Committee's discussions of HEFCW's draft response to the Review of HE Funding and Student Finance (Diamond Review). The Committee made a number of helpful suggestions to strengthen the sections on innovation and engagement and research, and these have been incorporated into the final version of the document. **(Minute 5 refers)**.
- c) The update on Universities Wales (Unis Wales) international activities including, in particular, the Global Wales initiative **(Minute 6 refers)** and HEFCW's draft International Position Statement **(Minute 7 refers)**.
- d) The Council's discussion of the new UK Science and Innovation Strategy, *Our Plan for Growth*, which was published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in December 2014. **(Minute 9 refers)**. The Committee noted that the document made reference to the fact that Dame Ann Dowling, the newly appointed President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, is leading a review to examine how Government could support the development of more effective collaborations between businesses and university researchers in the UK. The call for evidence would close on 6 March.

The Council may also wish to note that, subsequent to the meeting of the RIE Committee, HEFCW participated in a roundtable discussion event on 12 February to support the Dowling review, hosted by Cardiff University at the request of the Royal Academy of Engineering. There were around 20, mostly business attendees, plus Welsh Government representation. The discussion was based around the questions highlighted in the call for evidence (eg success factors and barriers to long term strategic

collaborations), but with a particular focus on features of relevance to Wales. These features were captured in the record of the discussion produced by the Royal Academy of Engineering. In the light of this, we have decided that HEFCW does not need to respond separately to the consultation.

9 Financial Implications

9.1 No new financial implications arise immediately from this paper.

10 Publicity Implications

10.1 There are no immediate publicity implications arising from this paper.

11 Diversity & Equality Implications

11.1 There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this paper.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Details of identified risks are provided below:

Risk	Action to address risk
Reduction in HEFCW's Innovation and Engagement funding (IEF) in 2013/14 misinterpreted by sector and stakeholders as indicative of I&E not continuing to be a core agenda for HE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funding for collaborative projects extends into 2014/15 •Clear message to universities to promote continued prioritisation on I&E activity •Ongoing discussions with universities to appreciate institutional stance(s). •Ongoing monitoring via Annual Monitoring Statements (AMS), Institutional Risk Registers (IRR) and project reporting processes and •Engagement with universities' via HEFCW's new Strategic Planning and Engagement Document (SPED) process
Council fails to deliver its strategic aim of securing research of internationally excellent quality to deliver a buoyant economy and support social justice.	RIE Committee established to offer Council advice and guidance on the development of policy in this area.