

Annual Report to the Council
from the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee
2014/15

1 Introduction

- 1.1 HEFCW's Committee Standing orders specify that all Committees should provide the Council with an annual report on the discharge of their duties. This paper presents the report of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee for academic year 2014/15.

2 Remit of the Committee

- 2.1 The remit of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee is:
- a) To advise the Council on its strategies for innovation, engagement and research activities and the policies and principles that need to underpin them in the long term, including funding arrangements.
 - b) To act as a source of and sounding board for new ideas and approaches in the field of innovation, engagement and research activity.
 - c) To recommend to the Council strategies in support of HEFCW's corporate plan as it relates to innovation and research activities, and which also promote and facilitate joint working between the Council and its key partner organisations in these areas.
 - d) To consider any matters referred to the Committee by the Council.
 - e) In all of the above to seek and take account of the views of such stakeholders as it considers appropriate and of appropriate research and, likewise, to incorporate advice from independent specialists where appropriate.
- 2.2 The Committee's full terms of reference are attached at **Appendix A**.

3 Policy Context

3.1 The wider policy developments which informed the Committee's work in 2014/15 included:

- The ongoing implications of the Welsh Government's policy on undergraduate tuition fee grants.
- The Diamond Review of HE sector funding and student finance arrangements which commenced in Spring 2014.
- The development of plans by the Chief Scientific Advisor for Wales for a second phase of Sêr Cymru, to help further support the objectives of *Science for Wales*.
- The conclusion of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework and the publication of outcomes in December 2014.
- The implementation of new phase of European Funding (2014-2020), including the approval for the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Operational Programme documents towards the end of 2014.

4 Review of Business in 2014/15

4.1 The Research Innovation and Engagement Committee met on two occasions in academic year 2014/15:

- 16 October 2014
- 10 February 2015

4.2 The chief items of business covered during 2014/15 were:

i) October 2014

- Welsh Higher Education Brussels: Strategic Plan 2015-18
- HEFCW Consultation on Approach to Funding in 2015/16 and Subsequent Years
- Research, Innovation and Engagement: HEFCW's role and Action Plan 2014/15 to 2015/16
- Higher Education Business and Communities Interaction Survey (HEBCIS) 2012/13
- Amendments to RIE Committee's Constitution

ii) *February 2015*

- Outcomes of 2014 Research Excellence Framework
- HEFCW's draft response to the Diamond Review
- Universities Wales' International Activity
- International Engagement: HEFCW's position statement and role in 2015/16 (now published [HERE](#))
- Vitae and the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers: update

4.3 In addition, the Committee regularly received the Minutes of the Student Experience, Teaching and Quality Committee (SETQC), and liaised with that Committee over issues of common interest when appropriate, particularly in relation to the skills and international agendas.

4.4 The Committee provided the Council with a report on each meeting, including the draft Minutes, on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

5 Further information on key issues

5.1 A summary of the content of the Committee's discussions of the most significant items from the above list is provided below.

a) HEFCW Consultation on Approach to Funding in 2015/16 and Subsequent Years

5.2 The Committee considered a paper which summarised the outcomes, in areas relevant to the Committee, of HEFCW's consultation on the approach to funding in 2015/16 and subsequent years.

5.3 Members supported HEFCW's proposal not to make fundamental changes to the existing QR funding method in 2015/16, and to defer any more extensive review of arrangements for research funding to the slightly longer term. The Committee's comments were fed in to the Council's discussion of the outcomes of the funding consultation. Subsequently, we retained the existing QR formula for 2015/16, and operated it using the outcomes of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, with an adjustment to the sustainability threshold. The 2015/16 QR allocations were published in May 2015 (Circular W15/09HE)

b) Research, Innovation and Engagement: HEFCW's Role and Action Plan 2014/15 to 2015/16

5.4 The Committee considered a paper on HEFCW's role in respect of research, innovation and engagement and an action plan for 2014/15 and 2015/16. The document had been drawn up with the assistance of a sub-group of the Committee. It sought, in particular, to define HEFCW's role in relation to innovation and engagement following the withdrawal of the Innovation and

Engagement Fund. The Committee made a number of helpful suggestions and the final document is now published on HEFCW's website: [HERE](#)

c) Outcomes of 2014 Research Excellence Framework

- 5.5 The Committee considered the outcomes for Wales 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.

d) HEFCW's draft response to the Diamond Review

- 5.6 The Committee considered HEFCW's draft response to the Review of HE Funding and Student Finance (the Diamond Review), and made a number of suggestions to strengthen the sections on innovation and engagement and research. These have been incorporated into the final version of the document submitted to the review in February 2015.

6 Committee Membership

- 6.1 The membership of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee, as at October 2015, is attached at **Appendix B**.

- 6.2 During the course of 2014/15, the Committee said goodbye to the following members:

- Professor Kevin Morgan – Cardiff University (Academic Researcher)
- Professor Mike Scott – Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Glyndŵr University (Universities Wales' nominee)
- Bryn Jones, Head of Knowledge Exchange, Bangor University (Chair of Welsh HE Industrial Liaison Officers - WILOs)
- Professor Peter Quantick European Projects Director, University of Wales Trinity Saint David (Chair of Welsh Higher Education European Liaison Officers - WHEELOs)

- 6.4 The Committee welcomed the following new members who were appointed during the course of 2014/15:

- Professor David Langley, Science Division (Chief Scientist's Department, DEST) – Observer
- Dr Rachel Bowen, Policy Manager, Federation of Small Businesses Wales (Business sector representative)

7 Meeting Dates in 2015/16

7.1 The Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee will hold two meetings in 2015/16. The meeting dates are:

- 13 April 2016
- 20 October 2016

HEFCW Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee Remit

1 CONSTITUTION

A Committee of the Council to be known as the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee (the Committee) established with the following Terms of reference and standing orders by a resolution of the Council dated the 12th day of December 2008 and 10 December 2010.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- a) To advise the Council on its strategies for innovation, engagement and research activities and the policies and principles that need to underpin them in the long term, including funding arrangements.
- b) To act as a source of and sounding board for new ideas and approaches in the field of innovation, engagement and research activity.
- c) To recommend to the Council strategies in support of HEFCW's corporate plan as it relates to innovation and research activities, and which also promote and facilitate joint working between the Council and its key partner organisations in these areas.
- d) To consider any matters referred to the Committee by the Council.
- e) In all of the above to seek and take account of the views of such stakeholders as it considers appropriate and of appropriate research and, likewise, to incorporate advice from independent specialists where appropriate.

3 STANDING ORDERS

3.1 The standard HEFCW Committee Standing Orders shall apply.

3.2 Membership and Attendance

- 3.2.1 The Committee shall comprise up to seventeen members, including at least one member of the Council. The Committee will be chaired by a Council member.
- 3.2.2 The quorum for Committee meetings is four members, including the Chair or his/her nominee.
- 3.2.3 The Director of the Institutional Engagement Team and relevant officers shall normally attend the meetings of the Committee.

3.2.4 A member of the Research, Innovation and Engagement section of the Institutional Engagement Team shall service the Committee.

3.3 Authority

3.3.1 The Committee is an advisory body with no executive powers.

3.3.2 The Committee shall have the authority to establish Task and Finish Groups to provide advice as it considers necessary.

Composition of Research Innovation and Engagement Committee

Members

Council

At least one member of Council

(The Committee will be chaired by a member of Council)

Appointments committee appointees

Two business sector representatives

Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Innovation)

Engagement/Innovation staff member

Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Research)

Academic researcher

Nominees

Universities Wales (with research experience)

Research Councils UK

Welsh Higher Education European Liaison Officers (WHEELOs)

Welsh (HE) Industrial Liaison Officers Network (WILOs)

Observers

DfES

DEST (A4B)

DEST (Enterprise/Entrepreneurship)

Universities Wales officer

Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB) (when applicable)

Officers

Director of Institutional Engagement

Head of Research, Innovation and Engagement section

Senior Research Manager

Senior European/International Manager (*Secretary*)

Head of Skills and Employability section

HEFCW Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee Membership – as at October 2015

Member of Council (Chair)	Professor Robin Williams
Members of Council	Professor Mark E Smith (<i>Deputy Chair</i>) Professor Stephen Tomlinson Dr Colin Wyatt
Two business sector representatives	Chris Meadows, Open Innovation Director, IQE Dr Rachel Bowen, Policy Manager, Federation of Small Businesses Wales
Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Innovation)	Professor Hilary Lappin-Scott, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Strategic Development and External Relations, Swansea University
Engagement/Innovation staff member	Professor Nigel Scollan, Waitrose Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Aberystwyth University
Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Research)	Professor David Shepherd, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Bangor University
Academic Researcher	Professor Steve Gill, Associate Dean, Research, Cardiff School of Art and Design, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Nominees	
Universities Wales (with research experience)	Professor Hywel Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research Innovation and Enterprise, Cardiff University
Research Councils UK	Alexandra Saxon, Head of Communications, RCUK Strategy Unit
Welsh Higher Education European Liaison Officers Network (WHEELOS)	Nick Bodycombe, Chair of WHEELOS and Manager of European Office, Cardiff University
Welsh HE Industrial Liaison Officers Network (WILOS)	Matthew Taylor, Chair of WILOS and Director of Enterprise, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Observers	
DfES	Vacancy
DEST (A4B)	Phil Allen, Head of Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation
DEST (Enterprise/Entrepreneurship) Chief Scientist's Department, DEST	Sue Morgan, Head of Enterprise Education
Dept for Innovation, Business and Skills (BIS)	Professor David Langley, Science Division
Universities Wales officer	Dr Carolyn Reeve, Head of Policy for University Research and Knowledge Exchange
Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB) – when appropriate	Amanda Wilkinson, Director, Universities Wales Berwyn Davies, Head of Office
HEFCW Officers	
Director of Institutional Engagement	Bethan Owen
Head of Research, Innovation and Engagement section	Dr Alyson Thomas
Senior European & International Manager	Dr Tove Oliver (<i>Secretary</i>)
Senior Research Manager	Linda Tiller
Head of Skills and Employability section	Jackie Cresswell-Griffith

