University Research and Enterprise Board

Items for Discussion/Decision
Wednesday 15 February 2023

Agenda item

1. Chair's update

The University Research and Enterprise Board (UREB), previously known as the College Research Committee, approved the updated Terms of Reference which aimed to better incorporate the College’s Enterprise Division. The Board noted the announcement of four new governmental departments, most notably the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

2. Action plan 2023-25: Concordat to support the career development of researchers

Dr Liz Elvidge, Head of Postdoc and Fellows Development, presented the revised Concordat Action Plan 2023-25 for the Board's approval, which was unanimously endorsed. Dr Elvidge discussed the Concordat's communications plan, wellbeing provisions, championing of its principles and support for attracting and retaining talent.

3. Review of the Researcher Development Committee

Professor Julie McCann, Vice-Dean (Research), Faculty of Engineering, presented a review of the Researcher Development Committee (RDC) following the RDC annual report which was presented to the UREB on 12 October 2022. Professor McCann discussed the RDC’s remit, purpose, membership, and communications plan.

4. Imperial College London FAIR Data Service

Professor David Colling, Professor of Physics & e-Science and Director Research Data Strategy, was invited to present a review of the FAIR data service based on the findings of the FAIR Data Working Group. Professor Colling made recommendations to the Board across three proposed service levels, leading to a proposal for developing a centrally supported research data service for researchers to publish their data. The Board recommended that a service be developed corresponding to the middle of these three levels. This service should, as far as appropriate, be developed in collaboration with other research institutions and should be developed in such a way as not to preclude possible future upgrade to the highest service level.

5. Institutional Rights Retention Policy proposal for journal articles and conference proceedings

Ms Chris Banks, Director, Library Services, presented a proposal for an Institutional Rights Retention Policy (IRRP) which aimed to ensure that funder obligations and research outputs are met. The Board unanimously approved.
6. **Springer Nature Negotiations update**

At the time of the meeting, Ms Chris Banks, Director, Library Services, informed the Board that Springer Nature was expected to provide a negotiations update imminently and the College was prepared to respond in accordance with its Higher Education counterparts.

7. **AOB**

- **Funding Research Services**

  Mr Ian McArdle, Head of Research Systems and Information, was invited to present on the new academic spend reports replacing Report To Web (R2W) from March 2023.

  Mr McArdle also updated the Board on the rollout of a new funder service replacing Jes expected to be implemented by the end of 2023. The Board agreed that the College community were expected to be made aware of potential disruptions in Jes during the implementation phase.

- **Open Research Committee**

  Ms Chris Banks, Director, Library Services, informed the Board of the newly formed Open Research Group she was expected to chair alongside Professor Paul French, Vice-Dean (Research), Faculty of Natural Sciences. The Group, a subcommittee of UREB was expected to address open access and research data policies, the wider funder commitment to research culture, and the increasing attention to research reproducibility.