

Research Ethics Integrity Sub-Committee

2024-25

Committee purpose

To ensure that the University upholds the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research. All academic committees operate in accordance with the University's governing documents – Charter, Statutes and Regulations – and the Public Interest Governance Principles.

Membership

- Chair – An experienced University researcher with a significant practical understanding of research ethics and/or the application of the principles of research integrity. (Term – 3 years plus 2 years upon renewal and mutual agreement). Appointed by PVC Research and Innovation
- One academic elected Senator
- Chair of Faculty Research Ethics and Integrity Committees for the Faculty of Media, Arts and Humanities
- Chairs of Faculty Research Ethics and Integrity Committees for the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine (2)
- Chair of Faculty Research Ethics and Integrity Committees for the Faculty of Social Sciences
- Chair of Faculty Research Ethics and Integrity Committees for the Faculty of University of Sussex Business School
- School Research Ethics Officer for the Faculty of Media, Arts and Humanities
- School Research Ethics Officer for the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine
- School Research Ethics Officer for the Faculty of Social Sciences
- School Research Ethics Officer for the Faculty of University of Sussex Business School
(Term – 3 years renewable once)
- Lay members (2)
- Chair of the Research Governance and Quality Assurance Sub-Committee.

In attendance:

- The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation
- Director of Research and Innovation Services
- Head of Research Ethics, Integrity and Governance
- The Cross-Faculty Senior Research Ethics and Integrity Officers x4.
- University Librarian (or nominee)
- Director of IT Services (or nominee).

Terms of Reference

- a) To keep under review and recommend University policies on issues related to:
- ensuring integrity in all University research
 - upholding the principles of ethical research in all its forms
 - reviewing the outcomes of investigations into research misconduct.

The above to be undertaken with a view to ensuring that the public, staff and students are protected from harm and that the reputation of the University is safeguarded.

- b) To ensure that University policy in the areas outlined above (including the Code of Practice for Research) is adhered to.
- c) To ensure that each Faculty Ethics Committee - is set up and operates in accordance with the requirements laid out in the University's codes and policies relating to research governance.
- d) To approve internal Faculty and Schools' research governance structures and processes (including review by School Research Ethics Officers (SREOs)), and to advise, inform, and update Faculty and School committees on matters of research ethics and integrity.
- e) To ensure compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and any other significant external policies or standards relevant to university research.
- f) To review anonymised accounts from any investigations into allegations of misconduct in research, offering advice and making recommendations from their outcomes.
- g) To consider reports from University Research and Innovation Committee on the management of research ethics and integrity and offer advice and make recommendations.
- h) To assure the provision of appropriate training for research ethics and integrity.
- i) To consider and offer guidance on cases of uncertainty and make decisions on cases which cannot be resolved by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) or any one of the Faculty Ethics Committees; to hear appeals from applicants relating to decisions of those Committees.
- j) To seek clarification from the university's external advisors or other expert bodies, as necessary, on matters of policy and practice in relation to research ethics and integrity.
- k) To receive regular reports from the Faculty Ethics Committees, the AWERB and the Research Governance and Quality Assurance Committee, cooperating and communicating to ensure complementary oversight and understanding of any inter-related areas.