University Research and Innovation Committee Terms of Reference

Key Role

The Research and Innovation Committee (URIC Committee) has oversight of all matters related to research and innovation policy and strategy and provides assurance to Senate that the University is compliant with external requirements related to research and innovation. It drives the development of a research and innovation environment and culture which maximises the quality and impact of our research and innovation and enables our research community to flourish.

Terms of Reference

(a) to advise Senate on all matters relating to the research and innovation strategy of the University;

(b) to be responsible for the development and implementation of the University's Research and Innovation Strategy and to review progress made against its aims, objectives and operational plan;

(c) to support Faculties and Schools in the development of research and knowledge exchange strategies through promotion and exchange of best practice, to ensure their alignment with institutional strategies, and to monitor progress against strategic objectives through receipt of annual progress reports;

(d) to identify and draw to the attention of the appropriate University body the resources necessary to support the University Research and Innovation Strategy, and to advise the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation on areas where improvements could be made and where new opportunities may be pursued;

(e) to be responsible for monitoring institutional progress against the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) strategies through receipt of periodic reports;

(f) to monitor the national and international research and innovation policy and funding environment in order to influence the development of research and innovation policy and strategy of key funders, to position the University to respond to opportunities, to advise Senate on the implications of any developments, and to ensure that effective responses to external research and innovation-related reviews and consultations are made on behalf of the University;

(g) to promote and exchange best practice in order to enhance the research and innovation environment and culture of the University and support the development of capabilities that enable the research community to flourish;

(h) to undertake regular reviews of institutional research drivers, considering performance against relevant benchmarking data, and to recommend any updates to Senate Key Performance Indicators;

(i) to monitor, approve and keep under review relevant University research and

innovation policies and procedures, and where necessary, make recommendations to Senate;

(j)   to provide advice and guidance to URIC sub-committees, and through the receipt of periodic reports, ensure progress against strategic objectives, compliance with external obligations and promotion of best practice in relation to sector developments where we are signatories:

- to review the annual statement of compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and to ensure the University upholds the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research through the Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (REIC).
- to ensure that University research is conducted to appropriate ethical and legal frameworks through the Research Governance and Quality Assurance Committee (RGQAC).
- to monitor and review the University's regulations, policies and procedures for postgraduate research, and the quality of research degree programmes through the Postgraduate Researcher Board (PGRB).
- to monitor and review the University's commitment to the Researcher Development Concordat through the Early Career Researcher Board (ECRB).

(k)   to provide direction to the following research and knowledge exchange related groups and receive periodic reports from them in order to monitor progress against strategic objectives:

- REF Steering Group
- KE Steering Group
- Funder Engagement Group
- Research Culture Steering Group
- Research IT Committee
- Open Research Group

(l)   to approve the establishment, amendment or closure of Centres of Excellence and to be responsible for undertaking mid-term reviews and the renewal process;

(m)   to receive periodic updates on significant outcomes from Faculty and School reviews of Research Centres and Groups, and Centres of Excellence;

(n)   to support the University's ambition to ensure research and innovation practice is undertaken sustainably;

(o)   to actively consider Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in all decisions made.

Composition

Membership
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation (Chair)
- Associate Deans for Research and Innovation
- One academic elected member of Senate
- Director of Research and Innovation Services
- Director of Innovation and Business Partnerships
- Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Innovation

- Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research
- Chair of the Postgraduate Researcher Board
- Chair of the Early Career Researcher Board
- Chair of the Research Governance and Quality Assurance Committee
- Chair of the Research Ethics and Integrity Committee

In attendance
- University Librarian (or nominee)
- Director of IT Services (or nominee)
- Secretary to the Committee

Quoracy
One third of total membership shall constitute a quorum.

Frequency
The Committee meets a maximum of 10 times per year.

Reports to
Senate (reports will also be sent to Council when appropriate).

July 2024