

OPEN RESEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes for Monday 27 January 2020, 11:00–12:30
Council Room, The Old Schools

Present: Chris Abell (Chair), Vasily Belokurov, Lauren Cadwallader, Marta Costa, Jessica Gardner, Emma Gilby, Peter Hedges, Patricia Killiard, David Owen, Steve Russell, Arthur Smith, Niamh Tumelty, Debbie Hansen (Secretary).

In attendance: Fiona Maine.

Apologies: Mark Carrigan, John Dennis, Sara Hennessy.

1 Minutes of previous meeting (23 October 2019) — ORSC-22

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2 Matters arising: Report on actions from previous meetings

Matters arising that were not complete or discussed during the remainder of the meeting:

1. *Data about article processing charge payments across the University (item 7 of 2 May 2019 meeting):* This is still in progress. Arthur Smith will provide a short update at the next meeting.

3 Open Research Working Group — ORSC-23

With reference to a short paper summarising progress against the recommendations of the Open Research Working Group, which were approved by the Research Policy Committee in November 2018, Jessica Gardner explained that all remaining actions that are open fall within the ongoing remit and current working groups reporting to the Open Research Steering Committee. She commented that it now seemed timely to consider closing this reporting against the Recommendations. The group agreed that this reporting can now be closed.

4 DORA Working Group update — ORSC-24

This update was led by Steve Russell. The working group have met a few times. Two open meetings have been held. These were at the Sidgwick Site and the Clinical School; there were around 50 attendees in total. Questions and concerns raised at these meetings were as expected. There will also be presentations about DORA at school council meetings. A survey will be distributed to all research staff, professional support staff, early career researchers and graduate students, to collect their views and inform the development of the framework (the framework will guide the assessment of research output). One key issue has already been identified: how will monitoring and assessment with compliance be done?

Action: Chris Abell to send the email requesting completion of the survey (draft from Steve Russell). The email will include a link to the DORA Open Meeting presentation.

Wellcome Trust have recently released guidance on how to implement the principles of DORA and the group's current plans align with this. It was also stressed that REF assessors are briefed on DORA and the Journal Impact Factor will not be used in the REF assessment. It was noted that it will take time to change the culture and perceptions about how research assessment is carried out.

Jessica Gardner suggested introducing an award for Open Research to add to existing recognition opportunities.

Action: Jessica Gardner to develop the idea of an Open Research award and report back to the group on this.

5 REF Open Access compliance update — ORSC-25

Vasily Belokurov arrived at the meeting.

Arthur Smith gave a brief update. The Open Access team has had a period of staff turnover but a more stable period is now expected. Recruitment for the new Open Access Service Manager is currently in progress.

With regard to REF nominated articles and compliance with the REF Open Access policy, there have been small changes so far, and there will be further work looking at compliance. Following discussion it was noted that after the end of March Units of Assessment (UoAs) are to be asked to remove from their submissions any articles that are not compliant with the REF Open Access policy.

Action: Arthur Smith to liaise with the central REF Office regarding communication with UoA chairs, to include the latest open access compliance information for their UoA and a reminder about the REF Open Access requirements (including the need to nominate only compliant articles).

Arthur Smith also gave an update on expenditure against the COAF and RCUK block grants. The 2019/20 COAF block grant was awarded early October and expenditure against this grant is on track. The 2019/20 UKRI grant will close on 31 March 2020. At current rates of expenditure an underspend is expected and this is a direct result of the decision, made by the Open Access Project Board in 2018, to restrict payments made to hybrid journals. However, there are a number of transformative open access agreements currently being negotiated which may be finalised before end March, and thus any underspend could be used to support such deals.

6 Plan S update — ORSC-26

Patricia Killiard briefed the group on progress with this item. Cambridge University Libraries have provided a response to the cOAlition S consultation on transformative journals. Transformative agreements are one route to Open Access compliance, and there are risks associated with shifting from the pay-to-read to the pay-to-publish model, particularly for subjects with typically less funding. In the response, a request to support different routes to Open Access was made.

One transformative agreement has recently been signed: this is with the Microbiology Society. Under this agreement, members of the University will have unlimited access to all paywalled content and unlimited, immediate open access publishing, with a CC BY licence, of the published version for all corresponding authors at the University. This is for the Society's four hybrid and two open access journals. Other potential agreements are in the pipeline (e.g. with Cambridge University Press, Wiley and IOP).

A number of issues with forthcoming transformative agreements were raised and these will need to be addressed e.g.:

- How to communicate the deals with researchers, including defining the nuances of eligibility arising from different publishers?
- How will departments that have been handling their own article processing charges be affected?

7 Research Data Management — ORSC-27

Lauren Cadwallader updated the group on the proposed plan of action looking at the feasibility of creating a dedicated manual research records policy, as recommended by Wellcome Trust. She invited comments from the committee on both the proposed plan and the definition of manual research records. The committee were in broad agreement with the plan. Lauren will continue this work and write a high level policy, for the Committee's consideration, by the next meeting.

The Committee then discussed the recommendation, by Wellcome Trust, to consider implementing a systemised process to monitor adherence to data management plans as part of research grant administration. It was felt that high level policy guidelines could be written, and following this, there would be a need for department-level detail. The Committee agreed that implementing a monitoring process would have an associated cost and it is unclear how this would be funded. It was felt that a conversation with Wellcome Trust, to talk about the recommendation and issues arising, would be beneficial.

Action: Peter Hedges to discuss with Wellcome Trust their recommendation.

8 Research Notebook Working Group (RNWG) — ORSC-28

Lauren Cadwallader gave an update on this group's progress. For example, they have carried out some scoping work to look at the range of notebooks used and to find out about issues currently being experienced by researchers. The next steps will include developing some guidance materials.

Action: Lauren Cadwallader to include the draft guidelines in the next meeting's papers.

9 Open Research Training — ORSC-29

Niamh Tumelty introduced the strategy paper from the Open Research Training Task Group. The paper outlines plans to develop Open Research training in the coming years, including through embedded sessions, a central offer and online materials. A discussion followed in which the importance of incorporating Open Research within general training on research was stressed and the issue of resourcing was raised.

Action: Niamh Tumelty to look at how these plans fit with other Open Research commitments.

10 Items to be referred to the Research Policy Committee

The following papers will be forwarded to the RPC:

1. A copy of these minutes.

Next Meeting: Monday, 27 April 2020, 11:00–12:30
Council Room, The Old Schools

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