

OPEN RESEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes for Thursday 29 July 2021, 14:00–15:30
MS Teams meeting

Present: Steve Russell (Chair), Holger Babinsky, Marta Costa, Jessica Gardner, Peter Hedges, Mandy Hill, Patricia Killiard, Ian Leslie, David Owen, Benjamin Steventon, Niamh Tumelty, Debbie Hansen (Secretary).

In attendance: Rhys Morgan, Liz Simmonds.

Apologies: Mark Carrigan, Emma Gilby, Sara Hennessy.

1 Minutes of previous meeting (7 May 2021)

— ORSC-57

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2 Matters arising: Report on actions and work plan

— ORSC-58

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

1. *Item 5 of 3 February 2021 meeting (Rights retention strategy)*: This is ongoing, to be brought back to the Committee for further discussion if required following the announcement of the expected new Open Access Policy from UKRI.
2. *ORSC membership*: Mark Carrigan will be standing down from the Committee as he is leaving University of Cambridge. The Committee was asked for any suggestions for recruiting a replacement postdoctoral member. Liz Simmonds suggested putting a notice in the newsletter to the Postdoc Committee to ask for candidates. This way ahead was agreed.
Action: Niamh Tumelty to provide details; Liz Simmonds to submit the notice to the newsletter.
3. *Open Research Event*: The plans for this internal event, to be held in November, are progressing well.

3 Research Culture Institutional Action Plan

— ORSC-59

Liz Simmonds, from the University of Cambridge Postdoc Academy and Chair of the University Working Group on Research Culture, presented an overview of the [Research Culture Institutional Action Plan](#) with some background to its development. This plan, which was developed by the Research Culture Working Group, a cross-institutional working group with representatives from, for example, HR, academic staff and postdoctoral researchers, was published in February 2021 following approval by the Research Policy Committee (RPC) and the HR Committee.

Active interest in research culture has been gaining momentum in recent years: the Royal Society held a [conference](#) on the topic in 2018; [Wellcome Trust](#) has conducted a study and held town hall meetings; in 2021 the Russell Group [published a toolkit](#) and a Government [policy paper](#) was also published (in which University of Cambridge is complimented for the research culture strategy work being done, alongside University of Glasgow, which is very active in this space). Internally the work has grown from activities around [The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) (which the [University signed](#) in December 2019). During 2020 the project progressed and included engagement through an online survey. Now research

culture has been adopted as part of the Covid Recovery Programme. The plan sets out six ambitions with proposed actions for each of the ambitions. Some of the actions build on work already in progress by different groups in the University; for example, incorporating open research and DORA.

Peter Hedges joined the meeting.

The Committee expressed enthusiastic support of the plan. There were questions, answers and discussion around details in the plan, planned activities, researcher behaviours and engagement, rewards and recognition, the value of case studies that illustrate good practise and measuring success. Also around how the different groups can help with the different programmes. The connectivity between research culture and open research was positively acknowledged.

Action: Jess Gardner and Liz Simmonds to discuss understanding of responsibilities around open research and research culture

Liz Simmonds left the meeting.

4 DORA

— ORSC-60

Steve Russell introduced the DORA papers brought to the Committee. The latest version of the DORA implementation guidance incorporates changes from the feedback from the Schools. Now more focused, the updated document retains the key DORA elements. Steve Russell confirmed that there were some changes to the content with regard to narrative CVs and DOI output lists in CVs as they proved to be unpopular. He also acknowledged the welcome input from Professor Rex and colleagues at the School of Arts and Humanities who provided valuable editorial review comments.

The discussion amongst the Committee included the topic of narrative CVs. David Owen, School of Clinical Medicine representative, emphasised concerns raised by the Schools of Biological Sciences and Clinical Medicine on the exclusive use of narrative CVs. The Chair advised that the draft guidance had taken this on board and had been rephrased to ‘encourage’ (not mandate) the use of narrative sections in CVs. It was noted that the extent to which narratives will be adopted in research assessment may vary between disciplines and that the purpose of the guidance is to provide a framework for Schools and Faculties to develop their tailored research assessment policies. Steve Russell sought approval from the Committee for the guidance document to be submitted to the RPC for their approval for circulation of the guidance. He also questioned whether, once Schools and Faculties have used the guidance to develop their tailored research assessment policies, these should be reviewed by the DORA WG or ORSC? In response, concern was expressed over the lack of resources to provide training, guidance and support for this. The Committee noted that there is a gap in the ability of the University to provide training and guidance on research assessment. It was also acknowledged that there is a gap in resources for taking forward the development of a responsible use of metrics statement. It was agreed that a conversation with PVC-R about these issues would be beneficial before approaching RPC. The Committee also agreed that, following the discussion with PVC-R, the guidance and metrics paper should go to RPC as they are but with a new cover paper (to include details of how the guidance had been developed).

Action: Steve Russell to discuss the issues with PVC-R and Peter Hedges prior to submission to RPC.

Action: Steve Russell to write a new cover paper, with input from Jess Gardner and Niamh Tumelty as required, and submit the guidance to RPC for approval.

Ian Leslie left the meeting.

5 Reproducible Research

— ORSC-61

Rhys Morgan joined the meeting. Rhys introduced the work of the Reproducible Research Working Group to raise awareness within the Committee and for feedback from the Committee on the group's proposals. Prior to the working group being established there had been no University-wide organised activity focused on reproducible research (unlike some other research intensive Universities), although small clusters of activity are happening around the University. The aims of the working group include the development of an institutional network to increase research reproducibility support, training and activities at Cambridge and for the University join the [UK Reproducibility Network \(UKRN\)](#) as an institutional member. The group intends to seek funding from the University to support aspects of this work. In July, the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee launched an [inquiry on reproducibility and research integrity](#) and the outcomes of this inquiry may lead to more expectations on what research institutions should be doing.

The Committee expressed enthusiastic support for the work of the Reproducible Research Working Group, noting the convergence with the other strands of open research activity. The importance of speed in progressing the activities of the working group was noted. The Committee supported the submission of a request for resource to the RPC. A suggestion was also made to invite someone to talk on reproducible research from an academic viewpoint.

Action: Rhys Morgan to submit to RPC a paper on reproducible research to request funding; the paper will summarise what work has already been done and what is being planned.

Rhys Morgan left the meeting.

6 *Minutes of the Open Research Operational Group meeting, 16 June 2021 — ORSC-62

This was a starred item not for discussion during the meeting.

7 Items to be referred to the Research Policy Committee

The following papers will be forwarded to the RPC:

1. A copy of these minutes.
2. DORA papers with a revised cover paper.
3. A paper on reproducible research.

8 Any other business

A workshop about the future of scholarly communication is being planned to open up the conversation on how this space is evolving. The date of this workshop is still to be confirmed.

The date of release of the anticipated updated UKRI open access policy is still not known. The next ORSC meeting was to be focussed on the new policy details and implications for the University. If the policy is released close to the next meeting the policy will still be distributed to the Committee for discussion at the meeting but will be discussed in a more informal way than originally envisaged.

Next Meeting: Monday, 30 September 2021, 14:00–15:30, MS Teams

Open Research Steering Committee Secretary:

Dr Debbie Hansen - dh554@cam.ac.uk

Office of Scholarly Communication, University Library, Cambridge, CB3 9DR