

## OPEN RESEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes for Thursday 30 September 2021, 14:00–15:30  
MS Teams

**Present:** Steve Russell (Chair), Marta Costa, Stephen Eglén, Jessica Gardner, Emma Gilby, Peter Hedges, Mandy Hill, Patricia Killiard, Ian Leslie, Amy Orben, Siddharth Soni, Benjamin Steventon, Niamh Tumelty, Debbie Hansen (Secretary)

**In attendance:** Katy Jordan, Meg Westbury

**Apologies:** Holger Babinsky, Sara Hennessy, David Owen

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## 1 Welcome to new members

Steve Russell thanked the outgoing committee member, Professor Vasily Belokurov, for his services to the Committee and welcomed Professor Stephen Eglén as the new representative for the School of Physical Sciences. He also welcomed Dr Orben (from the Reproducible Research Working Group) and Dr Siddharth Soni, the new AHSS Postdoctoral member.

## 2 Minutes of previous meeting (29 July 2021) — ORSC-63

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## 3 Matters arising: Report on actions from previous meetings — ORSC-64

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

1. *Item 4 of 29 July 2021 meeting (regarding DORA guidance and gaps in resources)*: The paper will be tabled in the RPC meeting in October; the actions are now complete.

## 4 Open access — ORSC-65, ORSC-66, ORSC-67, ORSC-68

This agenda item was introduced by Niamh Tumelty and the sub-topics discussed by the Committee.

**a) Review of University's open access policy.** The committee discussed the draft updates to the University's Open Access Policy, which is scheduled to be updated annually. The draft incorporates only minor changes. The discussion covered some further minor suggested changes but it was also noted that it will soon be time for a more major review, especially as the open access landscape is in flux. Compliance with open access policies continues to be an important aspect along with the opportunity to clarify the University's position on open access moving forward. It was agreed that the update will be published with the minor changes (adding in the new suggestions) and in shorter time there will be a fuller review. The Committee members were invited to annotate a shared document with comments and suggestions.

**Action:** All to annotate a shared version of the University's open access policy with comments and suggestions for major changes.

**Action:** OSC to publish the updated University's open access policy (updated with minor changes).

**Action:** Niamh Tumelty to seek the advice of the Head of Research Policy, Governance and Integrity on planning a more substantive review of the open access policy.

Ben Steventon joined meeting during the above discussion.

**b) The UKRI open access policy: implications for journal publishing.** Niamh Tumelty briefly introduced this paper, outlining the identified implications and issues arising from the detail currently available in the new policy. The discussion included comments and questions around: the challenge of making articles open from the day of publication (and which publication date will be key); implications for co-authors and compliance; the challenge for authors when writing a paper with a particular journal in mind if the journal is found to be non-compliant at a late stage; whether there could be a downloadable list of journals covered by Cambridge's read and publish agreements; sustainability of journals if rights retention is forced upon them; ensuring researchers are supported by the University when they may be required to act outside of journal policies; REF; how can the complicated requirements be as simple as possible in implementation (e.g. authors deposit in Apollo the day the acceptance email is received); and what is the University's vision for the future concerning open access and how easy can it be made? It was noted that an institutional education campaign will be needed to communicate about the UKRI policy but this cannot be designed without further fine details around the implementation of the new policy. It is hoped that the further UKRI open access policy details will be made available by November at the latest and in time for the next ORSC meeting in December.

**c) UKRI Open Access Policy and Author Rights Retention.** This paper and the issues were discussed by the Committee. It was noted that the timing for addressing issues arising is limited, particularly if legal advice is required. It was also noted that there are various legal opinions in the mix associated with rights retention and it is unclear what would happen in practice. It was acknowledged that this area is complex and requires more thought and input. There will be further detail coming from UKRI about the new policy and it was decided to bring a paper back to the December meeting for an update. In the meantime Committee members are asked to provide comments arising from the current rights retention paper directly to Niamh Tumelty.

**Action:** Niamh Tumelty provide an update in the next ORSC meeting.

**Action:** All to send comments about the rights retention paper to Niamh Tumelty.

**d) The UKRI open access policy: implications for monograph publishing.** An open access policy for long-form scholarship is a big change for UKRI funded work and outputs. It was noted that the start of this part of the policy is not imminent (it will commence at the beginning of 2024) and the fine details have not yet been made available. A discussion on this part of the policy will be deferred until more details are available.

## **5 Proposal for a Working Group on Open Qualitative Research — ORSC-69**

Meg Westbury introduced the proposal to form a working group on open qualitative research. There was enthusiastic support for this initiative. The cross-over with other working groups, such as the Reproducible Research Working Group and the Humanities Working Group, and the need to ensure that the right structures are in place for inter-group conversations, were noted. The Committee supported the formation of this proposed working group. The Working Group on Open Qualitative Research will report to the Open Research Operational Group.

Jess Gardner and Meg Westbury left the meeting.

## **6 OROG meeting**

September's meeting was in the form of a workshop. It is intended that this workshop will inform the development of a draft brief for the Open Research Programme (due in December).

## **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.

## **Any Other Business**

Plans for Open Research Cambridge, to be held 22-26 November, are progressing well. The aim is to have good engagement for this event across the collegiate University. Wider communications about the event will be made in the next couple of weeks.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, 13 December 2021, 10:00–11:30, MS Teams

*Open Research Steering Committee Secretary:*

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