

OPEN RESEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes for Wednesday 03 February 2021, 11:00–12:30
MS Teams Meeting

Present: Steve Russell (Chair)

In attendance: Jessica Gardner, Niamh Tumelty, Sara Hennessy, Mandy Hill, Peter Hedges, Emma Gilby, Ian Leslie, Marta Costa, Dominic Dixon

Apologies: Patricia Killiard, Debbie Hansen, John Dennis, Mark Carrigan

1 Minutes of previous ORSC business (February 2020-January 2021) ORSC-43

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Committee acknowledged Debbie Hansen for her work in writing up a full year's worth of activities alongside the annual report and REF preparation.

2 Matters arising: Report on actions from previous meetings

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

- a) 27.01.20 Minutes Item 4: University Librarian to develop the idea of an Open Research award and report back to the group on this.

Update: Currently on pause and will now fall under the purview of the Open Research Programme led by NT.

ORSC-36: Chair of DORA Working Group to share the final version of the proposed framework with ORSC and RPC, for approval.

Update: A document was circulated to the schools outlining the basic principles of DORA to solicit feedback and help the committee formulate an overarching policy. Chair is optimistic about the engagement from the School of the Biological Sciences and the School of Clinical Medicine, who will work together jointly on preparing guidance for research assessment for their Schools. Further feedback is to be gathered from the other Schools.

Simple guidance on the appropriate use of metrics is currently in progress but has been paused due to other work priorities. Research Information and library teams will resume work on this when REF project is completed. Cambridge University Press are reviewing these issues from a different perspective and the value of their involvement in the development of this guidance was noted.

- b) ORSC-37: Electronic Research Notebook Working Group to update the recommendations in line with ORSC comments and forward to Open Research Operational Group (OROG) for action.

Update: Scheduled for discussion by OROG at their next meeting.

Action: Niamh Tumelty to forward paper ORSC-37 to Ian Leslie for consideration within UIS.

- c) ORSC-38: JG and NT to discuss findings on Open Access expenditure ‘in the wild’ with the ORSC Chair and consider sharing with RPC.

Update: Action outstanding but will be resumed within the next two weeks.

- d) ORSC-39: JG to include aspects from the paper on the CWTS Leiden Ranking in a report to Arcadia on open access activity.

Update: Action completed.

- e) ORSC-40: Paper proposing actions relating to a manual records policy following the Wellcome Trust audit to be referred to Research Policy Committee.

Update: Action completed.

3 ORSC Annual Report

The Chair thanked all involved for the tremendous amount of work pulling together the annual report, which provides excellent summary of activities over the year.

Action: Paragraph to be added in about CUP open access activities so the annual report covers activities of University at large.

4 Open Research Programme

Niamh Tumelty gave an overview of current thinking on the development of an Open Research Programme – framed in the context of the Open Research Position Statement – and sought feedback on the proposed direction. The recommendation is to link the programme with LERU 8 Pillars of Open Science to give us a way of benchmarking against other research-intensive universities both in the UK and in other parts of Europe. It was however proposed that we continue to use open research over open science for purposes of inclusivity (universities outside the UK tend to use open science meaning all research but this is not the same in the UK). Development of a bibliometrics service was mentioned as well as need to do more around OA monographs, which UKRI are expected to give further emphasis on in the future.

The committee agreed with the structure presented around LERU’s eight pillars, as well as the priorities presented, and the proposed interconnectivity with other groups such as OROG. Mention of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and OA Monographs was welcomed, and it was acknowledged that focus in this area over the last five years has not been optimal, but this will change moving forward. Important that those working in this area feel engaged and specific disciplinary needs are reflected in policy development. A working group focussing on Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was proposed and the Committee agreed this would be a good idea. It was also suggested that resources could be developed for particular schools to highlight priorities and areas where engagement is sought.

Action: Niamh Tumelty to reconsider priorities before moving forward in light of proposal to set up Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences working group.

5 Plan S

a) Transformative deals

Jessica Gardner explained that the overall goal is to make as much Cambridge research as open as possible – where it is appropriate to do so – and move to a more coherent, integrated approach that reflects what funders are asking, as well as what authors and publishers are looking to achieve. It was noted that TAs should be framed in discipline neutral way so anyone can use agreement to achieve open access. ORSC to focus on establishing oversight around details of transformative agreements and what success would look like to the committee. The committee agreed that extremely high costs of OA publishing put forward by some non-transformative journals are alarming and questions the University's willingness to support this.

b) Rights retention strategy

Jessica Gardner highlighted that the main reason for discussing rights retention is because cOAlition S now have a strategy in place which is moving funders who have endorsed this specific part of the Plan S strategy to assert to their authors that when making publication choices they must retain their IP rights, at least to the degree that they can achieve immediate full open access on a CC-BY license.

It was noted that we have brought forward the thinking around this due to three funders of Cambridge researchers (Wellcome Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Templeton World Charity Foundation) setting implementation dates of 1 January 2021. We have also sought legal advice on how this issue would be dealt with. Current position is that we are continuing to take legal advice to determine how we will be able to support our authors to do what they must within conditions of their funder.

The main thing we are trying to achieve is a way to approach this that works within the University's IP policy while allowing authors to act compliantly as easily as possible.

Action: to be brought back to committee for further discussion if required following the announcement of the expected new Open Access Policy from UKRI.

c) cOAlition S policies and future university policies

Starred item not discussed.

6 Open Science Ambassadors

It was noted that it would be helpful to appoint an Open Science Ambassador both in terms of linking with other senior academics on their thinking across Europe, as well as to inform what we are doing at Cambridge.

Action: to move forward as proposed.

7 LERU Consultation: Digital University Act

Jessica Gardner noted that we will keep engaging in active dialogue with LERU and comment whenever the opportunity arises. Although aspects of acts may not directly affect the UK post Brexit, Cambridge is still affiliated for Horizon 2020 and other funding schemes, so there may be conditions of funding which we need to bear in mind. LERU are seeking comment on how Universities could act in the future. We have been advised to feed back in a proportionate way.

Action: Jessica Gardner to draft a response, in consultation with Ian Leslie and Mandy Hill, and share with group on Teams. Ian Leslie and Jessica Gardner to discuss principles around procurement offline.

8 ORSC Membership

The term of office for representatives from each of the six schools and those of the postdoctoral community is two years renewable (other members are ex-officio).

Action: Niamh Tumelty to contact these representatives to ascertain their interest in continuing to serve on the committee and to liaise with the Schools and Postdoc Academy.

9 Items to be referred to the Research Policy Committee

- Annual report

10 Any Other Business

The committee discussed whether current frequency of meetings is working or if it should go back to quarterly. There was support within the room for meeting more frequently.

Action: Niamh Tumelty and Steve Russell to discuss how to proceed with meetings (2 or 4 meetings).

Next Meeting:

Date yet to be arranged.

Open Research Steering Committee Secretary:

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