

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK CDT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OPEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11:00-12:00 2 JUNE 2021, MICROSOFT TEAMS			
Present	Pam Thomas	PT	PVC (Research) (Chair)
	Colin Sparrow	CS	Academic Director of Graduate Studies
	Jennifer Burns	JB	Director of AHRC M4C and CADRE
	Helen Knight	HK	CDT Administrative Officer, Physics (EPSRC)
	Jonathan Millar	JM	Director of MRC DTP
	Bridgit Penman	BP	Co-Director of BBSRC MIBTP
	Jose Rodrigo	JR	Director of Warwick FMS CDT
	Roger Singleton-Escofet	RSE	Research Strategy & Development Manager, RIS
	Ashleigh Skelhorn	AS	Consortium Manager of ESRC MGS
	Mike Tildesley	MT	Director of EPSRC MathSys
	Rebecca Vipond	RV	CDT Coordination Manager (Secretary)
Attending	Steven Brown	SB	Director of Analytical Sciences CDT
	Mehrdad Dianati	MD	Director of Future Mobility Technologies CDT
	Mark Newton	MN	Director of Diamond Science Technology CDT
	Mark Steel	MS	Co-Director of Frontiers in Maths & Stats CDT
Ref	Item		
053	Apologies for absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicola Attridge, John Coaffee, Christophe Corre, Nicola Glover, Vardis Ntoukakis, Mike Tildesley and Sharon Wilson sent their apologies. 		
054	Declarations of Interest No new declarations were made.		
055	Minutes of last meeting on 11 March 2021 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2021 were received and approved.		
056	Matters arising from last meeting on 11 March 2021 There were no matters arising.		
Chair's Update			
057	Chair's Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the last CDTMC with PT as chair; Caroline Meyer will be invited to take on the role of chair as incoming PVC (Research). This is the last CDTMC with CS as Academic Director of Graduate Studies; Dan Branch will be invited to join the committee as the incoming Academic Director of Graduate Studies. Championing PGR issues to Research Committee and University Executive Board must remain a priority of the new chair. The MathSys CDT directorship has transferred to Mike Tildesley, who has been invited to join this committee. 		
Governance			
058	The Chair confirmed that the Terms of Reference are prevailing.		
Finance and Resources			
059	Funded COVID Extensions The Committee received the report (059-CDTMC). Key points and discussion were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The third and final phase of the Funded COVID Extensions policy launched in April 2021. Phase 2 of the policy cost approximately 50% less than forecasted, and so phase 3 forecasting was adjusted accordingly and is being included in the AW budget. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the most recent deadline, 87 applications were received, of which 73 were approved, 4 were partially approved (to a shorter length), 4 were declined (due to lack of case for support or having already received the maximum length of extension available) and 6 were deferred. Deferred applicants were asked to apply again when they are within 12 months of their current funding end date, to allow more time to benefit from adaption and mitigation, and to construct a more accurate thesis competition timeline. UKRI funded CDTs are not currently being asked to underrecruit the 2022 entry cohort, though this matter remains under review. It was noted that disclosed mental health concerns are increasing in the CDT population. Warwick has provided sufficient avenues of support, including a generous funded COVID extension opportunity when compared to other similar HEIs.
060	<p>Internally Funded CDTs</p> <p>The committee received the report (060-CDTMC). Key points and discussions were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four new CDTs were supported by University funding in 2019. The CDTs have won in excess of £2 million external funding from 25 partner organisations. In 2020 the CDTs agreed to reduce their expenditure in response to financial concerns surrounding the COVID pandemic. This affected 2020 and 2021 recruitment. In light of the easing of financial concerns directors of the four CDTs have requested that their funding be reinstated to pre-pandemic levels for 2022 recruitment. CDTMC was in support of this. The directors noted that these new CDTs are bolstering the international reputation of academic departments and allowing them to recruit additional self-funded students onto the programmes. They are also allowing the University to leverage additional external support. CDT students, alongside other PGRs also contribute greatly to REF outputs. Recruitment timeline is important as some external funding for 2022 must be applied for by September 2021. It was suggested that recognition of these CDT being set up as five-intake programmes be formalised, particularly in order to leverage external funding. EPSRC is currently reviewing its approach to CDT funding and the next iteration will likely be different. <p>ACTION: PT to approach University Executive to suggest funding be re-increased to pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>ACTION: RV to prepare a more detailed report on the success of the internally funded CDTs and the case for increased and continued institutional support, including quantifying the level of REF output generated.</p>
061	<p>Reporting to Research Committee</p> <p>The committee received a verbal report. Key points and discussions were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS and RV will be attending Research Committee on 3 June to discuss the Doctoral College, including CDTMC, and its continued relationship to Research withing the University. Key CDTMC points are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ongoing need for the University to recognise training grant income in a similar light to research grant income and to consider CDT management in formal workload models. The five Warwick-funded CDTs are currently recruiting their third cohorts and are well established. The recent Leverhulme funded CDT (TRANSFORM) bid was successful, the first cohort starts in October 2021. The COVID pandemic has had a devastating impact on PGR life. However, funded COVID Extensions have been provided to 320 PGR students, with new applications being received by a central review panel on a regular basis. Should continue for students with funding end-dates in 22/23 and 23/24.
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
Subsidiary and Sub-Committee Reports	
062	<p>Update on CDT administrators Forum</p> <p>The CDT Administrator forum met on 20 May 2021. No matters were raised to this committee.</p>

Other

063

Any other business

The following business was raised:

Change to DST Director

- MN will be HoD in Physics from September; Julie Macpherson will take over as director of DST CDT.

Continued EDI focus from UKRI

- JM reported that at the recent MRC DTP renewal interview, EDI was a primary focus of UKRI and must be met with robust policy and practices.

Next meeting: 2021/22 TBC