**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**
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053 | Apologies for absence

- 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

- 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:

- 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.
• 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 Internally Funded CDTs
The committee received the report (060-CDTMC). Key points and discussions were as follows:
• 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.

ACTION: PT to approach University Executive to suggest funding be re-increased to pre-pandemic levels.
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.

061 Reporting to Research Committee
The committee received a verbal report. Key points and discussions were as follows:
• 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:
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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 Update on CDT administrators Forum
The CDT Administrator forum met on 20 May 2021. No matters were raised to this committee.
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<th><strong>Any other business</strong></th>
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<td>The following business was raised:</td>
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<td><strong>Change to DST Director</strong></td>
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<td>• MN will be HoD in Physics from September; Julie Macpherson will take over as director of DST CDT.</td>
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<td><strong>Continued EDI focus from UKRI</strong></td>
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<td>• 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.</td>
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**Next meeting: 2021/22 TBC**