

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK FSEM Research & Impact Committee OPEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING 10 February 2026, 10.00 to 12.00 Senate House Council Chamber			
Present	Mark Williams (Chair)	MW	Dep Chair of Faculty, Research, SEM
	Richard Walton	RW	Director of Research, Chemistry
	Ross Hatton	RH	Director of Impact, Chemistry
	Long Tran-Thanh	LTT	Director of Research, DCS
	Peter Gammon	PG	Director of Research, Engineering
	Peter Topping	PT	Director of Research, Maths
	Matt Keeling	MK	Director of Impact, Maths
	Steve Dixon	SD	Director of Research, Physics
	Richard Dendy	RD	Director of Impact, Physics
	Adam Sanborn	AS	Director of Research, Psychology
	Robin Goodwin	RG	Director of Impact, Psychology
	Stephen Parnell	SP	Director of Impact, SLS
	Aleks Mijatovic	AMi	Director of Research, Statistics
	Martine Barons	MB	Director of Impact, Statistics
	Paul Jennings	PJ	Director of Research, WMG Director of Impact, WMG
	Andrew McAinsh	AMc	Director of Research, WMS
	Cliona Boyle	CB	Head of Research Impact
	Grace Prewett	GP	Research Impact Manager, RIS
	Craig Thompson	CT	Director of Impact, WMS
	Tomomi Kimura	TK	Research Strategy & Development Mgr, RIS
	Chris Moran	CM	Deputy Chair for Research (SS)
	Alison Ribeiro de Menezes	ARdM	Deputy Chair for Research (Arts)
	Andrew Morden	AMo	Secretariat
	Joy Montgomery	JM	EO, SEM
Attending	Stephen Soanes	SS	International Partnerships Manager (Europe/EUTOPIA), ISR
	James Burnett	JB	Assistant Director (Head of Research Governance & Compliance), RIS
	Rika Nair	RK	Research Culture Manager
	Fabienne Peter	FP	Deputy PVC Research
	Jane Cummings	JC	Research Communications Manager
	Emma Sembi	ES	Digital Marketing Officer
Ref	Item		
010	Introduction, welcome and apologies Apologies were received from David Davies, Theo Damoulas, Harbinder Sandhu, Nigel Stocks, Daniel Todkill, Mike Tildesley. Andrew Morden was welcomed as incoming secretariat.		
011	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations.		
012	Minutes of meeting held on 6 November 2025 The minutes were approved.		
013	Matters Arising 003-06112025 – the department summaries were circulated with the agenda.		

	005-06112025 – the Brian Bell information was circulated. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the meeting.
014	Chair's Business and Actions <i>Academic freedom champions</i> – departments were reminded to send nominations. This is a new committee - AFRIC – chaired by Gavin Schwartz-Leeper who will be asked to come to the next meeting. ACTION AMo <i>Research Celebration Awards</i> – thanks were noted to those who have stepped forward to review the awards. (Adam, Paul and James)
015	Impact Deep Dive Update Cliona Boyle (CB) presented the update a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. The R&IS impact team are planning to bring departments together to share impact studies via a 'deep dive'. Where it is identified that a case study would be a good fit RIS are introducing a buddy system with clear communication lines. CB proposed providing feedback on case studies prior to the deep dive event. This was agreed. ACTION CB RG asked who will be managing the introduction and migration of Elements and supporting departments with the transition. There is a mechanism for transferring the text. And attachments will need uploaded manually. Provision for training across all the systems and support will be given, with the aim to make it accessible and useful for the researchers. More information will be circulated to the committee when available. ACTION AMo
016	Europe Strategy/EUTOPIA Alliance Update Steven Soames and Bryan Brazeu presented the update on behalf of George Christou a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. Brian Brazeau introduced the Warwick Venice Centre. Any colleague who speaks Italian and is willing to share their research in Italian would be welcomed and should contact Brian direct. ACTION ALL From September 2026/2027 departments will be able to use facilities free of charge for teaching as part of the Venice courses programme. There will be a discounted fee offered on an ongoing basis
017	Export Controls/Visitors James Burnett presented the update a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. Risk encompasses people visiting for a few months as well as those coming just for a weekend, however, the risk is obviously greater with those coming for a longer period. This might go through the people team and be signed off centrally. The gap is that from the point of view of the central team managing the process they are looking at visa eligibility before providing access cards/library cards etc. The current process doesn't really speak to the risk. For short visits the sign-off happens in departments who are responsible for that risk, but that is not communicated centrally at present. Proportionality is required to identify projects that require export control and those that don't. JB invited committee members to submit concerns to R&IS governance and offer proposals for how a process should work. ACTION All to feedback concerns to JB JB agreed to provide updates on process development and risks to future meeting. ACTION AMo to follow up
018	Research Culture Update Rika Nair presented the update a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. A progress review/report on various initiatives will soon be available, and RN will share with the committee.

	ACTION AMo to follow up
019	Research Centre Update Fabienne Peter presented the update a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. There is unfortunately no additional ringfenced funding for research centre seed funding. However, Research Centre focussed applications will be eligible under existing internal funding schemes. Department research centres are to be managed by departments. University research centres will be managed by the faculty within which the lead department for the centre is based. The definition of a university research centre will be based on governance model i.e. how the centre is managed. However, this does not mean that faculty will have central oversight. Governance process deferred to 2027 due to time pressures.
020	Research Comms/MCI Update Jane Cummings and Emma Sembi presented the update a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. Committee noted that Depts research is not being foregrounded or easily accessible on the Warwick website, which is problematic as much research happens in depts. To review/rectify and add lists or links to research in depts etc ES will liaise with departments to obtain links to the relevant department research pages. ACTION ES
021	Any Other Business AMc raised significant changes at UKRI – challenge and/or opportunity. Noted that it makes strategic planning difficult. TK updated that BBSRC/NERC changing operational approach, MRC potentially reducing funds going into responsive mode calls. EPSRC responsive not changed. Discussion about the risks with the UKRI shift in approach to allocated funding under ‘three buckets’ (curiosity-driven, foundational research; strategic government and societal priorities; innovative companies). Curiosity funding bucket incorporates QR and so forth, so some will not be available on a competitive basis. Potential for Warwick to transition from curiosity driven to direction of travel from government. Workshops focused on the second ‘bucket’ mission led funding scheduled for Spring 2026. STFC – huge impact on Physics. Definite significant cuts. University needs to be ready to respond to this strategically. A ‘Town Hall’ is scheduled by the funder to discuss changes. TK to provide an update when the landscape becomes clearer ACTION TK
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
Theme Heading	
022	REF Guidance and CoP Update The Committee received and noted the update.
023	Department summaries The Committee received and noted the reports.
Next meeting: Tuesday 21 May, 2026	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
[2025-2026]			

014-10022026 Chair's Business	Gavin Schwartz-Leeper, chair of AFRIC, to be invited to May meeting	AMo	
015-10022026 Impact Deep Dive	Feedback to be provided to departments on impact case studies prior to 'deep dives'	CB	Feedback to be provided to departments on
015-10022026 Impact Deep Dive	More information on Elements will be circulated	CB	Ongoing
016-10022026 Europe Strategy/EUTOPIA Alliance Update	Anyone who speaks Italian and would be willing to share their research should contact Brian Brazeau	ALL	Ongoing
017-10022026 Export Controls/Visitors	Departments to feedback concerns on Export Control processes and managing visitors to James Burnett	All	Ongoing
017-10022026 Export Controls/Visitors	James Burnett to provide ongoing updates. AM to follow up re invitation to future meeting/written update	AMo	Ongoing
018-10022026 Research Culture Update	RN to provide report for circulation	RN/AMo	Ongoing
020-10022026 Research Comms	MCI to liaise with departments to get links for the front webpage	ES	Ongoing
021 – 10022026 Any Other Business	Tomo Kimura to circulate communication about UKRI changes	TK	Ongoing