

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK FSEM Research Group OPEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING 6 November 2025, 10.00 to 12.00 Senate House Council Chamber			
Present	Mark Williams (Chair)	MW	Chair, Dep CoF for Research
	Richard Walton	RW	Director of Research, Chemistry
	Ross Hatton	RH	Director of Impact, Chemistry
	Theo Damoulas	TD	Director of Impact, DCS
	James Covington	PG	Director of Research, Engineering
	Nigel Stocks	NS	Director of Impact, Engineering
	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
	Stephen Parnell	SP	Director of Impact, SLS
	Aleks Mijatovic	AM	Director of Research, Statistics
	Martine Barons	MB	Director of Impact, Statistics
	Paul Jennings	PJ	Director of Research, WMG Director of Impact, WMG
	Sarah Holcroft	SH	Research Strategy & Development Mgr, RIS
	Tomomi Kimura	TK	Research Strategy & Development Mgr, RIS
	Andrea Howard	AH	Research Development Mgr - RIS
	Chris Moran	CM	Deputy Chair for Research (SS)
	Alison Ribeiro de Menezes	ARdM	Deputy Chair for Research (Arts)
Attending	Joy Montgomery	JM	EO, FSEM
	Alison Cooley	AC	Director, IAS
	Jamie King	JK	Senior Policy & Engagement
	James Robinson	JR	HoD, Maths
	Emma Sembi		Research Comms/MCI
Ref	Item		
001	Introduction, welcome and apologies There were apologies from Cliona Boyle, David Davies, Robin Goodwin, Robert Hollingworth, James Kermode, Long Tran-Thanh, Grace Prewett, Craig Thompson, Mike Tildesley, Peter Topping		
002	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.		
003	Terms of Reference The Chair confirmed that meetings would be f2f, not hybrid. FRIC was formed after the recent governance review, with a clear recommendation that greater oversight and connectivity was needed between departments/faculties/UEB/Research Committee. The committee will also report into FSG – ToR to be amended accordingly. After discussion it was agreed that departments will report as and when there is something new and if there are items of best practice to share etc in order to avoid duplication with items already reported into REF. The aim is to provide a forum for discussion and reflection rather than formal reporting. It was suggested that there be a standing agenda item for raising interesting things coming out of departments/departments, good news items and examples of good practice.		

	There will be no expectation on departments to write reports/provide departmental RIC minutes to FRIC, but it was agreed that in term 2 all departments would be required to write a 2/3 page summary distilling particular research priorities over next six months, include a summary of the impact deep dives and a sharing of lessons learned from the process. Those would form part of the formal report to Research Cttee.
004	Chair's Business and Actions Thanks were minuted to Joy for acting as interim secretariat. <i>Vice-Chair</i> - the Chair will be discussing the appointment of a Vice-Chair with the VP/CoF and may come back to membership to ask for a volunteer. <i>Internal calls for funding</i> - departments were asked to volunteer to avoid the same people being involved all the time. It was agreed that DoR's and Impact directors for respective departments benefitting from funding calls will contribute to peer review process moving forward. The chair will reach out to departments to request support.
005	Post-16 Education & Skills White Paper & Policy Developments (renamed from Government Missions) Slides were presented which had been circulated with the agenda. Brian Bell reported on issue about students being included in immigration numbers. A copy of the report/paper will be circulated with the minutes. It is likely that HE will be low on the list in the forthcoming budget and there is unlikely to be a shift in terms of the end vision with subsequent government(s). Spread expertise across Warwick. There is a research centre review and bringing that expertise together could be included.
006	IAS Funding Slides were presented that had been circulated with the agenda. IAS only supports inter-disciplinary requests as faculties have other mechanisms for those. Aimed at PostDocs and above. Funding is 100% ie no match funding.
007	Any Other Business <i>AI/Stats/NLP/ML analysis</i> – a team in CS-Stats are working on this analysis to improve understanding and score prediction of REF impact cases. We plan to build a user-friendly tool for other depts to use as well in the near future. They will be invited to present at a future meeting. <i>Faraday Institute</i> – a visit to Warwick is scheduled for 26 November. <i>Research Comms/MCI</i> – attendance at this meeting was for information. They wish to strengthen relationships with departments. New social media guidelines have been released for academics. Departments were asked to send any items of interest to researchcomms@warwick.ac.uk <i>Research accelerator engagement</i> - interest groups have been set up in Chemistry. <i>Defence</i> – there are various workstreams across the faculty which potentially overlap and it was agreed that FRIC should work on improving communication as Warwick's overall perspective is far from well aligned. It was noted that a lot of the MoD contracts are non-negotiable.
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
Theme heading	
008	Europe Strategy/EUTOPIA Alliance The forum received and noted the report

009	Research Culture Update The forum received and noted the report
010	Impact Update The forum received and noted the report
011	Impact Academy/Website Update The forum received and noted the report
012	Research Centre Consultation Paper The forum received and noted the report
Next meeting: Tuesday 10 February, 2026	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
[2025-2026]			
003-06112025	In term 2 all departments would be required to write a 2/3 page summary distilling particular research priorities over next six months, include a summary of the impact deep dives and a sharing of lessons learned from the process.	ALL	Ongoing
005-29112025	Jamie King to provide Brian Bell report on issue about students being included in immigration numbers.	Jamie King	Complete