

RESEARCH STAFF FORUM (RSF)

Wednesday 26 January 2022, 13.00 –14.30

MS Teams

Chair: Anna Chapman

Meeting Notes

1. ATTENDEES:

Katy Angliss (WMG), Hamidreza Arjmandi (Engineering), Susanne Arnold (WMS), Heidi Ashton (Culture & Media Policy), Lise Cartridge (WBS), Anna Chapman (Chair, LDM), Sam Cole (R&IS), Jane Cooper (LDM), Carole Harris (R&IS), Carly Hegenbarth (WBS), Jackie Hodgson (Law/Deputy PVC Research), Gareth Johnson (IAS), Anh Luang (WBS), Emma Lucas (WMS), Nathalie Maillard (WMS), Georgina Mihut (Education Studies), Siamak Naderi (WMS), Henry Nwankwo (WMS), Dani Pegg (WBS), Alexandra Petre (WMG), Christopher Rodrigues (Life Sciences), Adam Sanborn (Psychology), Sharifa Sekalala (Law), Emma Taylor (CEDAR), Jose Osorio Tejada (Engineering), Michele Underwood (Doctoral College)

2. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Leadership and Management Development update – Anna Chapman

- Organisational Development is now called Leadership and Management Development. This reflects a new focus for the team.
- A new colleague has been recruited who will focus on research active staff development. They are starting in late February.

3. UPDATE FROM SUPPORT REPS

HR Update – Lisa Cartridge

- Covid-19 guidance: The existing arrangements on face coverings will be retained until the end of term 2. Hybrid working arrangements are once again operating and there is no longer a need to work only from home. <https://warwick.ac.uk/insite/news/intnews2/covid-update-250122/>
- There is new Information Security training. This will come into effect from 31st January and applies to new starters and staff who are required to update their training.
- UCU has informed the University that there will be no industrial action or action short of a strike.

4. RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE – Sharifah Sekalala

There was no update as this was covered in Jackie Hodgson's session.

5. RESEARCH CULTURE AT WARWICK AND DISCUSSION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY – Jackie Hodgson, Carole Harris, Sam Cole

Anna explained that this session had been arranged to hear more about the visits to departments that Professor Caroline Meyer (Deputy PVC – Research) has been doing.

Key areas covered by Jackie were:

- 1) The university is updating its strategy and the Research Executive is refreshing the Research Strategy.
- 2) The Research Culture Forum was originally set up by Pam Thomas. The culture in which researchers work is increasingly a concern of funders; key areas of concern include wellbeing, job security and conduct in research. Professor Kita Sotaro is the chair of the Forum. The idea is to keep its focus broad, to include topics such as training and development, leadership, open research, design, equality, diversity and inclusion. The Research Culture Forum is developing a research culture action plan to agree on priorities. Key to this is how it connects with other groups in the University to drive

change. The University received £600k from the Enhancing Research Culture fund to support research culture projects. There has been a good response to the call for applications.

3) Professor Caroline Meyer, PVC (Research), has been visiting departments to hear about their research plan and to find out how she can support them. This has been very productive so far and has enabled Caroline to get a sense of research strengths, areas for growth and barriers. Caroline has asked for feedback on specific issues including how the University could better support ECRs (Early Career Researchers), the GRPs (Global Research Priorities) and accessing philanthropic donations.

4) Jackie asked the Research Staff Forum for specific feedback on the following areas:

- Support for research generally
- What an impact scheme might look like
- Future of the GRPs
- Support for ECRs
- Semesterisation and its impact on research

Several responses were discussed including:

- Impact of the voluntary leavers scheme; lack of admin and technical staff resource meaning that researchers' time and energy is taken up with these activities
- Shape of the academic year and its impact on researchers with caring responsibilities
- Shape of the academic year and how it might mean Warwick is out of sink with universities in other countries which could affect collaboration
- Impact money and the need for it to be accessible early in the cycle
- Money required for translation
- Seed funding for research income generation for ECRs
- Having ECRs and PGRs on the steering bodies of GRPs
- Need for networking opportunities for ECRs

Further feedback is welcomed. Colleagues can send feedback to Jackie Hodgson, Carole Harris or Sam Cole.

6. NEXT MEETING

Monday 14 March 2022, 11.00 – 12.30, MS Teams