

# RESEARCH STAFF FORUM (RSF)

## THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 10:30-12:00, VIRTUAL MEETING

### CHAIR: Dr Harriet Richmond

### Meeting Notes

#### 1. ATTENDEES

Jake Brookes (School of Engineering), Ji Chen (Warwick Medical School), Gareth Johnson (IAS), Blessing Oyedmi (Life Sciences), Tom Perry (Education Studies), Sharifah Sekalala (School of Law), Michelle Underwood (Doctoral College Education - Directors Office)

Apologies:

Chuan Cheng (WMG), Nikos Kallinikos (Warwick Mathematics Institute), Emma Taylor (Centre for Educational Development), Atiyeh Yeganloo (Economics).

#### 2. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- A brief introduction to the priorities for strategy and programme development of RAS was provided, and a request for feedback at a later stage of the meeting.

#### 3. HR UPDATE - Deferred

- The HR update is deferred until the final meeting of the year due to availability of HR colleagues. No updates to report.

#### 4. RESEARCH STAFF CONSULTATION

##### 4.1 ESR Draft Framework Consultation

- HR gave a presentation that outlined proposals for an Early-Stage Researcher Framework and Programme and described the proposed vision, goals and activities associated with the proposed programme.
- It was explained that the draft proposal was informed by the Research Staff Forum's feedback on an initial review of literature of research concerned with early career researcher experiences.
- Forum members were invited to respond to the draft Framework in two ways:
  - To give their views and responses to the proposed Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) induction programme
  - To further consider the ways in which the Research Staff Forum might develop
- Members gave the following feedback:
  - That there was broad support for the proposed approach and direction of the ESR Framework and programme but expressed the need for wider consultation
  - That the RAS LMD team should carefully consider identifying champions who will support the proposed Framework and contribute towards raising the visibility of the Framework. In particular, the Faculty Research Forums were identified as important networks to raise awareness.

##### 4.2 Research Staff Forum Development

- There were a range of suggestions as to how to develop and improve the Research Staff Forum. These included:
  - To reintroduce sub-groups of the forum, with an opportunity for staff to bid for some supporting funding for lunches, events, and guest speakers.
  - To consider reintroducing representation on the RSF to ensure that all departments are equally represented.

- To introduce research development opportunities, where colleagues can share their research with others to open the potential for collaborations.
- To introduce networking activities as a part of the time set aside for the forum to enable networking amongst researchers.
- To advertise forum dates at the start of the year, arrange for different days and times.
- To return to some face-to-face events with funding available for a networking lunch event.
- To identify a discussion topic for each forum meeting.
- To invite guest speakers to each forum meeting.
- To open access to the meeting by having an open link, rather than a booking system.
- HR thanked forum members for their suggestions and explained that a revised proposal would be brought to the next meeting of the Forum, with plans to be implemented in 2022-23.

#### **4.3 Writing Retreats in 2022-23**

- Members were invited to respond to the proposal to reintroduce face-to-face writing retreats in 2022-23. Members were broadly supportive of the idea but suggested that the retreats could be themed to support the research objectives of the University. For example, to offer a writing retreat specifically for interdisciplinary collaborative writing.
- HR thanked members for their suggestions and a proposal for recommencement of writing retreats would be made at the next meeting.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- There were no further items

#### **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Research Staff Forum will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, from 1pm – 2.30pm.

