

I. MINUTES of the REAC MEETING of 23 February 2021: 09:30-11:30

In attendance: Philip Winn (Chair), Bjarki Þór Grönfeldt, Christian Schultze, Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir, Guðný Zoega, Hulda Stefánsdóttir, Kristján Kristjánsson, Rannveig Guðmundsdóttir, Skúli Skúlason; Andréa Sursock & Crichton Lang (QB observers); and Sigurður Óli Sigurðsson (Minutes: SOS)

Apologies received: Elín Díanna Gunnarsdóttir (Rannveig attended in her place), Finnborg Salóme Steinþórsdóttir, Helga Ólafs, Ragnhildur Helgadóttir.

The meeting was held online via Zoom; the agenda was accepted without modification.

(1) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the online meeting on 10 November 2021 were accepted without modification. There were no matters arising.

(2) FOR INFORMATION

i. Update on PURE – verbal.

- The National Library has made a new appointment to take charge of developing IRIS: Sara S. Hildardóttir, who was previously the Director of Library Services at RU and has worked in the past at IUA. Her appointment was warmly welcomed by REAC members.
- An *ad hoc* group has been formed that includes KK and members from the University of Iceland, Reykjavik University, University of Akureyri, the National Hospital and RANNIS. Information had also been sought from colleagues at various European institutions with experience of PURE (IRIS).
- This group has been working on how to use IRIS and how to develop best practice for its implementation. Sub-groups involving more staff will look at processes such as data identification, validation and input; staff training; development of helplines; and collection of impact.
- REAC welcomed this positive bottom-up development and the optimism that the system will be operational shortly. The need to maintain the development of IRIS in a way suited to all academic disciplines and institutions was emphasised.
- REAC can make a contribution to this process by liaison with the national Library and promotion of materials already developed.

ACTION: Secretariat to invite Sara S. Hildardóttir to the next meeting of REAC.

ii. Update on revision of Evaluation System of the Public Universities – verbal.

- GLR reported that a revised process has been in operation since January 01 2022. The fundamental nature of the process has not altered but it reflects contributions to societal

impact better and has transparency. It is up to the Universities and the unions if, and how, point values in the system are linked to annual bonuses.

iii. **Update on work of Ministerial committee charged with proposing changes to the funding model of the universities** (chaired by Sigríður Logadóttir).

- There was no update on this.

iv. **Update on IRF review progress.**

- The Chair reported that data collection and analysis was complete and a draft report was under review. It is expected that a draft final report will be presented to the Quality Board before Easter and that the project will conclude on time.

(3) RESEARCH ASSESSMENT WEBINAR AND WORKSHOP

- The Chair apologised for the lack of activity on this and rehearsed what had been previously thought through – the possibility of a webinar on IRIS or on societal impact. Given the developments of IRIS and the hope that it will be operational shortly, it was felt that a webinar to discuss its capabilities would be most helpful. A webinar in the Autumn of 2022 would be most useful. It will be important to make sure that all users of IRIS have access to this webinar. These include *inter alia* staff across job families within Universities, the Rectors Conference, the Quality Board, RANNIS, the Lanspitali, the Ministry.

ACTION: a steering committee will be formed after the next meeting of REAC on 18 May 2022.

(4) FOR DECISION

None

(5) ANY ITEMS BROUGHT BY REAC MEMBERS FOR DISCUSSION

None

(6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Assessing the societal impact of universities. This was not discussed further but it was emphasized that this is a topic that will need considerable elaboration and needs to be kept in view at REAC until such time when it can be fully considered.
- The concepts of reproducibility and replicability in science were discussed. The conversation around this covered various topics including research metrics and the quality of what is being measured; the pressure on academics (including on doctoral students as part of their degree requirements) to produce research outputs; the peer review system and new developments

in open practice an preprint publication; and research cultures in the widest sense. It was also noted that problems with reviewing and publishing research outputs were not restricted to science. It was felt useful for REAC to discuss matters such as this because they inform research evaluation.

- It was suggested that it would be helpful for REAC, as a sub-committee of the Quality Board, to receive a brief digest of what was under discussion at the Board. It was agreed that this would be helpful. The Board Chair informed REAC about current work to evaluate the QEF2 as a precursor to the development of QEF3.

ACTION: Secretariat to ensure that there is space within REAC meetings for a Board update, written or verbal.

(7) Meeting concluded at 11:00