

## **MINUTES of the REAC MEETING of 19 MAY 2021: 09:30-12:00**

**In attendance:** Bjarki Þór Grönfeldt, Christian Schultze, Finnborg Salóme Steinþórsdóttir, Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir, Hulda Stefánsdóttir, Kristján Kristjánsson, Philip Winn Ragnhildur Helgadóttir, Rannveig Björnsdóttir, Sigrún Gunnarsdóttir, Skúli Skúlason, and Sigurður Óli Sigurðsson (Minutes: SOS)

**Apologies received:** Andrée Sursock, Guðný Zoega

The meeting was held online via Zoom; the agenda was accepted without modification. Katrín Frímannsdóttir joined the meeting at 10:30 for item 5.

### **(1) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the online meeting on 03 March 2021 were accepted without modification. There were no matters arising.

### **(2) FOR INFORMATION**

- i. Update on the 2 December meeting with Sigríður Logadóttir. There is no news of further progress. It is understood the report has not yet been finalized and is still in committee.
- ii. Update on PURE. PURE appears to be progressing very well with opening in the fall is expected. Key points include:
  - UNAK is a trial institution. Elsevier will train staff there and UNAK will record the process and what they learn through it. RU will be next, possibly late May. UNAK have hired two staff to work with PURE, one to deal with PURE and its implementation and a second disseminate/communicate research information.
  - While the system will be ready in the fall, it is likely that there might be 2-3 years' work with PURE for it to become fully operationalized. Methods for using the system and (for example) ensuring that the data entered is right, whether pulled through automatically from databases or entered manually.
  - It will be important to have super-users designated at each university will help people use the system. The universities have been asked to consider carefully who these people should be.

### **(3) FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Research Assessment seminar.** KK, FS, HS and SkSk were tasked with developing ideas for a webinar on research evaluation. The paper produced (Annex 3) was welcomed by REAC. Key discussion points included:

- Ensuring that the discussions are shape for the most important issues for Iceland.

- The webinars should take place in September, as early as possible in order to be able to inform other discussions that are happening in Iceland regarding review of the evaluation system of the public universities, which GLR is leading.
- One webinar or two? The first seminar should aim a wide audience and include members of the Ministry, senior members of Universities, academics, professional services staff and students. The rationale for the first is that it would lay out key problems. The second, in Icelandic, could explore these in greater depth with more contextualization.
- Speakers must be identified, preferably with an understanding of Icelandic HEI (for example, from having been on a previous review team) and drawn from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, and with different experiences of research evaluation (for example, speakers who understand principle or practice). Whether to have one speaker for each question or all three commenting on each one is yet to be determined. Whichever format is adopted it is important that the speakers are clear and on message.
- The three principal questions each have subsidiary points. It would be helpful to combine these to crystallize a sharper set of points.
- The notes for speakers must include a brief piece to make clear the role of REAC, the Quality Board and the enhancement framework.

**ACTION: SOS to call meetings of seminar planning sub-committee, including PW, to develop a programme over the next 2-3 weeks that can be advertised and organized for early September.**

**(4) FOR DECISION**

None

**(5) IRF REVIEW PROGRESS – verbal report by Katrín Frímannsdóttir.**

Katrín Frímannsdóttir, Project Manager for the IRF review was welcomed to the meeting. REAC will be kept updated on the development of this project.

KF explained how she created a collection data plan for systematic review of the period 2011-2015. Awards earlier than this were not run through an online system and awards after 2015 will not have all completed. KF discussed how conversations around the sector and her work with RANNIS (from whom she is still awaiting data). The initial focus of the work is on the qualitative data but survey data to obtain qualitative data will be done later. KF observed that there is no baseline data to compare to but that the process of review should help establish a secure one for the future. KF will attend future REAC meetings.

**ACTION: SOS to call a meeting to review progress in due course**

**(6) ANY ITEMS BROUGHT BY REAC MEMBERS FOR DISCUSSION**

None

**(7) OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

- (8) **Meeting concluded at 11:00.**