

## **I. MINUTES of the REAC MEETING of 10 November 2021: 09:30-12:00**

**In attendance:** Philip Winn (Chair), Bjarki Þór Grönfeldt, Christian Schultze, Elín Díanna Gunnarsdóttir, Finnborg Salóme Steinþórsdóttir, Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir, Helga Ólafs, Kristján Kristjánsson, Skúli Skúlason, Katrín Frímansdóttir (from 10:30) and Sigurður Óli Sigurðsson (Minutes: SOS)

**Apologies received:** Andrée Surssock, Guðný Zoega, Hulda Stefánsdóttir, Ragnhildur Helgadóttir

The meeting was held online via Zoom; the agenda was accepted without modification. Katrín Frímansdóttir 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 15 September 2021 were accepted without modification. There were no matters arising.

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

- i. Update on PURE – verbal. Concerns were expressed about:
  - The speed of implementation and collaboration across the 10 institutions. There is optimism that PURE will be open in 6 months but operational concerns remain because of an apparent lack of understanding in a number of institutions about what PURE is: it is not just a repository but a system for capturing many aspects of academic work. Some uncertainty was expressed about how the National Library understands PURE.
  - Icelandic translation remains problematic.
  - There needs to be attention paid to how data is inputted. Individuals across institutions have started working together to look at PURE and how standardized rules and guidelines can be formulated. Identifying superusers of PURE in each institution are important.
  - REAC can contribute to understanding of how PURE can lead to proper evaluation and highlighting of success. A webinar about PURE is a possibility.
- ii. Update on revision of Evaluation System of the Public Universities – verbal.
  - The Review Board has suggested changes, accessible in a review portal until November 15. The committee will make a final proposal to Rectors of December, to take effect for work in 2022. The proposal is not revising the incentive system and is not linked to collective bargaining: it is revising the points system itself to make it more transparent and fairer.
- iii. Update on work of Ministerial committee charged with proposing changes to the funding model of the universities (chaired by Sigríður Logadóttir) – no information discussed.

### (3) FOR CONSIDERATION

#### (1) Research Assessment webinar and workshop:

- i. Debriefing of 01 October & 10 September webinars REAC seminar on Research Assessment.
  - Gratitude was expressed that all Rectors attended.
  - Research evaluation beyond outputs: public engagement and impact need to be given clarity and structure, and ways to evaluate them. Concerns were noted around the public universities broadening the evaluation and how research points are the source of promotion and tenure – but many appreciate that we are trying to broaden the evaluation and discuss what a research culture should involve.
  - Transparency and fairness are extremely important in the evaluation of research, which should allow everybody to contribute.
- ii. Assessing the societal impact of universities

*Some key features ...*

  - *Explicit linkage to research outputs or not?*
  - *Reach and significance, taken together*
  - *Qualitative and quantitative evaluations*
  - *Appropriate corroboration – tracking evidence*
  - *In which countries is this happening – are there good models?*
- iii. Planning for 2022 webinars and providing input into the evaluation of management of research as a component in QEF2.
  - PURE – it is rolling out properly – guidelines and standards.
  - Research cultures: societal impact and engagement.
  - **ACTION: SOS and PW to have conversation offline**

#### (4) FOR DECISION

None

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

- Progress is good – interviews and questionnaires
- An assistant has been recruited.
- There is an expectation of being able to conclude this on time early in 2022.

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

None

**(7) OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**(8) Meeting concluded at 11:15.**