

**I. Minutes, REAC meeting of 09 September 2020, 09:30-12:30**

**In attendance:** Andrée Sursock, Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir Hulda Stefánsdóttir, Kristján Kristjánsson, Philip Winn (Chair: PW), Ragnhildur Helgadóttir, Sæmundur Rögnvaldsson, Skúli Skúlason, Sigurður Óli Sigurðsson (Minutes: SOS)

**Apologies received:** Tove Bull

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

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

- i. The minutes of the meetings on 04 March 2020 (in person) / 06 May 2020 (by circulation) were accepted without modification.
- ii. **Matter arising: PURE**
  - a. The reception to PURE in the sector is positive. Installation is progressing well despite the delays caused by COVID-19. The anticipated operational start date is May 2021.
  - b. Training: there is a course for super-users. Courses are online, with recordings available; courses last three hours and run weekly; 40-50 people have attended; 10 institutions are involved. in the implementation.
  - c. It will be important to ensure staff adoption in the institutions by academics and professional service staff; all universities and hospitals will need consider how to train more users. It will take time to fully establish use of PURE – maybe two to three years. It might help to identify good early adopters who could be champions in institutions.
  - d. Translating the system to Icelandic – this should be ready in December.
  - e. Data definitions in the arts are under consideration; IUA is dealing with this. It is encouraging that arts institutions elsewhere in Europe are adopting PURE. It seems likely that universities will be given freedom to define their own output parameters.

**ACTION: SOS to update REAC at the next meeting**

**(2) FOR INFORMATION**

- i. **Research assessment seminar:** planned for 06 May but postponed. The date for this is still to be determined as is a decision on whether to have it face-to-face or online. If it were online, the use of breakout groups discussing specific topics before coming in to plenary would be an option for enabling a large group to work efficiently.

**ACTION: for further consideration at the November meeting**

- ii. **REAC's membership and remit.** The attached paper describes the new agreed membership and remit of REAC. We are still waiting for missing nominations before we can form the new committee. An issue was discussed: what if one person was nominated by two bodies? If it happened, it would be dealt with when the membership was reviewed by the Quality Board – nomination is not a guarantee of acceptance. However, the expectation is that this would be managed by the nominee discussing their position with the nominating bodies.

**ACTION: SOS to gather remaining nominations; QB to review**

**(3) FOR CONSIDERATION**

**i. Open Science**

- a. Open research is a matter of interest to the REAC and the Quality Board because it impacts on the management of research. REAC can provide a valuable discussion forum and advisory role for this.
- b. Icelandic institutions are engaged with issues around open science and open data – public funding recognizes the need for openness. The University of Iceland is developing an archive for open data in social sciences and it is possible that other archives suited to other forms of research could be developed.
- c. REAC has an opportunity to develop advice and guidance about open research. The guidance for SLRs and IWRs is established by the QEF2 Handbook but it would be prudent to begin discussion of how guidance around open research might develop in QEF3.
- d. In future discussions REAC should give thought to the pressure to publish on young researchers, including the need in some disciplines to incorporate published material into doctoral theses.

**ACTION: for further discussion at the November meeting**

- ii. **DORA and Leiden manifesto:** it is not clear what the take up of these is across Iceland. REAC should be aware of the principles outlined by bodies such as these but take care to make sure that good practice rather than simple sign-up is emphasized.

**(4) FOR DECISION**

- i. Review of IRF awards undertaken at the request of MESC: REAC agreed to act as a supporting project board for the IRF review, to give advice, guidance and support as required. REAC was reassured that this is an exercise in information gathering and not a strategic review. In agreeing to this it was recognized that members of REAC will need to

be kept informed of progress and should any conflicts of interest arise, REAC members will declare them and resile themselves.

**ACTION: provision of information to REAC members; report to the November meeting**

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

- i. **Strategic and Action Plan for Science and Innovation in Iceland:** REAC noted the very recent publication of this by the Science & Technology Policy Committee. A brief discussion of its outline had taken place at the Quality Board meeting on 08 September. The plan contains shifts in emphasis for research and significant increases in funding, designed to establish parity with appropriate Nordic benchmarks.

Detailed discussion was premature because most REAC members had not had the opportunity fully to absorb the details of the plan. However, it is clear that this is a significant development in strategies for all aspects of research and innovation that will affect the management of research, the use of research information and research assessment, the three core elements of REAC's remit. It will also have effects on education through, for example, new emphases in skills development and on public understanding of science.

**ACTION: this requires a paper for the November meeting**

**(6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

This was the last REAC meeting for Sæmundur Rögnvaldsson. He was warmly thank for his excellent contributions to REAC.

**(7) Meeting concluded at 12:30.**

**(8) Dates for Future Meetings (provisional – AM unless specified)**

Wednesday 11 November 2020

Wednesday 3 March 2021

Wednesday 19 May 2021

Wednesday 15 September 2021

Wednesday 10 November 2021

