

Agenda Item

1. **Update on research policy consultations** Ms Lisa Bungeroth, *Public Affairs Officer*, was invited to provide an update to the Committee on the Levelling Up White papers.

Ms Bungeroth gave a brief overview of the paper submitted that provided an insight into a range of Government consultations and parliamentary inquiries affecting the research landscape. The Committee discussed the draft response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry on the delivery of a R&I Strategy.

Ms Bungeroth described the inquiry as being the first to look at the new National Science and Technology Council, led by Chief Scientific Advisor Sir Patrick Vallance. The Committee was informed that this Council will provide strategic direction on the use of science and technology to solve significant societal challenges and will identify the challenges across each of these strategic priorities and potentially specify the breakthrough required.

2. **Multi-Faculty Centres and Networks biennial review**

Dr Sara Lamas Marques, *Network Development Manager*, was invited to present the College's Multi-Faculty Research Centres and Networks review.

Dr Lamas Marques noted that the purpose of the review was to monitor the progress and successes of Centres and Networks and identify any barriers or challenges, and to provide an opportunity for Centres and Networks to discuss activity, share good practise and receive direct feedback from others, and for the College to review its portfolio of activity.

Dr Lamas Marques informed the Committee that the most recent review of the College's Centres and Networks assessed 17 Networks and 15 Centres. A collated report of the completed assessment for each Network and Centre had been circulated to the Committee. The results of review showed that 80% of Centres and Networks had fully met their objectives, 75% had good leadership and governance, and over half produced outputs beyond expectations.

3. **Graduate School Update**

Professor Yun Xu, *Director of Graduate School*, and Mrs Laura Lane, *Head of Strategy and Operations*, provided an update on the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) action plan.

Professor Xu introduced the topic of the 2021 PRES Survey, in which ~1,840 (41%) Imperial students responded, and students from 89 other institutions also participated.

The Committee was informed that the PRES Task and Finish Group, led by the Graduate School, had developed recommendations for a College Action Plan to address the key themes identified from the PRES survey. These recommendations had been approved by the PRQC on 16 February 2022. The Committee was presented with a summary of the student feedback and the

College's intended response, as per the agreed College Action Plan, to address this feedback, across each of the eight themes.

Professor Xu then spoke to the Graduate School annual report and updated the Committee on the work being undertaken by the Graduate School, including supporting the College with stipend extension scheme, creating guidance for remote PhD supervision vivas and mutual expectations to incorporate the remote working and EDI aspects.

4. Discussion of items included in the paper.

Big Bids Register

A verbal update was given by the each of the Faculty Strategic Research Managers.

Bids Won in the past month

A link to the paper detailing the seven large awards won during the previous month was circulated in the agenda.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 April 2022