

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the sixty-first meeting of the University Research Ethics Committee, held 24 January 2013

Present: David Anderson-Ford (Chair), Sheila Bannerman, Adam Bell, Sue Broadhurst, Joan Gandy, Ahmad Ghoneim, Ushma Gudka, Zidong Wang, Jim Wood, Mary Liddell (Secretary)

Apologies: Laurence Brooks, Rory Deane, Federico Ferretti, Richard Godfrey, Peter Hobson, Ashraf Khir, Koen Matthys, Peter Petkoff, Mary Pat Sullivan

Reserved (FOI) Release date

511. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Action:

512. Minutes

The minutes of the sixtieth meeting held on 22 November 2012 were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED as a true record.

Action:

513. Matters arising

513.1. Review of SRECs (504.2)

The Chair indicated that reviews would take place in February and March. He requested that paperwork submitted by a SREC as part of the review be delivered at least 10 working days prior to the date of the review meeting.

A paper on the results of the review would be submitted to the Committee in June or July.

**Action: DA-F/
JG/JW/
PH**

513.2. Use of social media and other technologies for research (504.5)

The Chair provided an update on progress for this item. Dr. Brooks had submitted two documents, one of which contained responses from other Universities on how they handled the issue. In most cases, any ethical issues arising from the use of social media in research were handled as they arose. Draft guidance would be provided for the next meeting.

Action: DA-F

513.3. Revision of research misconduct procedure (504.6)

The latest version of the Procedure for Investigation of Research Misconduct had been posted on both internal and external web pages. The Secretary requested that all REOs notify the researchers in their Schools of the existence of the document, and reiterated that it was important that anyone who suspected that research misconduct was happening should notify the Secretary to Council.

Action: REOs

513.4. External web page for UREC (504.7)

The Secretary reported that this page was now live (<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/administration/governance-and-university-committees/university-committees/research-ethics-committee>).

Action:

513.5. Staff/student compliance with the requirements of the University Code of Research Ethics (505)

The Chair reported that the paper which was approved by the Committee at the last meeting would be presented to Council next week. It would go to Senate in March.

Action:

514. Terms of reference

The Chair gave a review of the proposals to make the Animal Research Ethics and Biological and Genetic Modification Committees sub-committees of the UREC. To ensure all members of the UREC and the Sub-Committees were properly informed, there would be representation on the UREC from the Sub-Committees and vice-versa.

The Chair of the UREC would be the most likely representative on the Animal Research Ethics Sub-Committee. He would meet with the Chair of the Sub-Committee in the near future to discuss possible changes to UREC documents to include animal research information. There would also be more transparency about animal research at the University.

As there were potential health and safety issues arising within each Sub-Committee and the UREC, it was also proposed that there be a Health & Safety representative on the UREC, and a member of the UREC would sit on the Health & Safety Committee.

There would need to be changes made to the UREC Terms of Reference to take into account the addition of the Sub-Committees.

Action: DA-F

515. Research integrity

The Chair provided an overview of activity in this area vis-à-vis the UUK concordat. RCUK has incorporated the concordat into its requirements for an annual research audit. HEFCE has also issued a consultation paper on research integrity.

The Chair had submitted a paper to the Senior Management Group with suggestions for how the research integrity aspects could be handled, in the sense of where the responsibility would lie for ensuring integrity in research. He was waiting for a decision by the University.

Action:

516. Any other business

Security-sensitive research material: The Chair provided an overview of the background to the UUK document on this subject (<http://tinyurl.com/bxneuhc>) and spoke to the main points of the document. He would be co-ordinating efforts with the Director of the Computer Centre to determine how much it would cost to put the requirements into effect at the University.

Action: DAF

517. Meeting dates

21 March 2013

23 May 2013

18 July 2013

All meetings would be held in WB A102, unless otherwise noted on the agenda. All meetings start at 1000.

ML 24/01/13

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE – JANUARY 2013 – ACTION SHEET

Minute	Item	Action	Action by
513.1	Review of SRECs	Begin review	DA-F/ JG/JW/PH
513.2	Use of social media	Produce draft guidance	DA-F
513.3	Revision of research misconduct procedure	Notify researchers of existence of document	REOs
514	Terms of Reference	Produce draft revision	DA-F
516	Security-sensitive material	Co-ordinate with Director of Computer Centre	DA-F