

The University of Manchester
School of Chemistry

Minutes of the Research Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 13th December 2011 at 2pm in GE.005

Research Committee Meeting

Present: Prof P. Budd (Chair), Dr M Attfield, Dr S Webb, R Pritchard, C Casiraghi, S Koehler, N Burton, A Horn, L Natrajan, J McDouall, Dr S Coote (postdoctoral representative) Dr D Rozentals, Mrs E Tarasova.

1. Apologies

Noted: Drs R Layfield, C Eyers, RC Whitehead

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Confirmed: Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2011

Noted: **Update on strategy and plans for 2011/12 seminar series:** Dr D Rozentals circulated an email to PhD students expressing the School's expectations that they should attend seminars at least once a week.

It was suggested that PhD students' seminar attendance can be monitored via eProg system and discussed at progress meetings with supervisors.

Update on EPSRC Open access policy and its implementation: this information will be included in the School December newsletter.

3. EPSRC DTA Applications

Noted: In November the School announced two parallel EPSRC DTA competitions, for industrial CASE and for Collaborative proposals. 14 applications were received in response to the Collaborative competition and 2 in response to the Industrial CASE competition. All applications were collated into one document which was distributed to the Research Committee members prior to the meeting. The members were asked to score each proposal under the following three criteria: 1) scientific quality of project (originality, potential impact, etc.), 2) benefit to School /Supervisor (publication potential, attract funding, provide support for early career staff, assist in changing academic direction, etc., 3) building new research collaborations that extend beyond current activity. The ranking scores and comments of the Research Committee members were

collated by Dr D Rozentals into a spreadsheet which was presented at the meeting.

Professor P Budd requested that the Committee discuss the relative weighting of each criterion. Following the discussion, during which members of the Committee expressed their views, it was agreed to apply an equal weighting to the three criteria (1/3, 1/3, 1/3).

Agreed: 4 collaborative and 1 Industrial CASE projects were recommended for funding by the Committee. The award of Industrial CASE project is provisional depending if the funding is successfully secured from the industrial partner. The full ranking list with comments will be given to Professor Whitehead, for him to make the final allocation.

4. The 2012 Distinguished Achievement Awards

Noted: In response to the President's request for nominations, the School reviewed possible candidates for the Researcher of the Year award. The nominee should be someone whose recent research has created a new field of research and made a fundamental change in thinking. Only one nomination is permitted from each School. It was decided that Professor Jonathan Clayden is nominated on behalf of the School of Chemistry.

Agreed: Professor D Procter will write a statement in support of Professor Jonathan Clayden's nomination.

Noted: Nominations must also be made for the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Student of the Year awards.

Agreed: Dr R Pritchard will send out a request for nominations to all staff in the School.

5. Any other business

Noted: 1. Professor M Anderson will take over the role of REF Coordinator for the School from February 2012. He will be assisted in this activity by Dr D Rozentals, Dr J McDouall and Professor P Budd who will be covering different aspects of REF preparation in the School.

2. A reminder will be sent out to staff that all eligible REF staff are requested to participate in the University's REF preparation exercise (REFPE). Staff will be asked to nominate their six strongest REF returnable outputs and upload them to the REF portal. The portal will close on 16 January 2012.

3. Dr S Coote will step down from the post of postdoctoral representative from January 2012 due to her leaving the university to take a new post. A replacement will be announced shortly.

Agreed: Dr S Coote was thanked for her contribution to the Research Committee.

11. Date of the next meeting

Noted: To be confirmed.