PAPER TITLE: RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT

Date of sub-committee meeting: 25th November 2025

REPORT

1. Matters for Noting

1.1   At the meeting, the Committee:

1.1.1   <u>Discussed</u> a report from the Library Research Analytics team requesting recommendations for priority development. The team had recently developed the QS dashboards, which showed potential International Research Network (IRN) partners filtered by QS Faculty Area or QS Subject Level. It had launched the Policy Impact Dashboard, to identify where University research had been picked up by policy, and was trialing the Collaboration Data Dashboard for all unit level reporting for staff affiliated to the Institute for the Augmented Human between 2015-25. It was suggested that the team could consider increasing its focus on supporting REF efforts and link in with the Data and Insights Project.

1.1.2   <u>Discussed</u> an annual update on Research Centres in the Engineering & Design Faculty. In 2024-25, the total awards for Centres came to £21.6m overall, which was close to the target of £23.5m. The total number of 4* outputs were lower than targets, but impact activities were positive. A steer had been given to Centres to increase spending on international collaborations and reduce spend on internships. Centres were also being encouraged to support improving PhD culture within the Faculty.

1.1.3   <u>Discussed</u> the Research Misconduct annual report for 2024-25. Multiple cases were linked to students not receiving correct advice from their supervisors. It could be very distressing for colleagues to receive a research misconduct allegation, highlighting the need to reduce stigma around such situations. It was hoped that the work on research culture and the new Authorship Guidelines would help reduce allegations arising from personal misunderstandings between colleagues.

1.1.4   <u>Discussed</u> an update on the University Research Management System (URMS) Project. The implementation of Worktribe had started and numerous meetings

with the platform had taken place. The go-live dates for Worktribe and Agresso were both scheduled for the first week of August, and so managing the interdependencies between the URMS project and Project CLEAR would be critical. The Committee discussed the significant risk posed to the University's ability to cost research grants if Project CLEAR was delayed, and agreed that the risk should be escalated to UEB.

1.1.5   <u>Noted</u> the Q1 (2025/26) Research Income Activity report. Rewards received were 2% lower than the same time last year, which was not a significant difference. There had been a 16% rise in applications submitted on last year and research income at the end of Q1 was £13million. Members were encouraged to read the Modern Industrial Strategy and the Post-16 Education & Skills White Paper, as more funding would be given to research that aligned with Government priority areas.

1.1.6   <u>Noted</u> that this would be last meeting for the Chair who would be leaving the University in December 2025. Members expressed their thanks to the Chair for all their contributions over the past 4 years and wished them the best for their next role.

1.1.7   <u>Noted</u> the Research Risk Register.

1.1.8   <u>Noted</u> updates from the Research Advisory Board, the REF Strategy Steering Group and the Research Governance Steering Group.

1.1.9   <u>Noted</u> the RIS Services Pipeline of Major Opportunities Report for May 2025.

1.1.10 <u>Noted</u> minutes of the ESRC IAA Programme Board, the Faculty/School Research and Knowledge Exchange Committees, and the Academic Ethics and Integrity Committee (AEIC).

1.1.11 <u>Noted </u>an update from the University Commercialisation Executive Board (UCEB).