Director of Research Report for Strategy Committee
28th March 2018

- The timetable for the University's 2018 Mock REF exercise is now confirmed and is slightly earlier than we had been anticipating. The deadline for School response is the end of June. Therefore we will be asking all eligible staff to submit up to 6 papers (through PURE) by the end of April. This will allow the internal assessment panel to look at the papers and select those to be returned through May and early June. The 100 word statements supporting each submitted paper will be required. Details of eligibility and the School return are in the slides from the General Meeting. In addition to the paper outputs, we also need to prepare 12 impact case studies and these will be assessed by a (separate) panel consisting of both internal and external members.

- The School has prepared and submitted 6 CDT outline proposals. To the EPSRC call we submitted PPar-SESS (Pervasive Parellelism: Smart, Efficient, Safe Systems), SPT (Security, Privacy and Trust) and RAS (Robotics and Autonomous Systems)(joint with Heriot-Watt). There was an additional UKRI call, with a separate pot of money announced in early February, with a deadline for 28th March and we have also submitted three outline proposals to that: DSAI (Data Science and Artificial Intelligence), NLP (Natural Language Processes) and AIBS (Artificial Intelligence for Biomedical Sciences). The first two of these, we had been preparing for EPSRC in any case, but AIBS is a new proposal in response to the new *Applications and Implications of AI* priority in the UKRI call. We will hear the outcome of the outline proposals in May, with submission of full bids due in July.

- EPSRC currently has a consultation open called, *Big Ideas* (https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/ourportfolio/epsrc-big-ideas/). This is a new initiative to collect ideas for future funding programmes and I would encourage all institutes to discuss this within their institute meetings, and consider submitting at least one idea. This is our opportunity to influence the funding landscape of the next few years. The scope of an "idea" is expected to be about 30 million pounds, so a cross-institute challenge seems about the right size. (**Action:** DoIs to initiate Big Idea discussions in their institute.

- All the above topics will be discussed at Research Day on 24th April. In the morning there will be a number of talks about the University's Data-Driven Innovation programme and the City Deal, among other things. In the afternoon there will be a number of workshops addressing: REF preparations (100 word statements and impact case study preparation), increased collaboration with Biomedical Sciences, career development of ECR etc. Registration will be open this week.