

Director of Research report for Strategy Committee
23rd May 2018
(prepared 20th May 2018)

- Mock REF is underway and most staff have now submitted their papers for consideration by the internal panel. The internal panel are working through these papers and assigning each a star rating. We are also working on Impact case studies. Huge thanks to the members of the internal panel and Steve Renals for the work that they are putting into this on behalf of the School.
- We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the CDT applications but expect to have notification soon.
- The Big Ideas consultation is still open and Institutes are encouraged to make submissions if they have not already done so.
(<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/epsrc-big-ideas/>) There may also be opportunities to contribute to College level submissions if anyone has multidisciplinary ideas to submit.
- NPL (National Physical Laboratory) is re-connecting with UoE and are going to have their liaison officer in EI one day a fortnight. NPL are thinking about what it is they want to do with UoE. There is already a strong connection with Bayes. Their emphasis remains mainly in meteorology.
- The College Research Support Office is going to organize a Fast Forward Energy Day (details TBD) that will use knowledge from ICSF wave 2 and 3 activities to focus on companies that are genuinely interested in putting in applications.
- EPSRC have funded equipment.data.ac.uk where Universities are supposed to record their equipment. (It is not currently clear how big that equipment needs to be to qualify, but if you look at what other HEIs are doing most compliant institutions are listing pretty much any equipment that is bought from an EPSRC grant). UoE *in total* have TWO entries (!), one of which is Valkyrie. If we're going to be applying to EPSRC for equipment grants it seems a bit risky to be so badly compliant on this system, especially when you look at what Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial etc. have done. There are concerns within RSO and College that UoE is not currently compliant with this record keeping and it is likely that our processes will be tightened up in this respect. It doesn't say anywhere that this is obligatory, but I can easily see it becoming so. Andy and Janet both voiced concerns about the fact that we basically don't do this.
- UKRI strengthening places initiative (part of the "place" agenda) are hosting 9 meetings around UK. There is one in Glasgow at the beginning of June <https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-stakeholder-events/>
- The UKRI board are proposed to visit Edinburgh in early July. Details are still to be confirmed and it is not clear how much Informatics will be involved.
- Any feedback on Research Day would be gratefully received.