

**SEN17D006**

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**Issue**

Annual update on innovation across UEA to Senate.

**Recommendation**

Recipients are invited to receive the author's report on UEA innovation activities.

**Resource Implications**

None

**Risk Implications**

None

**Equality and Diversity**

None

**Timing of decisions**

None

**Further Information**

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**Background**

2016 saw the first annual report to Senate covering innovation activity across the University. That report contained much background detail which recipients of this report may wish to refer to if they are unfamiliar with the key structures and terms around innovation. This year's report is an update on activities and/or key developments.

**Attachments**

None

**Innovation at the University of East Anglia**  
**Report for University Senate November 2017**

**1. Change of Terminology**

From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, the University has adopted the term 'innovation' instead of enterprise. This is to keep up to date with changes in the external environment, for example, RCUK and Innovate UK will become UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) from April 2018. The PVC Research and Enterprise is now PVC Research and Innovation and Associate Deans for Enterprise are now Associate Deans for Innovation. Enterprise Executive has been renamed Innovation Executive and Research and Enterprise Service (REN) has become Research and Innovation Service (RIN) within the wider Research and Innovation Division (RID) alongside Careers, PGR and the Library.

**2. Enabling Innovation: Research to Application (EIRA)**

UEA's success in innovation has been recognised with the award of £4.7m to Eastern ARC under HEFCE's Connecting Capabilities Fund. The project 'Enabling Innovation: Research to Application (EIRA)' is led by Essex with UEA and Kent as the main partners. The focus is on increasing the commercialisation of work from Eastern ARC, but also transferring expertise and working with Writtle University College, University of Suffolk, NUA and Harlow College. Other network partners are BT, Digital Catapult, AgriTech East, Tech East, New Anglia LEP and South East LEP. The project runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

A key area of activity will be to build links to scale up businesses and improve productivity across the region and to increase SME engagement. There are 3 themes that link to Eastern ARC research themes: (1) Digital Creative (led from Essex), (2) Artificial Intelligence (led from Kent) and (3) Biotech (led from UEA), which are also key industrial sectors for the region. All universities will be involved in all themes.

The planned interventions with budget are:

- Innovation Vouchers (up to £5K) – for industry to collaborate with HE (£240K CCF + £60K match SME funding)
- R&D Grants (£25-50K) – for industry to collaborate with HE (£940K CCF + £235K match business funding)
- Innovation internships (12 weeks) – graduates to SMEs (£530K CCF + £80K match SME funding)
- Hot House Events (hosted at BT) – to facilitate HE/non-HE collaboration (£60K CCF)
- Proof of Concept Fund - £10-40K – commercialising research/IP (£250K CCF)
- Start-up Micro Finance Fund – up to £2K for HEI startups (£110K CCF)
- i-teams – from UEA to all EARC partners (£135K CCF)
- Gameshub – support gaming startups (based on the Essex scheme) (£120K CCF)
- Training package (£100K CCF)

The specific details are presently being refined and further communication to academic staff will take place later in the year.

**3. Additional HEIF Funding**

UEA's improvement in the HEBCIS return over the last few years has resulted in an uplift in funding of 400k on a recurrent basis. HEFCE has also awarded UEA some additional funding (distributed to universities on

a formulaic basis determined by HEIF performance), for 2017/18 only, to help address the Industrial Strategy. In each case we are required to considerably increase the level of reporting to HEFCE.

Our planned approach is to continue with the strands of activity which have been successful hitherto with some additional measures:

1. Pump-priming for strategic projects
2. Proof of Concept Industrial Strategy Fund – a strand of POC targeted at areas within the Industrial Strategy.
3. Increase existing Proof Of Concept Fund
4. NRP Translational Fund – one off industrial strategy themed call for UEA-led projects.
5. Increase Patent Fund
6. Establish a Technology Advisory Panel
7. Establish a Patent Committee
8. Establish a CPD Development fund to encourage schools to develop new courses/modules.
9. Fund UEA consultancy costs to remove 15% management charge (agreed by ET)
10. Establish Industrial Strategy Seedcorn Fund – seed funding and sandpits for interdisciplinary projects addressing industrial strategy sectors: life sciences, low emission vehicles, industrial digitalization, nuclear & creative industries.
11. Fund as a pilot secondment of academic staff to business, assumed to be small in number, could include early stage researchers.
12. Promote support for industry staff to come and work at UEA e.g. helping with a project or given a period of time to build links. Assume salary is paid by company so expenses only.
13. Fund a member of academic staff to attend the Ignite Programme at Judge Business School each year.
14. Any remaining funds will be prioritised on the Proof Of Concept and Strategic Funds.

A communication plan has been put in place to promote these funds to academic staff and to businesses.

#### **4. Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF)**

On 12 October 2017, Jo Johnson, announced that Research England will develop a Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) to compare how effectively universities engage with industry following consultation with universities. The framework should be a way to “benchmark performance from university-business collaboration and knowledge exchange”, alongside the Research Excellence Framework and the Teaching Excellence Framework. Johnson said the assessment would not place an additional burden on universities as “a lot of the data is already out there”, such as through the Higher Education Statistics Agency’s annual Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey. Research England will consider how such data can be used to develop a balanced scorecard. There will be no crossover between the framework and the evaluation of impact in the REF. The KEF will be designed to evaluate economic activity generated as a result of university-business collaboration, whereas REF impact primarily looks at how research is used by others to generate benefits.

#### **5. Innovation Board**

In order to gain senior external input into the development of UEA’s innovation offering an Innovation Board is being established. It will meet twice a year and be chaired by the Chancellor, Karen Jones. Andy Wood, CEO of Adnams and NBS Professor; PVC Research and Innovation, Fiona Lettice; and Director Research and Innovation Division, Helen Lewis will be members. Additional external members are being sought. The first meeting will take place in November 2017.

## **6. Entrepreneur – in- Residence**

UEA has appointed its first Entrepreneur-in-Residence. Jacyn Heavens, Founder and CEO of Epos Now, has taken on the role. He will undertake a range of activities designed to share his experience with staff and students including masterclasses, drop in sessions at the Enterprise Centre, guest lectures and student visits to Epos Now. It is anticipated that one or two further Entrepreneur-in-Residence appointments will be made.

## **7. Innovation and Impact Awards**

The inaugural Innovation & Impact Awards have been launched. These will recognise and reward academics and research teams who have demonstrated a strong commitment to innovation and impact and will celebrate collaborations between academia and other external organisations. The categories are:

- Outstanding impact in policy and practice
- Outstanding impact in health, wellbeing and welfare
- Outstanding social and cultural impact
- Outstanding commercialisation of technology
- Consultancy project of the year
- SME collaboration of the year
- Special award for Student/Graduation innovation of the year
- ESRC special award for impact (drawn from nominees for all impact categories)

An awards ceremony and dinner will take place at the Sainsbury Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. Each finalist will receive a trophy and feature in the Awards brochure and subsequent media coverage. The winner of each category will also receive a design budget to create a promotional film for their project and will receive marketing support from RIN to create this with an agency.

## **8. Engagement**

In 2017, we submitted a bid to RCUK on Public Engagement with Research, but were unsuccessful in securing funding. As with all projects that were not funded, NCCPE (National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement) have offered UEA workshops and some consultancy on public engagement with research, which we plan to engage with. Our first Impact Week in January 2017 included a session from NCCPE and provided a forum for researchers to meet and discuss their various approaches and factors relating to the progression of their public engagement led research.

We are continually seeking to promote our research to wider audiences and this year, for example, UEA has been a key partner of the Norwich Science Festival (21-29 October 2017) engaging the public with a range of research from across NRP, showcased our innovative research at Mills & Reeve's new office launch in October 2017, are taking part in ESRC's Festival of Social Science, and have an exhibition on Superbugs at the Science Museum from November 2017.

In June 2017, for the ninth year, UEA recognised staff and students for outstanding projects and research that have engaged members of the public, with 15 awards covering a range of topics including: plant virology, face-perception, digital history, walking for health, eating disorders, policy change, assistive technology, water conservation, inter-professional practice, translation, archive film, police communication and Brexit.