

LTC14D024

Title: Postgraduate Research Executive Report to LTC
Author: Dr Vivien Easson, Head of Postgraduate Research Service
Date: 22 October 2014
Agenda: LTC14A001
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

This paper summarises the work of the 7 October 2014 meeting of the Postgraduate Research Executive. As per a Senate decision of 6 November 2013, the Postgraduate Research Executive now has delegated authority from LTC to make decisions affecting postgraduate research programmes. It is chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Enterprise and Engagement (now Professor Dave Petley) and serviced by the Postgraduate Research Service.

Recommendation

No recommendations in this paper. LTC members may be interested to note the UEA summary overleaf of PGR actions plans prepared in response to feedback from research students in PRES 2013, and that an accelerated timetable for feedback from PRES 2015 was approved by the Postgraduate Research Executive.

Resource Implications

Resource implications have been considered for each of the items by the Postgraduate Research Executive.

Risk Implications

Risk implications have been considered for each of the items by the Postgraduate Research Executive.

Equality and Diversity

No specific issues.

Timing of decisions

No decisions required in this paper.

Further Information

Contact Dr Vivien Easson, v.easson@uea.ac.uk, extension 1835, with any queries about this report.

Areas discussed by the Postgraduate Research Executive at the 7 October 2014 meeting

<p>7 October 2014</p>	<p>Terms of Reference Admissions: October 2014 update Doctoral Training Bids: October 2014 update Report from PGR Recruitment Strategy Working Group Online supervisory notes and Tier 4 engagement University Campus Suffolk – PGR provision Eastern ARC update Paper-based / three-paper thesis UEA PRES 2013 overview (given overleaf) PGR space strategy PGR web review and strategy PURE, PGR and people pages PGR process improvement plan Extract from ET-R paper on PGR international fees</p>
-----------------------	---

You said... we did: PRES 2013



Here are key examples of actions being taken at Faculty and University level in response to your feedback. Faculty action plans have also been produced which cover many more detailed actions at School and Faculty level.

<h2>Space</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved facilities for postgraduate research students in the Library following a consultation and investment of capital funding• Meetings in summer 2013 including student representation from all Faculties to agree a proposal to UEA Space Management Group• Short-term enhancements for students using the Arts 01 Graduate School Centre and for various other research student offices around the campus	<h2>Communication</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of a Research Student Forum in every Faculty, to be supported by links with new UUEAS Postgraduate Education Officer• Faculties and Schools exploring improvements to induction, for example, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences has introduced a buddy system to assist new students settle in• Action plans for PRES had dissemination strategies to ensure that students know that actions are being taken in response to feedback
<h2>Training</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESRC funding for cross-Faculty advanced training on <i>Social Studies of Environment and Sustainability</i>, led by Faculty of Social Sciences• Disseminating good practice within Faculties, for example encouraging all Schools in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities to adopt PSI's approach to seminars and workshops• University-wide Doctoral Training Strategy being developed to improve and go beyond current PPD programmes	<h2>Supervision and feedback</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Faculties have reviewed their supervisor training and developed new formats to encourage supervisors to share best practice, including online and face-to-face sessions• Faculties and the Postgraduate Research Service working to improve the identification of potential problems with student progress• Guidelines for timeliness and volume of feedback on draft thesis chapters are being developed within the Faculty of Science
<h2>Response rates</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing work with BIU and UUEAS to: develop strategy for PRES 2015 to achieve a UEA response rate of at least 40%, compared to 33% at UEA and 42% nationally from PRES 2013; introduce surveys in the intervening years from 2016, and improve turnaround time of post-PRES action plans	