University of East Anglia

Title:	**Postgraduate Research Executive Report to LTC and Quality Code Chapter B11 Implementation Update**
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Agenda:	Learning and Teaching Committee, 24 June 2015
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Issue

This paper summarises the work of the 2 June 2015 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 and Enterprise (Professor Dave Petley) and serviced by the Postgraduate Research Service. This paper also includes an update on the implementation of Quality Code Chapter B11 through 2014-15.

LTC is asked to note the following clarification to the procedures for Misconduct in Research (Research Degree Policy Document 5): that where a case does not go to SSDC (Senate Student Disciplinary Committee) but instead a decision is taken by the Head of School, this decision can be appealed or complained about via the academic appeal and complaints route. (SSDC decisions can also be appealed or complained about.)

Recommendation

No recommendations in this paper.

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 2 June 2015 meeting

2 June 2015	Doctoral Training Bid update – April 2015
	Preparations for next admissions cycle
	PGR Fees – tuition and bench fees
	PRES 2015
	Postgraduate Student Experience Report 2015
	Supervisory Training
	Updates to Code of Practice for Research Degrees
	Management Information and Equality Update
	PGR process improvement plan
	PGR quality enhancement plan
	Equality Data: annual Athena SWAN report
	Spring 2015 Management Information Reports
	Update on the School of Music
	Annual review of external examiners' reports
	Scope of review: NRP PGR agreement

Actions taken to implement Quality Code Chapter B11 and to enhance provision as a result of reviews

Summary of changes in 2014-15

- Developed and introduced Research Degree Education Strategy
- Produced associated guide for supervisors and distributed hard copies
- Reviewed PGR Service and Graduate School web pages; improved information for students/supervisors
- Ran campaign to substantially improve response rate to PRES: it went from 33% to 58% across UEA
- Developed PGR Recruitment Strategy and improved links with International Office and Marketing teams
- Produced PGR-specific version of Admissions Appeals and Complaints policy and put it online
- Introduced interim Doctoral Training Framework and set up working groups to take forward further work
- Introduced probationary status and expectations for probationary review, following consultation
- Recommended adoption of Postgraduate Employment Charter and set up working group to take forward
- Reviewed EdD programme and made associated changes to regulations to improve student experience
- Reviewed ClinPsyD regulations and made changes following 2013-14 ClinPsyD review
- Reviewed Code of Practice and Research Degree Policy Documents; made various minor changes
- Reviewed equality data on PGR admissions and lifecycle
- Reviewed research environment following REF 2014 and agreed to use it as target benchmarking
- Reviewed and improved procedures for PGR applicants/students at University Campus Suffolk
- Reviewed studentship and admissions criteria
- Reviewed English language qualification procedures, SELTs and language support
- Reviewed postgraduate tuition, continuation and bench fees and transparency of costs to students
- Planned changes to induction to ensure greater consistency of experience across UEA
- Reviewed supervisory training at Faculty and University level
- Implemented changes to concessions forms, guide and processes following 2013-14 review
- Implemented changes to viva processes and award recommendations following 2013-14 review
- Produced better guidance on vivas by videoconferencing, for use in exceptional circumstances
- Improved annual reporting to PGR Executive on partnership arrangements
- Improved management information on PGR admissions and recruitment, and cohort identity
- Improved data quality by checking data quality reports working closely with the Planning Office
- Reviewed Tier 4 CAS issuing processes and ensured appropriate training of staff
- Reviewed Tier 4 engagement monitoring processes and developed online engagement implementation
- Improved annual progress review screens and availability of information for PGR Directors