

3. Terms of Reference and Membership

The Committee agreed the terms of reference and membership of the Postgraduate Research Quality Committee 2014-2015.

PRQC/2014/01

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2014 were approved.

PRQC/2014/02

5. Matters arising

5.1 Minute 8.1 PRES 2013 – it was reported that the PRES response from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering had been received and approved by Chair's action as being exemplary.

5.2 Minute 15 – Research Degree Submission Data – it was reported that the research degree submission data had subsequently been presented to the Senate and that the Senate had asked that each Faculty should develop an action plan to address the decline in research degree submission rates and to present this to the December meeting of the Senate.

5.3 There were no other matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Precept Reviews of Research Degree Provision

6.1 Precept Review of Research Degree Training in the Department of Bioengineering
The Committee considered the Precept Review of the Department of Bioengineering, in relation to 2012-13, presented by Professor

7.1 Department of Earth Science and Engineering

7.1.1 The Committee considered the periodic review of research degree training in the Department of Earth Science and Engineering, including the reports of the assessors, the internal Chair's completed Reviewer's Comments Form and the Department's response to the assessors' comments.

PRQC/2014/04

7.1.2 The Committee was advised that, in accordance with the new procedure, the Departmental response had been sent to the internal Chair who had confirmed that the Department had satisfactorily addressed each of the Panel's recommendations.

7.1.3 The reviewers had rated the Department of Earth Science and Engineering "compliant" with each of the eighteen precepts and "compliant" overall. The panel considered that the research programme provided excellent research training and support for postgraduate students, and noted that research supervisors took their role very seriously and care about their students. The panel observed, from talking to the research students, that they very much appreciated this professionalism and the care and support provided to them.

7.1.4 The panel had commented on the excellence of the physical working environment, conducive to the conduct of first rate research, and the highly collegial and friendly working atmosphere.

7.1.5 The review panel had made four specific recommendations which had been thoroughly considered and responded to by the Department. The Chair of the panel had confirmed that he was satisfied with the responses presented. In discussion, the Committee noted in part

pra]TJ 0.05 Tw 1.]TJ -0.h Ob

9. Eligibility for Research Degree Supervision - Post-doctoral Research Assistants
Members received College guidelines on

the next three years, by which time the success of the first two cohorts of students could be measured.

11. Working Party for World Class Supervision

The Committee received a verbal report from the first meeting of the Working Party for World Class Supervision.

11.1 The Committee was reminded that the working party had been established to develop a strategy for the delivery and implementation of the doctoral proposition, including the consideration of what constitutes world-class research supervision from a staff and student perspective, and how best to ensure that this ideal is delivered to every doctoral student.

11.2 It was reported that a student break out session had been run recently by the Graduate

partner universities, and were reminded of the opportunities to maximise new collaborations between the staff at the different institutions.

13. Postgraduate Professional Development Committee: update

The Committee received the unconfirmed minutes of the Professional Skills Development Committee meeting held on 2 July 2014.

PRQC/2014/09

13.1 It was reported that, following the review of the Research Skills & Development course earlier in the year, the contracting of an external tutor to help deliver this course would cease. It was further reported that the Graduate School was currently recruiting for an additional part time Teaching Fellow.

13.2 It was reported that the Graduate School would be introducing an annual review process to ensure their portfolio of courses remained current and up to date. This would involve seeking external advice on the de

- (iii) Special cases for late entry, considered by the Director and Deputy Director of the Graduate School

PRQC/2014/13