

Part 1 – Preliminary Items

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

1.1 The Chair welcomed new members of the committee for 2021-22 as follows:

Professor Christopher Gourlay (Materials)
Professor Cleo Kontoravdi (Chemical Engineering)
Professor Pier Luigi Dragotti (Electrical and Electronic Engineering)
Daniel Lo – ICU VP Education
Dr Lloyd James – ICU President
Tin Hang Un - ICU PGR Academic and Welfare Representative - FoE
Aryan Niknam Maleki - ICU PGR Academic and Welfare Representative – FoM

1.2 Apologies were received from:

Dr Saskia Goes (Earth Science and Engineering)
David Ashton (Academic Registrar)
Professor Michael Seckl (Surgery and Cancer)
Professor Mike Lovett (NHLI)
Professor Laki Buluwela (Deputy Director of the Graduate School)
Professor Carol Propper (Business)
Professor John Seddon (Faculty Senior Tutor (PGR) representative)
Dr Jem Woods (Centre for Environmental Policy)
Aryan Niknam Maleki (FoM Student Representative)
Ceire Wincott (FoNS Student Representative)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 May 2021 **[PRQC.2021.01]**.

- 4.2 The membership had been updated to reflect changes in postholders and the new representatives from ICU.
- 4.3 The membership would be further updated to reflect Professor Murphy's role as DPS across the four departments emerging from the former Department of Medicine.

Action: Secretary

Part 2 – Matters for Consideration

5. Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) 2021

5.1 Summary results for PRES 2021 [PRQC.2021.04]

The meeting considered the summary results and benchmarking reports from the PRES. It was noted that the response rate of 41% was higher than the sector average (36%) but lower than previous years (50% in 2019, 59% in 2017).

Overall satisfaction was 79% - this is the same figure as the overall sector score. In the sector benchmarking reports, Imperial was in the top quartile in areas such as resources and research culture but were in the lowest quartile for supervision, progression and responsibilities. Performance also varied between disciplines in comparison to the global benchmarks.

5.2 PRES 2021 Task and Finish Group update [PRQC.2021.05]

- 8.1 Members received an update on the progress of a new supervisor training and development programme which PGR students had opted to name 'Cornerstone'. The programme is being developed and it is intended to launch the first phase after Christmas. A dedicated Teaching Fellow had been recruited to support this work.
- 8.2 A programme development group has been set up with representation from the Graduate School, Educational Development Unit, Post-Doc Development Centre, and People and Organisational Development to ensure new and existing training is properly linked together. It is intended that anything related to supervisor training and support will appear under the Cornerstone umbrella.

Part 3 – Matters for Information

9. Mutual Expectations for the Research Degree Student Staff Partnership [PRQC.2021.07]

- 9.1 Members were reminded that this document should be discussed by the supervisor and student within the first three months of the student starting the degree. It should also be discussed at the first meeting of the academic year in the relevant Student Staff Committee.

10. List of Partner Research Institutions, Split PhDs and Imperial Recognised Locations [PRQC.2021.08]

- 10.1 The meeting noted the document.

11. PRQC subcommittees

- 11.1 The Committee noted minutes of the subcommittees / reports from collaborative committees as follows:

- (i) Minutes of the CDT-DTP Governance Committee held on 12 May 2021
[PRQC.2021.09]
- (ii) Minutes of the Crick Research Degrees Committee held on 4 March 2021
[PRQC.2021.10]