

the
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the third meeting of the 2020/21 session held on Tuesday 23rd February 2021
at 10am via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Professor Pam Maras (Chair)
Mr Peter Garrod (University Secretary)
Dr Guido Conaldi (FBUS)
Dr Mary Clare Martin (FEHHS)
Dr Edyta McCallum (Medway NHS Foundation Trust)
Dr Simon Richardson (FES)
Dr Wim Vandekerckhove (FBUS)
Mrs Trudy Brighton (note taker)

Apologies:

Professor Jon Davison (University of Birmingham)
Professor Lora Forsythe (FES/NRI)
Dr Richard Fuchs (FES/NRI)
Dr Mark Goss-Sampson (FEHHS)
Dr Ben Hunter (FLAS)
Professor Tracey Reynolds (FLAS)
Dr Georgios Samakovitis (FLAS)

Min

UREC:

- 20.23 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
- The Chair welcomed Dr Edyta McCallum, Head of Research & Innovation at the Medway NHS Foundation Trust, to her first meeting.
- 20.24 **TERMS OF REFERENCE – TO NOTE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE UNDER WHICH THE UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES OPERATE**
- The Committee noted the terms of reference under which both university and faculty Research Ethics Committees operate. The University Secretary reported that the terms of reference for Faculty Research Ethics Committees would be revised for a future meeting.
- Action: University Secretary**
- 20.25 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
- The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 and summary of decisions made were agreed as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

26.1 Ethics Training (v min 21.3)

The Chair clarified that, following discussions with GRE, RETI would be responsible for providing research staff with research ethics training. GRE had subsequently provided details of all research ethics applicants who had completed the online Epigeum training to date. In the future it was proposed that all research staff seeking research ethical approval from the Committee would be required to provide evidence of completion of the training as a condition imposed before Chair's Action for their research applications would be granted. Faculties would have the right to provide other, more bespoke, research training for its staff. Training for students was outside UREC's remit.

The Committee discussed the value of this training for experienced researchers and noted the experience of some Committee Members that the log-in arrangements, coordinated by RETI, caused frustration and delay. It was agreed that this might be a licensing issue, but the feedback would be passed on to RETI.

Action: Committee Secretary

The Chair reported that the requirement for applicants to complete the online Epigeum training would be gradually enforced but all new researchers should be encouraged to do it. The current termly research ethics in-house training sessions provided by Peter Garrod, Mark Goss-Sampson and Lucy Fincham, which had been launched this year, would continue to be provided as a means of supplementing the online courses. There might be other online modules which might be an improvement on Epigeum, but alternatives would be difficult to source. The Committee **supported** the proposal that all research staff would be required to undertake the online training and that this should be phased in.

26.2 APPROVAL BY CHAIR'S ACTION

The Committee noted that the following applications which required amendment had been satisfactorily completed and approved by Chair's action:

- i. c.f. min 20.1.5.2 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Employability transition in Higher Education in case study of Chinese international students in the UK
- ii. c.f. min 20.1.5.3 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: The Role of Health & Safety Representatives I Covid-19
- iii. c.f. min 20.1.5.4 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Research into Covid-19 Workplace Safety Outcomes
- iv. c.f. min 20.1.5.8 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: The destructive nature of meta-dehumanisation between left and right-wing partisan
- v. c.f. min 20.2.5.2 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Leveraging diversity awareness to create inclusive curriculum collaboratively and improve equity, attainment and the student experience in large-shared modules: a cross disciplinary and mixed methods approach
- vi. c.f. min 20.2.5.3 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Promoting peer assisted learning: the experience of the Graduate

- vii. c.f. min 20.2.5.4 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Reimagining the role of technology in Higher Education: the new normal and learners' likes
- viii. c.f. min 20.2.5.6 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: PINDA-Aligning interest with non-disclosure agreement
- ix. c.f. min 20.2.5.7 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Small Data Mining
- x. c.f. min 20.2.5.9 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Alcohol Policy and Mental Health Studies Evaluation of Northern Healthcare supported living programme
- xi. c.f. min 20.2.5.10 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Reflective Influence on Threat-Induced Impulsivity
- xii. c.f. min 20.2.5.11 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Delivery of Functional Family Therapy during Covid-19 Pandemic
- xiii. c.f. min 20.2.5.12 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: An exploration of Psilocybin and Nature Based Therapy in the Treatment of Depression
- xiv. c.f. min 20.2.5.13 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Higher Education Students' Experiences of Prejudice, Racism and Discrimination
- xv. c.f. min 20.2.5.15 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Virtual placement for ITE Secondary Education Trainees
- xvi. c.f. min 20.2.5.16 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: The Effect of Typographic Enhancement and L1 Glossing on the Learning of Formulaic Sequences and Listening Comprehension through Television Viewing
- xvii. c.f. min 20.2.5.19 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences)(student)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: New life, old spice? Reflections from formerly incarcerated women on harms and experiences associated with the use of synthetic cannabinoids in prison
- xviii. c.f. min 20.2.5.20 XXXX XXXXXX (Greenwich Learning & Teaching)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: An exploration of the potential benefits of embedding compassion-focussed pedagogy in level 4 groupwork at Greenwich
- xix. c.f. min 20.2.5.21 XXXX XXXXXX & XXXX XXXXXX (Greenwich Learning & Teaching)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Perspectives on what makes for a good 'modern university' curriculum

Application **RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

Ref:

20.27 Subject to minor amendments, the following applications were approved for submission to the Chair for approval by Chair's Action:

- i. 20.3.5.1 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: The use of recap in designing teaching materials to improve learning and teaching experience

- ii. 20.3.5.2 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Fostering informal social networks in online working

- iii. 20.3.5.3 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Narrative change and public services spending

- iv. 20.3.5.4 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Business) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Breaking the Mould: Aspiring PE Teachers from a Bangladeshi background

- v. 20.3.5.6 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: SCOL-QoL: a new patient reported outcome measure for assessing long-term, psychosocial outcomes of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis following no intervention, bracing only, or any spinal fusion surgery

- vi. 20.3.5.7 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Reflective Influence on Threat-Induced Attentional Bias

- vii. 20.3.5.8 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: The PoRTal study: Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial of the Families Are Forever Service

- viii. 20.3.5.9 XXXX XXXXXX and XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences) (Members of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: A secondary data analysis of pooled data collected for the independent laboratory report assessment of PSYC1155 Research Statistics in Psychology module

- ix. 20.3.5.11 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Understanding the extent of disability hate crime in London: a scoping study with the Metropolitan Police Service

- x. 20.3.5.12 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Exploring the value of peer learning through a law clinic setting focus groups

- xi. 20.3.5.13 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences) (Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Use of BIM (Building Information Modelling) for performance-based fire engineering analysis

The following application was approved:

- i. 20.3.5.14 XXXX XXXXXX (Greenwich Learning & Teaching)(Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: An exploration of ways of enhancing digital capabilities among teaching academics at the University of Greenwich

The following applications were rejected:

- i. 20.3.5.3 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)(Member of Staff)

TITLE OF RESEARCH: How does a Year 7 pupil new to secondary school perceive a secondary school PE teacher?

- ii. 20.3.5.10 XXXX XXXXXX (CRD/Faculty of Engineering & Science)(Member of Staff)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Development of novel teaching aids to support inclusive science learning in covid and beyond

CHAIR'S ACTION

20.28 The Committee ratified the decision of the Chair to approve the following applications on behalf of the Committee:

- a) 20.3.6.i.i XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Commission for research into social work education and training: specialist regulation, covid-19 response and equality, diversity and inclusion

20.29 The Committee ratified the decision of the Chair to approve the following amendments to previously approved applications:

- a) c.f. min 13.4.5.8 XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: Social Networking and Early Detection of Psychosis and Depression in Young People
- inclusion of updated qualitative data collection
 - change in number of participants
 - inclusion of details of iTunes vouchers
 - confirmation that individuals cannot be identified in published results
- b) c.f. min 20.2.5.20 XXXX XXXXXX (Greenwich Learning & Teaching)
TITLE OF RESEARCH: An Exploration of the Potential Benefits of Embedding Compassion-Focussed Pedagogy in Undergraduate Groupwork at Greenwich
- to include modules from other levels of study beyond level 4 (with a consequential amendment to the title of the research work)

20.30 **EXTERNAL REC APPROVAL**

30.1 The Committee noted ethical approval of a collaborative project (entitled "*Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development: Long-Term Follow Up Interview*") by the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Criminology University of Cambridge. The project included XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences) and XXXX XXXXXX (Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge).

30.2 The Committee noted the participant of XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences) in a collaborative project with the UCL funded by the Medical Research Council. Ethical approval would be applied for through the UCL and a partner institution at the University of Ghana Noguchi Memorial Institute.

30.3 The Committee noted ethical approval of a collaborative project (entitled "*Effects of Psychological Distance on Mental Abstraction: A registered replication report of four tests of construal level theory (CLIMR)*") by Coventry University. The project included XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences) and involved collaboration with the University of Gothenburg. The ethical approval confirmation was P109658.

30.4 The Committee noted ethical approval of a collaborative project (entitled “*Development and Validation of the STRAEQ-2*” by Coventry University. The project involved XXXX XXXXXX (Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences) and involved collaboration with the Universite Grenoble Alpes, France. The ethical approval confirmation was P108694.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FACULTY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES (FRECs)

20.31

31.1 The Committee received applications considered and approved by FRECs:

- FES-FREC summary of amendments made on 27 January 2021

31.2 The Committee received minutes of the following FREC meetings:

- BUS-FREC held on 3 February 2021
- FEHHS-FREC held on 17 November 2020 and 2 February 2021

Mary Clare Martin, the FEHHS representative, reported that the Faculty had discovered that a number of its partner organisations had been failing to seek parental/guardian consent for research being conducted with children under the age of 18. She and the Director of Learning & Teaching had been working with these partner organisations to implement University of Greenwich policy in this area. As an interim measure, all parents/guardians of relevant children were being contacted and given the right to withdraw consent if they wished.

As part of ongoing discussions, consideration was being given to staff on the School’s research ethics committees acting as advisors to partner organisations. Any structural changes arising from an agreed approach would be brought back to UREC for endorsement.

The Committee reiterated its previous advice that schools were not able to grant permission for any children under the age of 18 participating in research. It was necessary for parental / guardian consent to be obtained as well as that of the child if they were capable of giving consent.

Action: FEHHS FREC representative

- FES-FREC held on 27 January 2021

The FES FREC representative reported that a student in the Faculty had undertaken a research project without securing ethical approval. The matter had been escalated by the FES FREC to the relevant School’s and Faculty’s senior management and was being dealt with internally. A similar occurrence was reported by the Business Faculty representative. The Chair stated that such infractions were outside the remit of the Faculty research ethics committees and were appropriately a matter for Faculties to deal with as part of their responsibilities for the learning and teaching of students.

20.32

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32.1 Draft Student Consent Form for Simulation and Skills Sessions

The Committee considered a draft consent form for students for use of the simulation and skills equipment within the Human Sciences School in the Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences. The FEHHS FREC representative reported that students using the new equipment were

automatically recorded and the School wished to get students' permission for their data to be stored and used for future research purposes and had created the draft consent form.

The Committee understood that the School needed to get the consent of its students who would be using the equipment but agreed that this was separate from the consent which was needed for the future use of the data for research purposes. There was a concern that, as currently drafted, the form required students to give blanket approval for their data recordings to be used for unspecified research purposes. The Committee noted that the researchers would still need to seek ethical approval from UREC for any research undertaken using the data.

The Committee supported the use of the form in principle but asked the School/Faculty to revisit the wording to ensure that:

- the form was appropriately headed (eg School/Faculty/University)
- the consent for the data provided for use of the equipment and any future use for research was separated out
- more information was provided about the potential use of the data for future research purposes
- an indication of the anonymisation of the data was provided
- a statement confirming students that non-participation would have no detrimental effect on their studies.

The Committee would review the revised form in due course.

Action: FEHHS FREC representative

32.2 Research Ethics and Academic Regulations

The FEHHS FREC representative reported that the Academic Regulations were silent on research ethics relating to taught awards. The representative was referred to Karen Brough, Assistant Director of Student & Academic Services, about possibly amending the Regulations.

Action: FEHHS FREC representative

20.33

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2020-2021

n.b. all meetings commence at 10am

Tuesday, 18th May 2021 (papers required by Tuesday, 4th May 2021) by Microsoft Teams or QA075

Tuesday, 29th June 2021 (papers required by Tuesday, 29th June 2021) by Microsoft Teams or QA075

Trudy Brighton
14 May 2021