

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS SUB-COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT OF 2017/18 AND PLAN OF BUSINESS FOR 2018/19

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The University Research Ethics Sub-Committee (URESC) is a sub-committee of the University Research Committee. The Committee is to meet three times during the 2018/19 session.

2 Business Considered in 2017/18

- 2.1 During the 2016/17 session URESC met on three occasions and concluded the following business:
- 2.1.1 Amended the URESC Application for Ethical Approval form and recording documents.
 - 2.1.2 Agreed to move from faculty RECs to subject based RECs
 - 2.1.3 Reviewed and amended ethics related documentation in light of national and international requirements and guidelines, such as the HEFCE Concordat to Support Research Integrity and the HTA License requirements.
 - 2.1.4 Ensured that the wiki (ethics) page of the Research Office (RO) and the ethics statements provided on the corporate website were adequately maintained for the benefit of University researchers and third parties.
 - 2.1.5 Monitored the effectiveness of Faculty Research Ethics procedures and policies and approved amendments where necessary.
 - 2.1.6 Approved universal template for Faculty and Department Research Ethics procedures and policies
 - 2.1.7 Approved the Minutes of Faculty Research Ethics Committees.
 - 2.1.8 Scrutinized internal and external applications for ethical approval and heard appeals / referrals from the FRECs.
 - 2.1.9 Received key University governance documentation.
 - 2.1.10 Monitored research ethics training.
 - 2.1.11 Provided advice to Faculty Research Ethics Committees where requested.
 - 2.1.12 Provided institutional recommendations relating to ethical deliberation.
 - 2.1.13 Monitored and supported the HTA License application and approved relevant procedures.
 - 2.1.14 Agreed and implemented an online form for the registration of research projects
 - 2.1.15 Agree tenure terms for all URESC members.
 - 2.1.16 Appointed the Biological Safety Officer and PGR representatives to URESC
 - 2.1.17 Agreed to devolve the power to approve ethics applications involving human tissue to the Sport REC
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3 Business for 2018/19

3.1 The substantive business for 2018/19 will focus on:

- 3.1.1 Approving the Minutes of Faculty Research Ethics Committees.
- 3.1.2 Monitoring and reviewing the Research Ethics procedures, policies and deliberations of the FRECs and DRECs.
- 3.1.3 Monitoring the effectiveness of the Application for Ethical Approval form and amend where necessary.
- 3.1.4 Monitoring national and international ethics related debates and ensure University compliance with appropriate standards.
- 3.1.5 Implementing key governance procedures where these have an impact on ethical scrutiny.
- 3.1.6 Receiving further documents with respect to the governance framework.
- 3.1.7 Evaluating the need for, and where appropriate develop, new guidance documents to accompany the FRE.
- 3.1.8 Monitoring the effectiveness of the ethics page and the ethics statements on the corporate website.
- 3.1.9 Scrutinizing applications for ethical approval.
- 3.1.10 Overseeing, but not leading, research ethics training. Provide HTA training for URESC members, including and not limited to the UKRIOs training resources
- 3.1.11 Providing advice to Faculty Research Ethics Committees where requested.
- 3.1.12 Providing institutional recommendations relating to ethical deliberation.
- 3.1.13 Reviewing the Ethical Guidance for Undertaking Research with Children and Young people, Ethical Guidance for undertaking Research with Vulnerable Adults, and Ethical Guidance for Undertaking Research with Edge Hill University Students protocols.
- 3.2.14 Implement the move to subject-based RECs from faculty-based RECs
- 3.2.15 Implement the devolution of approval powers for ethics applications involving human tissue to Sport REC, whilst having oversight of the applications
- 3.2.16 Ensure that the University is meeting its commitments under the Concordat to Support Integrity

Jeremy Brown
Chair
September 2018