

Principal's Strategy Group Meeting 11 January 2013

Amongst the items discussed were:

1. Fixed International Fees

PSG endorsed the proposed approach of fixing the fee for the duration of study for Undergraduate and Post Graduate Taught programmes while building in a margin for inflation of 5.5%.

The group confirmed that as they understand it the inevitable increase in the fees for the first year of the introduction of such a scheme has been acknowledged, and is understood by, the EUSA officers involved in the discussions.

The options for Post Graduate Research programmes should be considered further particularly with regard to the approach of other Russell Group institutions. Fees Strategy Group will take this forward.

The timetable should be such that the new fee regime is introduced for 2014/15.

2. Future MOOC Strategy

Vice Principal Haywood summarised the position with regard to the development of MOOCs both internationally and at Edinburgh.

Following a productive discussion PSG supported the proposed "Option 2" that Edinburgh should expand its offering to a further six top quality innovative MOOCs. Ideally this would be made up of two new MOOCs for each College. Any proposal for the development of a MOOC that did not meet the agreed criteria would be declined and the relevant Head of School would be involved in the discussions.

3. Open Access

Vice Principal Seckl summarised the position that Research Councils UK have adopted following the publication of the Finch Report.

In considering how the University takes forward the RCUK recommendations PSG agreed that the approach that is least onerous for researchers should be adopted as any potential delay in the publication of research papers is undesirable.

The preferred approach is for all RCUK grants to be increased to 101% of the value of the grant with the additional funds to be used to meet the criteria of the Gold Open Access method through the payment of Article Processing Charges. The details will be considered further by the Research Policy Group.

AOB. Interaction with Government

The Principal discussed how best to instil in academic colleagues the need to brief senior staff if they plan to lobby or interact with Ministers particularly in the Scottish Government but also Westminster and Brussels. It is essential that, as a minimum, the Principal has advance notice of any planned contact so that strategic implications can be considered.