Annual Report for Senate – Research Ethics & Governance Committee

Summary of key items discussed by the Research Ethics & Governance Committee 2016-17

- Online ethics review system.
  - The Committee is keen for progress from IS on plans to roll out University wide the efficient and effective School of Psychology online research ethics review system. Successful completion of this project will lead to a reduction in administrative burden and improvements to standardisation, efficiency and quality of review, to provide benefits for the University and staff and student researchers.

- Policy and guidance relating to research ethics and integrity.
  - Ensuring all policies and guidance documents are reviewed and updated as necessary, to incorporate revisions to legislation and policy and to reflect University requirements.

- Overseeing the work of Research Ethics Advisory Groups (REAGs).
  - Sharing best practice to ensure that procedures are efficient and effective and in compliance with all applicable legislation and policies.
  - Resolving problems where necessary and identifying training requirements.
  - Advising on compliance with legislation and policy.

- Discussion of issues in research ethics and integrity faced by other institutions and strategies for mitigating the risk of similar occurrences at Kent, e.g.:
  - Caffeine overdose of sports science students at Northumbria University.

- Information compliance.
  - Ensuring research data is appropriately safeguarded in compliance with data protection legislation.

- Prevent Agenda and implications for research ethics and governance, e.g.:
  - Security-sensitive information.
  - Appropriate oversight of research relating to Prevent areas.

  - Seeking additional members.
  - Establishing areas of need for potential research projects, training programmes and teaching module design.

Key issues for the Research Ethics & Governance Committee for 2017-18

- Ensuring there is some progress with implementation of the online ethics review system University-wide.
- Implementation of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and implications for research data.
- Continuing to identify strategies to contribute to the work to promote a ‘culture of integrity’ within the University.
- The Prevent Agenda and implications for research ethics and governance.
- Ethical implications relating to research data management.
- Potential implications of Brexit on research ethics and integrity.

Research Misconduct

There have been no formal investigations of research misconduct in the 2016/17 academic year.