Update on the Concordat to Support Research Integrity

Key activity in support of the Concordat since February 2014:

1. Task and Finish Group for Other Research
   An implementation and action plan mapped the requirements of the Concordat against University policies and procedures, this recorded University compliance with the Concordat and included a number of potential activities for consideration by a Task and Finish Group. This Group met for the first time on 24th September 2014, and the Terms of Reference were agreed. A comprehensive review of the implementation and action plan was undertaken to ensure integrated input from all stakeholders.

2. Risk Management: Research Governance – criminal, financial and reputational risk
   The Research Governance Team (RGT) provided input to the University Risk Management review in April 2014.
   In the medium to longer term, the RGT continues to engage with leaders in the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project to ensure they have a good understanding of RGT operating procedures with a view to incorporating this activity into future developments for pre- and post-award management. There is ongoing activity to ensure this level of understanding is maintained once the first phase of ERP is completed.

3. Research Integrity Impact Group (external)
   The UoB has been invited to join this Group which is led by Epigeum, a commercial online training provider specialising in research integrity development opportunities. The Group, which includes a number of other Universities, has the potential to develop a long term effective training platform for University-wide research integrity, including providing effective management information on the impact and effectiveness of online training by staff and students, with evidence based benchmarking across the sector.

4. UoB case study submitted to the UUK Concordat Working Group
   UoB was invited to submit a case study to the UUK Concordat Working Group detailing the ways in which UoB has approached the implementation of the Concordat. The case study was reviewed by the PVC team and submitted in June 2014.

5. Research Councils UK (RCUK) Assurance Questions
   RCUK has issued the Concordat questions it will use as part of its University assurance programme. These questions will be asked by RCUK on behalf of the funders who support the Concordat and will be shared as appropriate. UoB had responded to a previous version of these questions in early 2013 as part of the RCUK pilot exercise. The RGT is developing a draft response for use during the next RCUK Assurance visit.

6. UK Research Integrity Office Mapping Tool
   The UK Research Integrity Office has provided its subscribers with a comprehensive mapping tool highlighting the need for identifying specific evidence in relation to compliance with the Concordat. The RGT and a Visiting Fellow in Research Integrity from Kyoto University have completed a review using the mapping tool.