

## **U21 Research Collaboration Group briefing for Presidential Symposium**

**University of Glasgow, May 2014**

### **Background**

The Research Collaboration Group (RCG) was an initiative that arose from the 2012 Research Leaders (RL) meeting at Lund University. The initial purpose of the RCG was to share knowledge on funding streams that are available for international collaboration and also provide the opportunity to facilitate researcher mobility and collaboration by jointly applying to funding bodies.

The Group held their first workshop at the University College Dublin in August 2013. This workshop attracted 9 people from 8 member institutions.

The current chair of the Group is David Crowley from the University of Nottingham.

### **2014 RCG workshop - *Funding, Facilitating & Fostering Research***

The 2014 RCG workshop was hosted by the University of Maryland, College Park on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The theme for the workshop was Funding, Facilitating & Fostering Research.

The program was developed to include a full day meeting with various sessions including a panel presentation from US Federal Agencies (Office of Science and Technology Policy – The White House, Department of State, Office of Naval Research, National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health), an international roundtable discussion about funding opportunities and parameters for U21 joint collaborations, case study presentations from various institutions on international collaboration and a presentation on US funding opportunities. The second day included two site visits, the first to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the second to National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) Goddard.

There were 30 delegates who attended from 18 member institutions. The date of the 2014 RCG workshop was deliberately chosen to align with the 2014 International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) conference that was held in Washington DC on 10-13<sup>th</sup> April.

The convenor of the 2014 RCG was Denise Clark from the University of Maryland, College Park. Denise was assisted by Warwick Dawson and Julie Ward from the University of New South Wales.

### **Discussion points arising from RCG**

- **Future outputs of the RCG**
  - The RCG discussed one output of the group would be facilitating a U21 grant/bid/proposal each year. The proposal would need to have at least 3 member institutions involved for this to be recognized as a U21 directed application. It was

noted that a Horizon 2020 application is currently under development being led by David Crowley.

- The group proposes to develop standard metrics and associated measurements of success/accomplishments/outputs.
- Understanding the administrative compliance related regulations that are associated with various funding sources, the group is discussing ways to reduce the administrative burden associated with the furtherance of research collaborations by implementing an exchange program that targets on site pre reviews and development of executable templates to enhance the potential partnerships within U21.
- The RCG discussed the need for a shared folder/drive for members to establish an international funding opportunity database and a template for US agreements with terms and conditions that are non-negotiable. The second phase would be to add other country templates also listing non-negotiable terms and conditions and suggested resolutions for that countries primary funding sources.
- The RCG discussed the option of a long term goal to develop an international administrative funding framework for use by U21 members. A post-workshop template will be completed by U21 member institutions attending the 2014 RCG workshop. This will capture generalised data about research strengths, research funding and administration that will be pulled together to be used as a resource by U21 member institutions when looking to partner together on a funding opportunity.

- **Meetings and future Group Interactions**

The group agreed to follow the U21 DDoGS model of quarterly teleconferences plus an annual meeting to continue the momentum of the group.

The Chair of the group is currently taking a leave of absence from the University of Nottingham and the RCG is seeking guidance from Research Leaders and the Presidents group for appointing a co-chair or replacement in the Chair's absence. '

It was noted that this year's RCG workshop was facilitated with little input and assistance from U21 administrative staff. For future meetings the group will require assistance from U21 similar to the support that is provided to DDoGS and Research Leaders.

- **Location of the next RCG workshop**

It was agreed at the Research Leaders meeting in Chile that the RCG annual workshop should be tied with a National or International Research Management meeting to maximize attendance from member institutions.

**2015** - Align before or after with either the Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA) in June, location tba or the European Association of Research Managers & Administrators (EARMA) to be held in Leiden in July.

*U21 Host – The University of Nottingham nominated itself to host the next RCG*

**2016** - Align before or after with the International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) to be held in Melbourne, Australia on 11-15 September.

*U21 Host Options: University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland, University of Auckland*

### **Recommendation**

For the Presidents to provide leadership on the discussion points for the Research Collaboration Group.

Denise Clark  
Associate Vice President for Research Administration  
University of Maryland, College Park

Warwick Dawson  
Director, Research Partnerships  
UNSW Australia

Julie Ward  
Research Coordinator  
UNSW Australia