MINUTES OF BIOSCIENCE SKILLS AND CAREERS STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL

VENUE: AMBA HOTEL MARBLE ARCH

DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2016

PRESENT

Dr Ilaria Bellantuono, University of Sheffield (Chair)
Ms Samantha Aspinall, University of Leeds
Dr Liz Elvidge, Imperial College London
Dr Nick Goldman, EMBL-EBI
Professor Mandy MacLean, University of Glasgow
Professor Selwayan Saini, Inside Biometrics

BBSRC Post-docs

Dr Sian Deller, Syngenta
Dr Prema Vohra, University of Edinburgh

BBSRC Office

Dr James Donald
Dr Rob Hardwick
Dr David McAllister
Dr Karen Lewis
Ms Nicola Woolford

APOLOGIES

1. Apologies were received from Professor Jeremy Roberts and Mr Arran Frood.

MAIN BUSINESS

Item 1: Standing Items

i) Minutes of Meeting on 24 May 2016 (BSC06/16)

2. The panel agreed the minutes of the last meeting with one amendment to state that Dr Elvidge has not already retired from the Panel but that this was her last meeting.

ii) Chair’s Update on Behalf of BSC (Oral)

The Chair

• Mid Term Review of David Phillips Fellows

iii) Opportunities, suggestions and proposals (Oral)

3. The Panel was given the chance to raise concerns or items but nothing was suggested.
Item 2: Training Partnership Update (BSC08/16)


5. The Panel discussed how best to capture supervision information through the Leavers Survey and how to monitor the ethnicity information of applicants.

6. A discussion took place regarding the differences in the way numbers are reported on the Annual Reports and the Panel requested that BBSRC look at the wording so that a true costings and numbers can be attained.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to consider how best to capture supervision information.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to monitor the ethnicity information of applicants.

Item 3: Training Partnership Update – Mid Term Reviews (BSC09/16)

7. Robert Hardwick led this discussion and the Panel was invited to discuss the proposed DTP Mid-term Review and recommend any changes to the performance indicators and criteria.

8. The main discussion centred around what constitutes a high quality supervisor and it was felt that Criterion 2 needed revising to be more ‘SMART’. An additional key performance indicator measuring how the supervisor provides career advice to the student and skills development should be included. The Panel considered that student views do not shine through and this needs to be included.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to review Criterion 2 on Supervisor Training

Item 4: MTP/STARS/ATP and PIPS Update (BSC10/16)

9. Nicola Woolford presented the findings of BBSRC’s MTP and STARS funding portfolio along with an update on the impact of the BBSRC Professional Internships for PhD students (PIPS) on student development and career intentions.

10. The Panel discussed the importance of having pump-prime funding available through MTP/STARS however going forward it may be advisable to offer larger sums of funding to support sustainable roll-out of the programmes.

11. The Panel had a discussion around the results of the PIPS impact and commented that it would be beneficial to know if students were carrying out placements that were similar to their research projects and also if the DTPs were carrying out their own evaluations of PIPS.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to carry out Impact case studies for MTP/STARS.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to consider on how best to report back to the DTPs on PIPS.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to monitor if the DTPs are carrying out their own evaluation of PIPS.
Item 5: Postdoc Group – Update and Future (BSC11/16)

12. The panel noted the minutes of the last postdoc meeting and the activities to date, and discussed the proposed mechanism for recruiting new postdoctoral research members.

13. The Panel considered whether the balance of the group was right and recommended this should consist of 4 academic and 4 non-academic, whether this be industry or other government organisations, to make it more equal.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to formalise the group membership template, terms of reference and recruitment strategy.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to finalise action plan for BBSRC Vision for Postdoctoral Researchers.

Item 6: Change Programme and UKRI Updates (Oral)

14. Karen Lewis and David McAllister presented an update on the current evolving situation with the future of skills within the Research Councils including the recent White Paper on UKRI.

15. The group then took part in a structured brainstorm to develop ideas for skills within the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) to ensure we capture the opportunity enabling us to deliver highly skilled people to build and sustain the capability of the UK workforce. Ideas discussed included:

- National academies/central unit
- Funding that helps attract people
- Shadowing scheme

Item 7: Communications and Engagement Update (Oral)

16. Due to Arran Frood (BBSRC Communications and Engagement Team) being unable to attend the meeting due to ill health, this item was postponed.

Item 8: Any Other Business

17. The meeting wrapped with round-table summary of the key ideas to emerge from the meeting. These included the Training Partnership Forum on 14/15th March 2017; the agenda to be sent out for the Technical Staff Workshop in March 2017; and RCUK has the agreement to review the Concordat and they will be seeking members for the Panel.

18. The Chair thanked the panel for their time and contributions to the meeting, and said farewell to departing members Liz Elvidge and Mandy McLean. (Jerry Roberts is also departing the panel but was not in attendance.)

Close
## AGENDA

### No.  | Item                                                                 | BBSRC Lead                  | Format         | Time |
-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------|
1      | *Coffee on arrival*                                                   |                            |                | 10:00|
2      | *Chair’s Brief (Chair and Office)*                                    |                            |                | 10:30|
3      | **Standing Items**                                                    |                            |                |      |
4      |   i. Welcome & Introduction to BBSRC SAP                              | Chair                      | Oral BSC06/16  |      |
5      |   ii. Minutes of Meeting on 24 May 2016                               |                            | Oral BSC07/16  |      |
6      |   iii. Chair’s update                                                 |                            | Oral          |      |
7      |   iv. Opportunities, suggestions and proposals                         |                            |                |      |
8      |   v. Mid Term Review of David Phillips Fellow (to note)                |                            |                |      |
9      | **Items for Discussion:**                                             |                            |                |      |
10     | 2 Train Partnership Update                                            | Robert Hardwick            | BSC08/16       | 11:15|
11     |   • DTP Annual Reports                                                |                            |                |      |
12     |   • Leavers Survey                                                    |                            |                |      |
13     |   • Outcomes of CTP Competition                                        |                            |                |      |
14     | 3 Train Partnership Update                                            | Robert Hardwick            | BSC09/16       | 12:00|
15     |   Mid Term Reviews                                                    |                            |                |      |
16     | **Lunch**                                                             |                            |                | 12:45|
17     | 4 MTP/STARS/ATP and PIPS Update                                       | Nikki Woolford             | BSC10/16       | 13:30|
18     | 5 Postdoc Group – update and future                                   | James Donald               | BSC11/16       | 14:15|
19     |   • Minutes of Meeting from September 2016 (to note)                   |                            | BSC12/16       |      |
20     | 6 Change Programme & UKRI Updates                                     | Karen Lewis & David McAllister | Oral          | 15:00|
21     | 7 Communication & Engagement Update                                   | Arran Frood                | Oral           | 15:30|
22     | 8 AOB                                                                  |                            |                | 16:00|
23     | **Close**                                                             |                            |                | 16:15|