

Summary of the University Committee for Research and Innovation meeting (UCRI) held on 24 May 2022

Please see below a brief summary of the main topics of discussion at the recent meeting of UCRI:

Main topics of interest:

At this meeting we:

- Heard from Pier Luigi Vidale about the draft ECMWF joint programme of priorities. The three key priority areas of research identified by ECMWF/UoR being:
 1. Extended Weather Prediction with a time horizon of 1 month
 2. Global Weather and Climate Simulation at 1 km
 3. Earth System observation – simulation fusion.

We welcomed the three “grand challenges” and agreed that they are suitably ambitious and forward looking. We are looking forward to receiving a further update from Pier Luigi in the Autumn Term.

- Considered the RETF Strategic Fund proposal to offer 50% co-funding for up to two researchers over up to four years as an institutional contribution to UoR's bid to be part of the Met Office Academic Partnership. After discussion we gave our support in principle to support the RETF pump priming request.
- Reviewed the proposed management structure and governance for the AHRC funded IAA and agreed RETF funding for the linked Impact Development Officer role.
- Reflected on the UoR response to UKRI consultation on a new deal for Postgraduate Research Students.

In other news we:

- Heard about the first meeting of the Agri-Food Advisory panel as part of the Agri-Food scoping exercise.
- Noted that the Engagement and Impact Awards shortlist has been announced.
- Reported the official announcement of the collaboration between University of Reading and the Natural History Museum.
- Highlighted the recent statement by the VC around academic freedom.
- Noted approval of the EIT Food 2022 Business Plan.
- Noted that the Wilkie Calvert Co-Supported PhD Studentships Scheme has awarded 5 scholarships and 15 regional bursaries, including 1 to RBH.
- Heard about the progress of work with the Research Culture focus groups.