

Summary of the University Committee for Research and Innovation meeting (UCRI) held on 12 July 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 reviewed the established RETF funding for Open Access, with funds for journals as well as Open Access monographs. This fund allows for authors who do not have UKRI funding (there is a separate UKRI block grant) to publish research as Gold Open Access. Following a discussion we agreed that there was a short term need to identify ways to reduce costs and in the longer term work needs to be done within the Planning and Strategy Board to accommodate open access costs within the library budget.
- The Research Deans summarised recent annual monitoring discussions with each of the IDRC directors and we reviewed the funding and budgets for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.
- We considered a paper requesting RETF to bridge a funding risk from UK non-participation in Copernicus. We noted the risk posed to UoR's Earth Observation capability by uncertainty over the UK Government position on signing up to the EU Copernicus programme and agreed to underwrite some key staff costs for the period January 2023 to July 2024.
- We gave approval to an RETF strategic fund request for a Community Led Research (British Science Association) project which would act as a pilot to potentially unlock a RED Funded project of a significantly larger scale.