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## TO NOTE

**Audit Committee**  
17 September 2020

**Agenda Item X**  
\*Private and Confidential

### **ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20**

**Report by the Deputy Director of Research  
Management and Administration**

#### **1. Executive Summary and Recommendation**

- 1.1 The report provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues. It also provides assurances that UAL's Codes, procedures and practices for research integrity continue to be appropriate to the needs of the University.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to note the report.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Concordat to support Research Integrity Commitment #5:  
*We are committed to working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.*
- 2.2 *Employers of researchers also need to be confident that the procedures and practices they have in place are robust. Given the changing nature of concerns relating to research integrity and the emergence of new types of research, it is important that employers periodically review their processes to ensure that they remain 'fit for purpose'.*

#### **3. Research staff**

- 3.1 No formal allegations of research misconduct were made against UAL staff in 2019/20.
- 3.2 The programme of research training for UAL Early Career Researchers (ECRs) included staff development on Research Governance and Integrity. Sessions on Research Governance and Integrity were also delivered as part of the 'Research as Academic Practice' unit of UAL's MA Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication course for academic staff.

## **4 Research Degree students**

4.1 274 students were enrolled on the research degree programme in 2019/20. No students were withdrawn due to lack of progress. Less than 2% of students withdrew for other reasons. This was lower than the 6% withdrawal rate in 2018/19.

4.2 Research degree students continued to be trained in research integrity issues and in completing applications for research ethics approval as part of the Research Network University of the Arts London (RNUAL) training programme.

4.3 One Appeal and one complaint were received from PGR students in 2019/20

A student from LCF submitted a 1st stage appeal against the decision to discontinue their studies. The appeal was upheld.

Supervisory reports are the means through which concerns can be expressed both on behalf of the supervisory team and to the monitoring committees that oversee research degrees. It is also a mechanism for the student to understand their progress and raise concerns about performance. The practice, as laid out in the handbook, was not followed in this instance.

A student from LCF submitted a 1st stage complaint stating that when the Director of Studies left UAL unexpectedly it had taken some time to restore full supervision and this had disrupted studies. The complaint was not upheld.

The investigation into this complaint commenced at the beginning of the Covid Closure and due to the commitments of the investigator the outcome was delayed. In recognition of this delay and the disruption to the student 2 months of fees were reimbursed.

4.4 One allegation of research misconduct was received against a PGR student which met the definition of plagiarism. As set out in the UAL Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Research Misconduct, an initial investigation was conducted to determine if there was *prima facie* evidence of misconduct. The outcome of the initial investigation was that the allegation should not proceed to the formal investigation stage.

4.5 The University's procedure for student appeals and complaints is fit for purpose.

## **5 Research Integrity Codes, Policies and Procedures**

5.1 Felicity Colman, Associate Dean for Research (ADR) at LCF was confirmed as the Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee by University Research Committee (URC).

5.3 The University's Codes, procedures and practices for research integrity are fit for purpose.

- UAL Code of Practice on Research Ethics
- UAL Code of Good Conduct in Research
- UAL Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research