

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>WUN Policy Working Group</b>		
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 30 January 2018		
<b>Location</b>	Teleconference		
<b>Participants</b>	Prof John Hearn, WUN Secretariat – JH Prof Deborah Smith, University of York - DS Prof Fanny Cheung, Chinese University of Hong Kong – FC Prof Xu Qinhu, Renmin University of China – XQH Mr Gavin Costigan, University of Southampton – GC A-Prof Grace Liu, WUN Secretariat – GL		
<b>Apologies</b>	Keith Johnstone (University of Southampton)		
<b>Prepared by</b>	Grace Liu	<b>Date</b>	31 January 2018

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	<b>Welcome and introduction</b>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JH welcomed all the participants.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Confirmation of minutes and matters arising</b>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action item 3 – GL found a relevant paper from CUHK on the <a href="#">Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies</a> and its Global China Research Program, which almost included in the FC's introduction notes in Item 3.</li> <li>Action item 3 – JC has circulated a paper summarising the current status of the UK policy network development.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Update on the development of the proposed policy group</b>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JH stated this policy group should be able to move forward at Renmin conference in March. We aim to have a brief meeting at end of the conference with 20 WUN delegates in order to pool the outcomes of Renmin conference and plan the next steps for next year for the policy research group. That plan can then be taken to the WUN AGM in Perth. The missing factors are a sense of priorities of where we should work and that should come out of Renmin meeting. A steering group should then be formed based on this working group today. This would place us in line with WUN China Group and Africa Group. These are the issues for next month leading to the Renmin conference and up to the AGM.</li> <li>JH pointed out a number of issues on priorities has been discussed and it was decided that the four main pillars of WUN would be the principal policy areas and then include some of the overriding policy areas such as Belt and Road, SDGs and so forth as they affect WUN's main four areas.</li> </ul>
4	<b>RUC-WUN Think Tank Summit: "The China Belt and Road Green Development", Beijing, 23-24 March</b>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>XQH reported on two points: a) Renmin proposed the idea of the policy group in the New York meeting and believes it would add to WUN's research results making it more influential in the world. b) Renmin is currently preparing for the conference next month with other ministries of China. Renmin has invited distinguished guests to join the conference including several ministers and some countries former presidents.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH commented that when Renmin University proposed this group there was immediately a lot of interest across WUN; in New York it was agreed to form the working group; however, WUN also wants to be an equal partnership across the world so that university partners are equal in what they bring to the group; the key questions of policy are yet to be defined in the four main areas of WUN. With regard to the Renmin conference, it was positive news that we were able to attract notables, and we look forward to seeing the program of the meeting which should be sent around to attendees in the next week or so.</li> <li>• XQH advised they are still waiting for confirmation from some invitees. They will provide the agenda by early of next week. A draft of the complete program for participants should be available by the end of next week.</li> <li>• JH pointed out that a letter should be sent to all those who said they would be attending, stating that the conference is going ahead, and that they should make their preparations, and the program will be circulated soon.</li> <li>• DS asked how many WUN partner institutions will participate in this conference?</li> <li>• GL advised about 21 delegates from 9 WUN member universities will attend. The WUN nomination list will be circulated with the meeting minutes.</li> <li>• FC pointed out the conference program needs to indicate the roles of the participants so that they can prepare accordingly.</li> <li>• XQH clarified these roles will be advised. She also requested they would require some recommendations and guidance from WUN on how to formally run this conference, as it is the first time Renmin has held such an interdisciplinary international conference.</li> <li>• FC asked if more structure of the conference could be given, such as if someone will be moderating each panel, so that they could guide the subsequent input or discussion on the topics.</li> <li>• XQH clarified there are two main themes for each sub-forum. Every panel will be moderated by a Dean from the relevant schools of Renmin University who will give an introduction to the keynote speakers. Two or three keynote speakers will be prepared for each panel which will then be followed by a discussion. Every sub-forum will allow participants to move freely between them. The main discussion points will be advised beforehand for every panel.</li> <li>• JH stated once the draft program is received, people can best know how to prepare. We will post it to the WUN website.</li> <li>• JH advised on two points: a) the chair of WUN Professor Martin Paul will not be able to attend, but may send a two-minute short commentary (video) to put in an appropriate part of the conference; b) A WUN Presidents Round Table at the end had previously been suggested to focus on where the main gaps might exist and questions arising from the conference; however, the presidents are not sure of their availability. We will discuss with XQH shortly on how another session might be arranged instead.</li> <li>• JH pointed out a number of WUN participants have asked if it is possible to have a meeting towards the end of the day so that there is an opportunity to see how we can translate the practical outcomes of the conference to the meetings in Perth (the policy group planning meeting and the Presidents Forum). We would seek a half hour meeting so that WUN colleagues can meet with Renmin colleagues with a view to practical steps ahead.</li> <li>• XQH advised with regard to the Presidents Round Table, Professor Liu Wei, President of Renmin University, would like to send out a personal invitation letter to the Presidents of WUN from other universities to attend this summit.</li> </ul>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• XQH to provide a program for the Renmin conference by the end of next week (9<sup>th</sup> February) to be circulated to the participants.</li> <li>• GL to circulate the WUN nomination list with the meeting minutes.</li> </ul>

5	<p><b>The next step – implementation to form and launch the WUN International Policy Research Group</b></p>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FC pointed out that there is an unveiling ceremony for the WUN research group on the summit outline, therefore we need to have the WUN delegates meeting before that.</li> <li>• JH stated this is an important concept in international policy development. It is important to bring everyone along at each step. We agree that in some form there can be a two-phased launch of this group, partly at the Renmin meeting and partly at the Perth meeting.</li> <li>• XQH advised Renmin University will assist in this initiative and would like to facilitate and supply service for it.</li> <li>• XQH advised that Renmin would like to use the news channels to promote this event and extend the knowledge of WUN in China and to the world. Renmin has a very good relationship with Belt and Road news channels.</li> <li>• JH pointed out the board is very keen to achieve a higher profile with media and communications. We should work with Renmin as to how this could be best achieved. Perhaps some attendees could be interviewed by the media. There could be a short meeting conference with the launch and use that in a way to promote the main outcomes of the meeting. At the meeting towards the end with WUN and Renmin colleagues we can speak then how best to have a steering group and how best to manage the network. There would be a need to have a steering group and two or three support staff around it forming a coordinated secretariat support. This is how it is organised in other WUN groups. Renmin suggested they would like to be part of that.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Research focus and future direction of the policy group</b></p>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH suggested the need to focus on what are the main questions in the four main areas; what are the objectives of each of those in policy terms and policy influence, and who are the targets, and how can we build communications with those targets? We already have knowledge partnerships with 15 international agencies and governments who develop those policies, including the UN, World Bank and WHO. We should work out how we can effectively join in and influence.</li> <li>• JH asked GC to comment on the policy network development across the UK.</li> <li>• GC stated in the UK a number of universities developed small teams where people are working to help academics who are in a policy related research area to engage with politicians and civil servants in UK government. These groups have been formed very informally with 6 or 8 universities actively participating with a few others watching to see how this would develop, which has led to engagement meetings between the group and different government departments to discuss different issues. For example, four of the universities brought academic researchers to the department of environment to meet with policy makers to discuss how to regulate environmental protection in the UK. Policy questions are going to be specifically targeted, bringing their expertise to help the government answer their questions. It was found that the UK government would like more to engage with a group of universities rather than with just one university, so that network is forming.</li> <li>• JH asked if GC could conduct more research on these developments before we meet in Renmin on how it is likely to develop. JH also asked if GC would be able to comment on this formal policy advisory group to the UK government, and what is the effective advantage of this new group when put in the framework of the more formal advisory groups.</li> <li>• GC stated from the government point of view they have established structures which have enabled them to seek and use evidence and expertise; from the side of being ready to give expertise, some of the groups (eg. Russell group) the</li> </ul>

	<p>primary focus is to give evidence and expertise on higher education. We do not look at education from a business perspective, but provide advice on areas such as environment, transport or health care research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH suggested it would be very good for the Renmin meeting if GC could develop those points and perhaps bring some data.</li> <li>• DS suggested when this proposed group has started to develop its mode of working, we might have terms of reference for this group moving forward.</li> <li>• JH advised about 12 universities so far have stated they want to be part of this. We need a clearer set of terms of reference, clearer set of priorities, and the targets for evidence towards policies, be it the SDGs or Belt &amp; Road and so forth, will unfold and focus in the Renmin meeting and in the Perth meetings.</li> </ul>
7, 8	<b>Engagement with the Strategic Workshops and Presidents Forum at WUN AGM 2018; WUN Policy Group, GCG and GAG working dinner at WUN AGM Perth, 21 May 2018</b>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH pointed out the WUN China Group, Africa Group and Policy Group decided not to have workshops in Perth, but to participate in the WUN four main workshop areas. However, at the end of that there will be a planning dinner which will focus very much on what DS has mentioned. More information will be posted to the website shortly.</li> <li>• JH asked attendees to propose any agenda items they want to be discussed at that meeting. The minutes from the last meeting and this one will be taken as background and there will also be a lot of input from the Renmin meeting. We need to communicate with the whole network as we develop this structure and we need to keep it fairly simple and effective, otherwise it risks becoming a bureaucracy.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Items to report to AAG at the WUN AGM 2018 in Perth</b>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH asked attendees to provide any agenda items they would like to raise with the AAG in Perth. FC and JH can discuss that alongside colleagues, and report to the AAG. FC suggested to make an outline of this.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Any other business</b>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GL will follow up with Renmin and XQH on the development of the program of the summit. Once it is ready, GL will post it to the WUN website and circulate it to the group and all the participants.</li> </ul>
11	<b>Date and time of next teleconference</b>
Notes	To be confirmed