**EARC Technicians’ Network Steering Group**

**Terms of Reference**

**Background**

The Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Arc) brings together three interdisciplinary universities on the eastern seaboard of England: the University of East Anglia, the University of Essex, and the University of Kent.

All three EARC universities recognise the importance of Technicians and Technical Staff across all areas and the vital part they play in delivering the very best student experience, internationally recognised research and innovation, and support for the community.

Through the national Technician Commitment programme, they have pledged to support the visibility, recognition, career development, sustainability and impact of all technicians. The aim of the network is to build on this commitment and create a supportive cross-institutional community by technicians for technicians.

**Purpose of the group**

Comprising of technicians from the three EARC universities, the Eastern Arc Technicians’ Network Steering Group will oversee the implementation of the Technicians’ Network. It will report on progress to the Eastern Arc Steering Committee on a termly basis, and to the Board annually.

**Functions of the group**

* To develop strong and robust avenues of communication within each university to ensure that all technicians have the opportunity to be involved in the network;
* Using the Technician Committee as a framework and the IMPACT initiative as a guide, to consult with technicians as to the challenges they face and the opportunities open to them;
* Building on this, to create a programme of activities and informal groups that will address the challenges and utilise the opportunities they have;
* To provide guidance on the delivery of these activities and monitor progress against targets and objectives;
* To act as ambassadors for embedding the Technician Commitment across each of the universities departments and realm of wider influence;
* To ensure that technicians are fully incorporated into strategic decision-making at each university.

**Meetings**

Meetings will be held 3 monthly and be co-chaired by a technical representative from each of the universities. Meetings will have actions recorded and an action list produced for all the members following each meeting.

**Membership:**

**University of Essex**

Christopher Spice – Technical Manager (School of Sport, rehabilitation and Exercise Science) – **Co-Chair**

Jenna Hopkins – Project Manager

**University of East Anglia**

Matthew Bennett – Laboratory Coordinator (Teaching) **– Co-Chair**

Iv Bacic – Head of Faculty Technical Resources

**University of Kent**

Joanna Scamp – Technical Manager (Technician Commitment) **– Co-Chair**

Dr Daniel Knox – Head of Embedded IT & Technical Services

**University of Sussex**

Kurtis Mengham – Technical Supervisor (Medical School) **– Co-Chair**

Dr Robert Fowler – Associate Director of Technical Operations

**Eastern Arc**

Phil Ward – Director of Eastern Arc

**Secretary**

TBC

**Reporting structure**

The EARC Technicians’ Network Steering Group will provide a formal report to the Eastern Arc Board annually and informally to the Steering Group Committee termly.