

RAE Summary Report UOA 26&31

The Panel reviewed submissions from 51 Universities – 48 in General Engineering and 3 in Mining & Mining Engineering. The approach adopted by the Panel followed the process set out in the Criteria & Working Methods and the conclusions reached by the panel were unanimous.

Some general observations can be made about the content of submissions:

- The submissions included departments which had a clear ‘General Engineering’ structure with balance and integration across the various engineering areas, and others which were a collection of rather independent groupings with limited interaction.
- Even in well integrated submissions there appeared to be more opportunities for multi-disciplinary work than the outputs suggested were being exploited.
- Some submissions provided excellent expositions of strategic aims and set out clear approaches to meeting them. There were, however, many examples of rather sketchy forward plans with very limited strategic context or credible delivery proposals.
- The spectrum of outputs returned was heavily biased towards publications in conferences and journals and did not reflect the broad range of alternatives which the panel had declared as acceptable. The panel was favourably impressed by some alternative outputs including patents and welcomed engagement with industry.
- The panel read significantly more of the outputs than proposed in the Criteria and found this helpful.

M J Gregory
Panel Chair

Manufacturing & Management Division
Department of Engineering
Mill Lane
Cambridge CB2 1RX

Telephone: +44 (0)1223 338195
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 766142
E-mail: mjg@eng.cam.ac.uk
<http://www-mmd.eng.cam.ac.uk/>