



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## The Senate, 2 December 2009

### Report of the Vice-Chancellor

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of key background information on recent developments, and is based on the Vice-Chancellor's report to Council on 23 November 2009.

The Vice-Chancellor will introduce the report at the meeting and will provide members of the Senate with the opportunity to raise questions on any aspect of the report.

#### 1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

##### 1.1 Higher Education Framework: 'Higher Ambitions'

Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, published the long awaited higher education strategy document, *Higher Ambitions – the future of universities in a knowledge economy*, on 3 November 2009. The framework outlines a ten-year plan for universities and preceded the announcement of an independent review of higher education funding and student finance that will report after the general election.

*Higher Ambitions* includes the following points:

- In an era of public spending cuts, funding for higher education will be applied more strategically to achieve public policy goals, with new priorities funded via redistribution of funds and leverage of private sector investment, not new money. Achieving value for money will be even more important. Universities are urged to control costs, including pay.
- A vision of a wider range of study opportunities – part-time, work-based, foundation degrees and studying at home – to a greater range of people. Priority will go to new routes into HE, especially for older people; and to meet higher level skills needs of the economy.
- As public funding becomes scarcer, there will be a greater element of competition between universities for funding, including channelling teaching funds towards STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and other subjects meeting strategic skills needs. Funds for this will be diverted from courses that fail to meet 'high standards of quality or outcome'.
- Universities to focus on their strengths, withdraw from areas where they cannot achieve excellence, and diversify income streams.
- Research funding will be more concentrated in future 'where needed to secure critical mass and impact' (likely to be in research-led universities), while newer universities may be encouraged to focus more on training and working with local

communities. Collaboration between universities on world class research, especially in high cost science, will be encouraged.

- Universities to set out more clearly the nature and quality of their courses and teaching, enabling students to act as more informed 'consumers'. A standard set of information about each programme will include drop-out rates, students' future earnings, their study responsibilities, and contact hours with academic staff. This is intended to drive universities to improve what they offer students.
- All universities to publish statements on how they promote students' employability.
- Employers to be more engaged in the funding and design of programmes, sponsorship of students, and work placements.
- A new inquiry, conducted by the head of the Office for Fair Access, Sir Martin Harris, into what more can be done to improve social diversity at the most highly selective institutions (to report by spring 2010).
- All universities will be strongly encouraged to use contextual data about students' backgrounds to spot potential in applicants.
- Government to support the Task Force, led by Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, to help UK HE remain a world leader in online learning.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/mandelson-outlines-future-of-higher-education>

## **1.2 Review of tuition fees**

Ahead of the Government's announcement on 9 November of an independent review of HE funding and student finance, various stakeholders contributed to the debate.

- The National Union of Students, which had previously opposed paying for university in any way, has suggested replacing fees with a graduate tax (10 June 2009).  
<http://www.nus.org.uk/Campaigns/Funding-Our-Future-/Funding-Blueprint-launch/>
- Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, David Willetts, has made it clear that a Conservative government would expect specific returns in terms of quality and student experience in return for higher fees. Willetts, speaking in October, also suggested that the Conservatives would reform funding to reward universities that focus on teaching as well as research; and could encourage the development of a private sector. Willetts has indicated that instead of 'artificial targets' (50% participation) the Conservatives want better informed choices by prospective students, including better information about alternatives to going to university, such as further education, or vocational training via apprenticeships.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/oct/09/universities-let-students-down-willetts>

## **1.3 Standards and Quality of UK Higher Education**

The former Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills (IUSS) Select Committee published a critical report in early August 2009. The report called into question the standard of higher education in the UK and the value for money offered to students, and made a range of recommendations, including:

- consistent degree standards required across all universities;
- independent standards watchdog needed;
- accreditation checks every 10 years;
- better protection for whistleblowers;
- national bursary system;

- more support for mature and part-time students.

The Government rejected much of the report, citing high student and employer satisfaction, and said: “We believe that the picture of our higher education system which emerged...was far less positive than is in fact the case”.

A separate study by HEFCE into the perceived threats to quality and standards reported in October. Its overall conclusion was that there is no systemic failure in quality and standards in English higher education. It did, however, identify several areas of concern which need to be addressed, including more accessible public information about quality and standards, and about the wider student experience; and a review of the external examiner system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmdius/170/170i.pdf>

[http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2009/09\\_40/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2009/09_40/)

#### 1.4 ‘Unleashing Aspiration’: report on fair access to the professions

Alan Milburn MP concluded in his report in July 2009 that elitism in the professions and a lack of focus on careers in schools mean that bright young people from middle class as well as lower income backgrounds are being shut out from professional jobs. Among the recommendations were:

- universities to offer modular degrees and part time students to get loans;
- fee-free higher education for students staying at home and studying at their local university, especially mature people with families;
- supporting all universities to take into account the educational and social context of pupils' achievement in their admissions processes;
- new partnerships between universities and local schools and professions.
- ‘Apprenticeship Scholarships’ to university to fully fund talented apprentices to progress to university.

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work\\_areas/accessprofessions.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/accessprofessions.aspx)

#### 1.5 OECD Annual ‘Education at a Glance’ Report

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's annual report (published September 2009, based on data from 2007) shows that:

- in the past seven years UK graduation rates have stalled at 39% and been overtaken by 11 other countries, including Poland and the Slovak Republic;
- the UK has a higher rate of young people who drop out of education, employment or training than most other countries in the OECD, apart from Italy, Mexico and Turkey;
- the UK spends 5.5% of its GDP on education – above average for schools but below average for universities (1.3% of UK GDP);
- some 30% of people who start in higher education fail to complete their course – which the OECD says is because of low completion rates for vocational courses rather than traditional degrees;
- only 2.2% of UK graduates between the ages of 25 and 64 were unemployed in 2007-seventh in the OECD;
- on average across the OECD men with degrees can expect to earn a lifetime premium of £112,914 compared with £81,346 for women;
- people who have a degree are more likely to have a job, earn more and enjoy better health.

The OECD has suggested that now is the time for the UK to invest in higher education, expanding HE places as a way out of recession and unemployment.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/48/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_37455\\_43626864\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/48/0,3343,en_2649_37455_43626864_1_1_1_1,00.html)

## 1.6 CBI Higher Education Task Force report

The CBI's report (September 2009) noted that the UK's HE sector is one of the most successful in the world, and acknowledges that business needs excellent universities to produce the graduates, postgraduates, research and innovation that are required to drive economic growth and prosperity. The report argued that:

- the government's target for 50 per cent of 18-30 year-olds to participate in HE should be dropped for the time being;
- tuition fee loans should be provided at the government's cost of borrowing;
- maintenance grants should be focused on those most in need, reversing the government's recent changes and returning support to 2006-07 income thresholds;
- an increase in fees appears inevitable; the choice is between finding new money to put into the system or seeing student numbers decline.

The report says that universities should focus on their strengths, and become more specialised, but also more productive, by sharing more resources. They should increase the proportion of science and maths graduates, who are highly valued by employers.

The CBI says that business should also make a sustained effort in supporting higher education, including more companies helping "design and pay for courses for the benefit of the current and future workforce".

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/ndbs/press.nsf/0363c1f07c6ca12a8025671c00381cc7/927e7f81bc80e047802576330036c637?OpenDocument>

## 2. ACADEMIC STRATEGY

### 2.1 Student numbers

- The current predictions of registrations for full-time funded students as at 1 December 2009 are as follows:

Student Category	Previous Intakes		2009 Intake				Variance (Projected vs Financial Forecast targets)
	Intake @ 01-12-07	Intake @ 01-12-08	Targets as at Confirmation and Clearing, Aug 09	Financial Forecast targets	Actual Intake @ 15-10-09	Projected Intake @ 01-12-09 (based on 01 Oct figures)	
UG FT Funded	4304	4230	4350	4230	4454	4378	<b>148</b>
UG FT Overseas	464	527	551	508	630	616	<b>108</b>
PGT FT Funded	885	843	0	855	945	943	<b>88</b>
PGT FT Overseas	955	1098	0	1118	1158	1079	<b>-39</b>
PGR FT Home	280	274	0	293	295	326	<b>33</b>
PGR FT Overseas	262	264	0	254	182	219	<b>-35</b>

It should be noted that Overseas postgraduate recruitment may have been adversely impacted by recent changes to the visa system for overseas students and by Ramadan being very early which led to students arriving later in Sheffield.

- In July 2009 HEFCE announced that it would allow universities to offer 10,000 extra places (which would be unfunded by HEFCE but would attract fee income). The University was offered, and accepted, 135 Additional Student Places (ASPs) which were allocated to departments in the Faculties of Engineering, Science and Social Sciences (Management and Economics). The University was successful in recruiting additional students to fill these places.
- The Faculties of Engineering and Science have submitted a bid for 100 Additional Student Numbers (ASNs) funded through the HEFCE teaching grant for 2010-11 onwards. This bid addresses the Funding Council's priority for student number growth in Strategically Important and Vulnerable Subjects (SIVs), as well as that of widening access to HE and supporting progression into HE from vocational programmes. The outcomes of the bidding process will be announced to institutions by the end of 2009.
- Following an audit of the annual Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) submission undertaken by HEFCE in July 2008, work is continuing, in close liaison with HEFCE, to review the way in which the University records and returns non-completion data to ensure that the University continues to submit returns in line with the relevant HEFCE guidelines.

## **2.2 Undergraduate applications for 2010**

- The 2009-10 UCAS application cycle began in September 2009. Application figures as at 1 November 2009 indicate that undergraduate applications are up by 9% (over 740 applications). It should be noted that applications are subject to substantial fluctuations at this time of the year and the position is likely to change. The main increases are in applications to programmes in the Faculties of Science, Engineering and Social Sciences.

## **2.3 Academic planning**

- In 2009-10 the annual planning round is to be adjusted to enable greater integration of academic and financial planning (and to further develop the University Resource Allocation Model).

## **2.4 University performance metrics / tables**

- In the 2009 Sunday Times University Guide (published 15 September 2009) Sheffield was ranked 18<sup>th</sup>, compared with 19<sup>th</sup> in the 2008 guide.
- In the 2009 Times Higher Education World University Rankings (published 8 October 2009) the University was ranked 82<sup>nd</sup> of the top 200 world universities in 2009, compared with 76<sup>th</sup> in 2008. The main factor for the lower position is a drop in the University's peer review score, which is worth 40% of the overall score.
- In the 2009 Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities the University ranks 81<sup>st</sup> of the top 500 world universities, compared with 77<sup>th</sup> in 2008. The decline in ranking appears to be due to lower scores for the majority of the measures used, most notably those relating to research output (based on papers published in Nature and Science and papers indexed in the Science Citation index - expanded and Social Science Citation index).
- The second round of annual Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK for 2007-08 was published on 16 July 2009 and covered research and employment

indicators. The research indicators show measures of research output per research input and Sheffield's score has increased for two out of these four indicators. For the employment indicator, Sheffield is now 19<sup>th</sup> within the Russell Group plus York compared with 8<sup>th</sup> in last year's ranking and the University's score has also fallen below the benchmark. However, it should be noted that there has been a general decline across the sector for this indicator. The Careers Service is working on a range of initiatives to support students in finding graduate level employment.

### **3. FINANCE**

#### **3.1 Financial headlines**

- Council approval of the HEFCE financial forecasts 2009-10 to 2012-13 and 2008-09 Financial Statements for 2009-10 will be covered under separate agenda items.
- The draft results are still being reviewed by the auditors. The key headlines from the results are as follows:
  - income growth of 5.8% to £403.3m;
  - expenditure growth of 12.0% to £402.3m;
  - staff costs growth of 6.8% to £222.1m;
  - operating deficit of £10.2m (-2.5% of total income);
  - historical cost deficit of £2.8m;
  - continued substantial capital investment of £32.6m.
- Included within the 2008-09 financial year results are two items of particular note, which influence comparatives. Firstly, included within other expenditure is £10.7m in relation to the Voluntary Severance Scheme (VSS) payments to staff to be made in August and October 2009. Further information on the impact of the VSS will be covered by a separate agenda item.
- Secondly, the valuation of the University's academic and administrative properties at 31 July 2009 led to a total valuation impairment of £16.5m which has been mitigated by the accelerated release of £10.2m from Deferred Capital Grants: £7.8m from Funding Council Grants and £2.4m from Other Income. This has led to a net impact of £6.3m upon the Income and Expenditure account.
- The underlying results after removing the impact of the VSS and the impairment are total income of £393.1m (3.1% growth), total expenditure of £386.3m (4.7% growth) and an operating surplus of £6.8m.
- The University received continuing affirmation from Standard and Poor's of its long term credit rating of AA-/Stable in July 2008.
- The reported FRS17 deficit on the University of Sheffield Pension Scheme increased by £22.6m to £73.9m at 31 July 2009 as a result of changes in the value of assets and the financial assumptions used.

#### **3.2 Budget allocation 2009-10**

- The budget for 2009-10 was approved by UEB in June 2009 and subsequently by Council in July on the recommendation of Finance Committee.
- The budgets have now been reviewed by UEB in the light of various factors, including the outcome of the VSS and some revisions to the budgets for 2009-10 have been agreed:

- The Voluntary Severance Scheme has been very successful in going a long way toward achieving the £15m target for savings in staff costs. The additional net savings of £4.3m for 2009-10 arising from the outcome of the VSS have therefore been reflected in a reduction in budgets;
- The reduction in budgets arising as a result of the Voluntary Severance Scheme is net of an additional £1.1m relating to additional permitted expenditure which is made available to the Faculties and Professional Services (£686k and £465k respectively). This is in recognition of the success of the VSS and the challenges in local areas;
- The financial performance of the Faculties in 2008-09 has resulted in income being above budget and expenditure below budget in total. UEB have agreed that Faculties will receive the full extent of these Prior Year Adjustments for 2008-09 allocated over two years. After taking into account the deferred element of the 2007-08 PYA, the total PYA available in 2009-10 Faculty expenditure budgets will be £6.5m, £2.3m more than previously assumed in the financial forecasts. The deferred element of the 2008-09 PYA of £2.3m will be made available in 2010-11.

#### **4. CAPITAL PROJECTS**

##### **4.1 General**

- As at 30 June 2009, the total approved Capital Programme budget is £94m, of which 28% is funded by the University with the remaining 72% by external sponsors such as HEFCE. As at 30 June 2009, the cumulative spend against this budget was £12m, with £82m forecast to be spent in the period to 2011-12.

##### **4.2 HEFCE CIF programme 2008-11**

- The business case for the Environmental Control System project was approved by Council on 13 July 2009, and will invest over £5m updating the heating and lighting infrastructure across the University in order to reduce cost and carbon emissions.
- The SITRAN project is now in progress, with a capital budget of £11.6m. Progress continues to be made towards finalisation of the legal agreement between the Sheffield Foundation Institute and the University regarding the draw-down of funds for this project.
- A number of projects within the CIF programme are expected to be completed under budget due to the current reduced level of VAT and competitive funding environment. The Estates and Capital Sub-Group will meet in January 2010 to agree recommendations as to how the surplus funding should be re-allocated.

##### **4.3 Future capital pipeline 2011-14**

- The current Estates Strategy covers the period 2008-2011. Work has begun on the development of a strategy for the period 2011-2014. During 2010 the University will be required to make a submission to HEFCE detailing the condition of the estate and strategy for estate utilisation and carbon emission reduction. The outcome of this assessment is expected to determine future capital funding levels.
- ECSG propose to review Faculty estate strategies and the proposed professional services estates strategy in March 2010, with a view to developing a pipeline of projects for submission to HEFCE during mid-2010.

#### **4.4 Student accommodation: Student Village Project**

- The final phase of the Student Village Project has now been completed with 1,183 rooms and The Ridge at Ranmoor handed over on time and students moving in on 19 September 2009. This is a very successful outcome after a difficult period of disputes and adjudications.
- During Summer 2009 two adjudications between Catalyst and the University relating to Catalysts claims for extensions of time and additional costs on Phase 4 were completed. The adjudicator ruled in the University's favour on all matters removing the opportunity for Catalyst to claim additional time and costs.
- With the exception of Phase 2a, all phases of the project have now achieved final completion under the contract. For Phase 2a, discussions continue with Catalyst on the extent of work due under the contract to upgrade the Stables building as a potential retail outlet.

#### **4.5 Contracts for Capacity**

- At the end of the 2008-09 academic year leases were cancelled at Victoria Halls (499 beds), Brocco Flats (256 beds) and Mary Page House (34 1 and 2 bed flats) due to the availability of additional beds at the Ranmoor Village from 2009-10. Contracts for Capacity (CfC) remain at Opal where leases have been consolidated into a single provision in Opal2 of 819 beds for 2009-10. This is the minimum number of CfC beds the University is able to contract for, as there is no break clause in the Opal lease until after the 2010-11 academic year.

### **5. STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

#### **5.1 Progress against KPIs**

- In the 2009 National Student Survey (NSS), the University has again achieved third place among the Russell Group universities (after Cambridge and Glasgow) for overall satisfaction, with 89% of final year students confirming that they were satisfied with their courses. In four subject areas (Genetics, Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry, Computer Science, and Theology and Religious Studies) students expressed 100% satisfaction. Improvements in scores were achieved in four subjects, with Asian Studies in the School of East Asian Studies achieving a 27% rise in overall satisfaction. Only three subjects scored below 80%: Nursing, Human and Social Geography and Social Work. While scores for satisfaction with teaching and academic support on courses remain high in most faculties, satisfaction with feedback and assessment generally remains low. However, satisfaction with learning resources has risen significantly in most Faculties. Further work aimed at improving feedback and assessment will take place during 2009-10.
- In the University's internal Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS), overall satisfaction with the University remained high, increasing in three Faculties, particularly the Faculty of Science. Satisfaction with the quality of academic courses and teaching also remained stable and there was a significant improvement in the likelihood to recommend the University. However, students were less satisfied with feedback on their work, although there were departments where the score improved in this area, such as Archaeology. There were also lower levels of satisfaction relating to the development of communication skills and 32% of students reported minimal contact with personal tutors. There was a significant improvement in the level of overall satisfaction with Library services.

- The results of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), sponsored by the Higher Education Academy, in which the University participated for the first time this year also show a high level of overall student satisfaction at 85%, matching that of the average score of the six participating Russell Group universities. It should be noted that only 25 universities participated in the survey and that the areas surveyed do not exactly match those of the NSS, but in 17 questions the University scored 5% or more above other participating Russell Group universities. As with the NSS, the highest scores were for the quality of teaching and learning, with lower scores for satisfaction with feedback, and with organisation and management scores for satisfaction with student support services higher than the average for both Russell Group and all PTES aggregates.

## **5.2 Strategic developments in learning and teaching**

- Faculty learning and teaching strategies have been developed and mapped against the institution-wide strategy. A high level of alignment between the strategies has been achieved, while allowing for the strategic needs of individual Faculties to be met.
- Discussion has started in relation to the aspirations that should underpin the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy for 2011-15, with a focus on the issues of sustainability and excellence. Work on developing the strategy will continue during 2009-10.
- Discussion is also underway in relation to the strategic development of collaborative provision in the light of the changing landscape of collaborative activity and the need for clear principles to underpin future collaborative provision.
- The ring-fenced Teaching Quality Enhancement Funding (TQEF) which has previously supported strategic development in learning and teaching is no longer provided by HEFCE. The University's Executive Board has agreed that key areas will continue to be supported through the new Teaching Enhancement and Student Success (TESS) funding, including Sheffield Volunteering, the Sheffield Graduate Award and the Senate Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching.

## **5.3 Key projects**

- A review of the University's virtual learning environment (MOLE) has commenced with a view to piloting a new system at the start of the next academic year.

## **5.4 Other student-related matters**

- Maths and Statistics Help (MASH): a review of students' statistics support needs is underway with a view to providing an improved service in this area.
- The University's peer-peer student mentoring scheme 'Sheffield Mentors', which is coordinated by the Student Services Department, has been awarded Approved Provider Standard by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation. This standard is a national benchmark for organisations providing volunteer mentoring.
- The IT system underpinning the HE sector's interaction with the Points Based Immigration System (PBS), as it relates to students, is now live in a pilot phase. In due course the system will service elements of PBS relating to both student applications/admissions and registration/attendance. National lobbying of the Home Office is continuing in respect of the requirements expected to be placed on institutions for monitoring and reporting student attendance.

## **6. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

### **6.1 Progress against KPIs**

- New research awards for the 12 months ended September 2009 totalled £82.8m which compares with £92.4m at the end of September 2008. The current order book for research work to be undertaken stands at £186.6m. Intelligence gathered by Research and Innovation Services suggests that this drop in income represents a loss of market share for the University as opposed to a reflection of the financial downturn, as some competitor institutions are actually increasing their level of awards. Measures are being taken to address this trend.
- The University's league table position in the Times Higher Education's ranking of the World's Top 200 Universities has slipped from 76<sup>th</sup> position in 2008 to 82<sup>nd</sup> position in 2009. The component criterion of research excellence (measured as total number of citations for all papers published from the institution divided by the number of full-time equivalent staff at the institution), which represents 20% of the overall score, slipped by one point for the University from 60 in 2008 to 59 in 2009. The component for peer review (where over 9,000 respondents are asked to nominate up to 13 institutions which are world-leading in their respective disciplines) representing 40% of the overall ranking, fell four points for the University from 69 in 2008 to 65 in 2009.
- HEFCE has published its planned consultation on the new Research Excellence Framework (REF). Professor Richard Jones, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, is chairing a small group to co-ordinate the University's response. Whilst there is clear continuity between the RAE2008 and the proposed REF, key proposed changes include the inclusion of impact as a core element of the assessment, a possible reduction from 4 to 3 in the number of outputs submitted by each researcher and a reduction in the number of Units of Assessment. Citation data will be made available to certain panels, but the basis of the assessment will remain peer review.
- The University has purchased, and will shortly pilot, a publications management system to enable the central collection of publications data. This will support preparations for the REF, as well as providing robust information to departments to support staff management, appraisal and promotion rounds.

### **6.2 Research and Innovation news**

- Under the direction of the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, a horizon scanning exercise and a priority pipeline of potential funding opportunities is being reviewed each month with the Faculty Directors of Research and Innovation in order to maximise potential opportunity for income capture.
- Following the successful award of a £5.7m Knowledge Transfer Award from the EPSRC earlier this year (Principle Investigators: Professor Tony Ryan and Professor Richard Jones), the project is now underway. To enable maximum impact, the project will be based in Research and Innovation Services, and be led by Dr Richard France. The team will, over the coming months, be working with individual EPSRC grant holders to explore opportunities for commercialising their research. Novel facilities for project development with industry will be a core aspect of the project; industrial support has already been obtained from a number of companies including Network Rail, BRE, Studio Conran and Sainsbury's.
- A group from SchARR led by Professor Ron Akehurst and Dr Eva Kaltenthaler has

secured a contract worth £5.6m over five years to undertake Technology Assessment Reviews on behalf of the National Institute for Health Research.

### **6.3 Doctoral development**

- A Task and Finish Group, chaired by Richard Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, is undertaking a strategic review of the postgraduate research student experience to position the University to ensure its future competitiveness in this area.

## **7. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **7.1 Voluntary Severance Scheme**

- A full report on the Voluntary Severance Scheme undertaken in June-July is included in the Report of the Human Resource Management Committee. Potential staff cost savings amount to c. £13.7m per annum.

### **7.2 Update on HR policies and initiatives**

- A review of the Sheffield Academic has been established, supported by the HR team and chaired by Professor Tony Payne, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Social Sciences. The review will seek to :
  - establish the mix of qualities and responsibilities that constitute the appropriate model for the Sheffield Academic;
  - consider the link between the appropriate model for the Sheffield Academic and the education of the Sheffield Graduate;
  - highlight and make real the University's commitment to the fruitful interaction of research and teaching in the work of its academic staff.

Consultation is currently underway across the University. The outcomes of the review will be used both internally and externally.

- An institution-level incident team has been established to ensure the University has in place the necessary arrangements to respond to a major incident. Chaired by Dr Chris Sexton, Director of CiCs, the team is currently meeting weekly to deal with issues relating to Swine Flu. Special web pages have been set up for both students and staff and a range of mechanisms are in place including a fully trained helpdesk, which will be actioned in case of need.
- The Staff Wellbeing Group has concluded its work and recommendations are currently being considered by the UEB, and then by the Human Resource Management Committee and the Health & Safety Committee. This work is partly in response to the requirements of the Health & Safety Executive following their visit in 2008 and partly to ensure that as a major employer and educator, the University has in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure a healthy campus for all.
- To mark the 50th anniversary of the appointment of the first woman professor at the University, a series of events and development opportunities relating to female progression at the University took place from 29 June - 10 July 2009. Events held as part of this 'Women@TUOS' initiative included a lunch for female professors during which they considered how female academics may be supported in their career, a presentation and discussion for senior staff on barriers to progression for academic women, and a range of predominantly women-only development sessions. Excellent feedback was received from participants and is being considered by the steering group set up to inform and develop the University's female academics' progression action plan.

- 'Out at Work Day' 2009, a series of events and development opportunities relating to LGBT issues at the University, will take place on 25 November. The varied programme has been planned in consultation with colleagues from across the University and will include a number of small focussed sessions, a large panel event and an evening of celebration, including a performance from the Out Aloud choir.

### 7.3 Outstanding achievements

These include the following who have received external recognition:

- Emeritus Professor Gillian Gehring (Physics and Astronomy) has been elected an honorary fellow of the Institute of Physics for her exceptional service to physics. Professor Gehring has also been awarded the Institute's Mott Medal for her seminal contributions to magnetism.
- Professor Richard Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, has been awarded the Institute of Physics' Tabor Medal for his innovative work characterising polymer surfaces and thin films, and for his more recent work in nanoscience.
- Elena Rodriguez-Falcon (Mechanical Engineering) has received the 'educator highly commended' award from the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) and Enterprise Educators UK (EEUK) in recognition of her work to develop entrepreneurial mindsets in engineers, as well as supporting institutional and regional enterprise activity.
- Dr Thijs Kouwenhoven (Physics and Astronomy) has been awarded the 2009 grant from the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation Fellowship Programme for his research proposal examining star clusters.
- Dr Pankaj Singh (Cardiovascular Science/Neurosurgery) has received a prestigious World Federation of Neurological Societies Young Neurosurgeon Award, for his outstanding contribution to the field of medical research.
- Professor Tony Weetman, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health, has been elected as the new Chair of the Medical Schools Council for the UK.
- Professor Michael Wells (Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) has been elected the President of the European Society of Pathology.
- Professor Paul White, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, has been appointed to HEFCE's Teaching Quality and Student Experience Strategic Committee. He is also co-chair of the Higher Education Academy's Pro-Vice-Chancellor network.
- Ahlam Al-Zahrani, a PhD student from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, has been elected to the post of Chief Female Students Coordinator for the Saudi Students' Clubs and Schools UK organisation, which represents all Saudi Arabian students who study in the UK and Ireland.
- Asa Cusack, an MA student in the Department of Politics, is one of six students in the UK to have been selected for the prestigious Round Table Commonwealth Awards for Young Scholars. The awards support exceptional students whose research has a Commonwealth perspective.
- Catherine Earnshaw (LLB 2007) has won one of the country's major law student awards. The DLA Award, which is presented by leading international law firm DLA Piper is for the student who obtains the highest combined mark in the Business and Commercial Law parts of the College of Law's Legal Practice Course.

- Hannah Wright, a third-year Urban Studies student has been Highly Commended in the Association of Women in Property's National Student Awards 2009. Hannah also previously won the Yorkshire 2009 Women in Property Award.
- UoS students won in two of fifteen categories in the highly contested Science, Engineering and Technology Student of the Year Awards. Undergraduate student Christopher Green achieved the British Computer Society Award for the Best Information Technology Student, while graduate Michael Robinson was awarded the Morgan Crucible Award for the Best Materials Student.
- Hilary Mantel (LLB 1973, LittD 2005) has won the 2009 Man Booker prize for her book 'Wolf Hall'.

## **8. MEDIA COVERAGE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

### **8.1 Events**

- The award-winning Mitchell and Kenyon Collection of historical local footage was shown in a special evening at the University on 7 July 2009 with a specially curated programme of South Yorkshire and Derbyshire footage including Rotherham, Sheffield, Doncaster and Buxton. Professor Vanessa Toulmin and Dr David Fletcher provided additional commentary to present a picture of life at the dawn of the twentieth century.
- The University hosted a Picnic in the Park for members of the local community and University staff on 8 July 2009 to celebrate and thank people for all the work they have put into the University. A total of £2,927.10 was raised for the two chosen charities, the Children's Hospital Charity and Leukaemia Research.
- Professor Dominic Shellard, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, hosted an audience with Lee Child and Andrew Grant on 21 July 2009. The crime-writing brothers discussed Lee's latest top-ten bestseller 'Gone Tomorrow' and Andrew's debut book 'Even'.
- Fifteen degree ceremonies were held during the period 20-24 July 2009. Approximately 4,500 students graduated with 95% graduating in person. There were 13,500 guests over the whole week of graduation.
- The Sir Frederick Mappin Building, Turner Museum of Glass and John Carr Library opened to the public on 21 September 2009 as part of the national Heritage Open Days is England's cultural event. Current and former members of staff were on hand to answer questions relating to the exhibition, the history of the building and the many artefacts on display.

### **8.2 External relations: international**

- A number of successful visits have been undertaken by the members of the Executive Board. In line with the new criteria agreed by UEB for all overseas visits, these have included business development activities, alumni and/or graduation events and relationship building with key governmental and HEI contacts:
  - **Japan** (July 2009): a visit by Professor Dominic Shellard, Dr Claire Baines and Dr David Fletcher to explore joint opportunities with Doshisha University, to discuss potential Summer School provision in Sheffield for students at Waseda University, to discuss with MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) the potential for UoS hosting postgraduates and post-docs to conduct research for between 3 and 12 months, to host an Alumni Reception at the British Council, to meet with David Warren (British Ambassador) to update him on the challenges the University is facing with the new Points Based System

visa arrangements and to enlist his support in overcoming these.

- **Singapore** (September 2009): a visit to the Singapore Institute of Applied Technology (SIAT) and Ngee Ann polytechnic by Professor Dominic Shellard and senior colleagues from the Engineering and Science faculties. The purpose of the visit was to further explore the potential for running four programmes in Singapore, with a cohort of 200 students annually. Negotiations have continued since, but budget cuts within SIAT mean that the programmes are unlikely to be launched in 2010, the original target start date. Moreover, the University is concerned that SIAT team are looking for a student fee that is significantly lower than the cost of delivering the programmes, which would not be prudent for the University to pursue in the current financial climate. This will be kept under review over the next few months.

- **Jordan and Japan** (October 2009): In Jordan, Professor Shellard met with the Ministry of Education to brief them on plans to work with the University of Jordan (UoJ) and the Jordanian University of Science Technology (JUST) and to demonstrate the University's ability to provide large-scale PhD opportunities to help with Jordan's desire to capacity build. The visit also included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding governing MA students, PhD students, staff training and staff exchange.

In Japan, Professor Shellard and Tom Rhodes (LeTS) presented to the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Culture (MEXT) Working Group on the Promotion of Globalizing Universities. The purpose of the presentation was to provide advice about the benefits to Japanese universities of offering joint degrees. In addition, an alumni event was held at the British Embassy, co-sponsored by HSBC and attended by 125 guests, at which the British Ambassador, David Warren, described Sheffield as 'the pre-eminent UK University in Japan'.

- **Saudi Arabia:** Director of International Liaison, Tim Crick, continued discussions with key contacts at King Abdul Aziz University. Topics explored included increasing the number of PhD and Masters students studying at Sheffield, and potential collaborations with the Medicine, Science and Engineering Faculties.

- Work is progressing on a uSPACE application to better support international activity. This will help share insight across the institution about business development activities in key international markets.

## 8.2 External affairs: regional/national

- A new Sheffield-based communications initiative - Dream Bigger Dreams – has been launched to explain the University's work with local communities and to raise aspirations in the City as a whole. Based on childhood dreams, the campaign message is being relayed through posters, cinema and radio and through a dedicated website (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/dream/>). The cost of the campaign is being met from the University's OFFA funds, which are ringfenced for widening participation activities.
- A collaboration agreement has been signed with Sheffield Wednesday Football Club. The focus of this collaboration will be to work with the club on local initiatives, using Football to encourage educational aspiration and achievement amongst local young people.
- The University continues to support the City of Sheffield's bid to be chosen as a World Cup Host City for the FA's bid to FIFA for the 2018 world cup. A range of activities were planned for students during Intro Week, and the University

supported “Back the Bid Day” – a city-wide initiative to increase support for Sheffield’s bid.

### **8.3 External relations: community**

- Nearly 6,000 students arrived to take up their University accommodation over Intro Weekend, 19 and 20 September. Staff from across Accommodation and Campus Services volunteered to work over the weekend, and students were employed to work as meet and greet staff, traffic marshals and sales assistants. Arrivals were split over two days and this, together with a new system of timed arrival slots, helped to manage the flow of traffic, both around the residences and on the approaches. Positive feedback has been received from local residents, as well as from students, parents and University staff.
- Student Community Reps have been appointed to represent the University at various neighbourhood groups and Community Assemblies. This followed a pilot scheme between the University and Union last year, which was welcomed as a very real success. There is one representative for six of the key residential areas covered by University residences and high student populations.
- A wider review of the University’s approach to community relations has been completed as part of the University’s Corporate Social Responsibility agenda. This approach has been shared with the University Community Forum, as well as key external agencies such as local police and Sheffield City Council.
- “Dream Bigger Dreams” week was held during half term in the Winter Gardens, and celebrated the vibrancy and contribution that University students bring to the City of Sheffield. Many student groups and academic departments were actively involved, and feedback from participants was excellent. Activities ranged from “Learn to count to 10 in ten different languages” through to “Fantastic Foam” (science experiment) and various music ensembles. The RAG committee presented their donation cheques to the charities they supported this year, and Paul Scriven (Leader, Sheffield City Council) attended to express his support to the week. Footfall within the Winter Gardens over the week was almost 100% up on the previous week.
- The University, through Professor Vanessa Toulmin and colleagues, supported “Fright Night” in the City Centre on Sunday 25 October. Fright Night is Britain’s biggest Halloween party, attracting over 30,000 people into the City Centre. A team of student Zombies in the M&S Window attracted massive crowds of spectators, and the traditional sideshows in Barkers Pool were a great success.
- Through the University’s CSR agenda, the University has been working with the Students’ Union on a Water Amnesty campaign. This ran throughout October and encouraged students and staff to save water by running competitions, giving tips and advice, and tracking water use through student diaries and blogs. The water consumption of key premises will be measured through meters so that reductions in consumption can be accurately monitored and it is estimated that the savings might equate to £25k to £30k pa. The Water Amnesty campaign will support OneWater, a charity which specialises in providing water pumps to remote villages in southern Africa.

### **8.4 Media coverage**

- The University generated 1,421 articles in the press and media between July and October. This amounted to £5,227,956 in AVE – in other words the amount it would have cost if paid for in terms of advertising. This included coverage in the Independent, The Times, Daily Express, the Metro, British Medical Journal, Pulse, the

Engineer, Horticulture Week, BBC Radio 4, THE, the Grocer, New Scientist, Yorkshire Post and Sheffield Star.

- Professor Mike Parker-Pearson's discovery of a lost stone circle a mile from Stonehenge generated 640 news articles worldwide (figures gained from online news searches) including the China Post, CNN, La Repubblica, Chicago Tribune, Pravda, Washington Post, the LA Times and the Guardian.
- Research into alcohol pricing and promotion by Dr Petra Meier continues to hit the headlines after the Scottish Government commissioned the team from SchARR to carry out a report into this issue. As well as generating coverage in all Scottish national newspapers and radio, the report was also featured in the Financial Times and on Sky News and BBC Radio 4.
- Dr Alexandra Alvergne's research into how the contraceptive pill can affect who women are attracted to, received extensive coverage. This included pieces in the Daily Mail, Daily Express, the Sun, BBC Radio 5 Live and Yorkshire Post.