



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## The Senate, 6 October 2010

### 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 12 July 2010.

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 New Government

New Ministers in the coalition government are Dr Vince Cable (Lib Dem), who is the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; and David Willetts (Con), who is the Minister for Universities and Science, attending Cabinet. In *The Coalition: our programme for government*, the government said it would:

- take action to create more college and university places;
- support the creation of apprenticeships, internships, work pairings, and college and workplace training places;
- publish more information about the costs, graduate earnings and student satisfaction of different university courses;
- ensure that public funding mechanisms for university research safeguard its academic integrity.

##### 1.2 Emergency Budget, 22 June 2010

Headlines from the recent Budget include an announcement that 'unprotected' departmental spending (which would include HE funding) could be reduced by as much as 25% in real terms by 2014-15, as well as an increase of 2.5% in VAT. The average 25% cut in public spending is in line with the first of two scenarios agreed by Council in November 2009 for use by Faculties and Professional Services in the annual planning exercise.

##### 1.3 Revised HEFCE grant letter

HEFCE received a revised grant letter on 24 June 2010 from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. The letter sets out the number of student places and funds for 2010-11 including the University Modernisation Fund (UMF). It is a revision to the grant letter issued to HEFCE by the previous Secretary of State on 22 December 2009.

The letter follows the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May which outlined proposals for £6.2 billion efficiency savings to be made in-year across Government. Universities and colleges will be required to contribute £200 million to this overall saving. This is made up of a reduction of £118 million in the UMF and a baseline

reduction in HEFCE grant of £82 million.

HEFCE has written to higher education institutions (HEIs) setting out the implications of the announcement including reductions to baseline grants.

[www.hefce.ac.uk/news/HEFCE/2010/grant1011/revised.htm](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/HEFCE/2010/grant1011/revised.htm)

#### 1.4 BIS letter to vice-chancellors and principals, 27 May 2010

In this letter, Dr Cable and Mr Willetts highlighted the government's commitment to the FE and HE sector and its importance in helping rebuild the UK economy. However, they said that all recipients of public funds must play a part in reducing public debt. BIS has already committed to achieving savings of £836m, part of the government's plan to make £6.2 billion in savings for 2010-11. The letter asked that universities and colleges:

- apply restraint to all aspects of pay and bonuses;
- take steps to make immediate savings, including recruitment freezes;
- reduce discretionary spending, including IT projects, building projects, consultancy, travel, hospitality and marketing.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/May/letter-to-vcs-and-principals>

#### 1.5 Speeches and statements

- At the University of Birmingham on 20 May 2010, David Willetts spoke about:
  - diverse provision of high quality in FE/HE;
  - institutional autonomy, and the need for universities to adapt to new competition;
  - the need for more information for applicants in making choices;
  - the importance of research, including curiosity-driven research whose applications may take time to emerge;
  - an emphasis on high quality vocational qualifications and apprenticeships;
  - support for the Haldane principle and a stable framework for the science and research budget.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=413420&SubjectId=16&AdvancedSearch=true>

- Speaking at Cass Business School on 3 June 2010, Vince Cable said: 'Bringing HE, skills and enterprise together under the one departmental roof is central to the 'BIS dividend'. My priorities are an increased emphasis on lifelong learning, stripping out some of the bureaucracy around FE and making sure that the outdated value distinction between blue collar apprenticeships, and further education on one hand and university on the other is disposed of for good.'

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=413641&NewsAreaID=2>

- It was reported in *The Guardian* on 6 June 2010 that Vince Cable believes it is time to abandon the previous government's target of putting 50% of young people through university. It is understood that Dr Cable is sceptical of the argument that an ever-increasing number of students is intrinsically a good thing, believing that the government may secure better value for money by putting money into training and further education. A debate about the trade-off between quality and numbers could result in cuts to student numbers in HE. Subsequent comments by Mr John Hayes, the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, suggests that FE may be the preferred way to widen participation.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jun/06/vince-cable-university-places-cuts>

- David Willetts spoke about funding for HE at Oxford Brookes University on 10 June 2010, describing the Browne Review (see 1.5 below) as effectively covering the long-term direction of the sector as a whole. Mr Willetts told the BBC he did not want to prejudge the outcome of the review and was not 'assuming that fees should rise', but that students should consider university fees 'more as an obligation to pay higher income tax' than a debt. Mr Willetts suggested raising tuition fees would not be enough to solve the funding problems, and that 'big decisions' would follow the Browne Review. In his speech he referred to two weaknesses in the sector: that excellent teaching is not universal; and the inadequacy of the current financial model upon which the sector operates.

Mr Willetts also used his Oxford speech to float the idea of creating incentives and efficiencies by separating teaching and examining, creating new institutions that can teach, but do so to an exam set externally. This might mean students studying for a degree at any university, with lectures and classes being held at their local further education college or other institute.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/speeches/david-willetts-oxford-brookes-university-challenge>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/10278662.stm>

- Business leaders urged the government to be 'cautious' over university funding cuts in a letter to *The Daily Telegraph* timed for 'Universities Week'. Senior executives of companies including Shell, Network Rail, Centrica and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals UK, have highlighted the 'vital contribution' that universities make to the economy.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/7832778/Protect-universities-urge-business-chiefs.html>

## 1.6 Browne Review of HE Funding and Student Finance: second submissions

- The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance (the Browne Review) was launched in November 2009 and is tasked with making recommendations to government on the future of fees policy and financial support for full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- The review has now received submissions (available on its website) to its second call for evidence, which sought proposals on future models for HE teaching funding and student finance. The Review is considering submissions, and has re-affirmed that its three objectives are: guaranteeing the world-class quality of our HE system; ensuring that talent, rather than ability to pay, is what determines participation; and ensuring that funding arrangements are sustainable for the long-term. Browne's final report is expected in the autumn.
- The government has said it will judge Lord Browne's proposals against the need to: increase social mobility; take into account the impact on student debt; ensure a properly funded university sector; improve the quality of teaching; advance scholarship; and attract a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- If the response of the Government to Lord Browne's report is one that Liberal Democrats cannot accept, arrangements will be made to enable Liberal Democrat MPs to abstain in any vote.
- The Russell Group submission to Browne states that an increase in graduate contributions is the only viable and fair way to secure the future of the UK's world class higher education system. The National Union of Students, on the other hand, thinks a graduate tax would be fairer if an increased contribution from individuals is necessary. The University of Sheffield argues that a significant and permanent increase in funding for teaching is required, and recognises that the balance of

private and public funding may need to be re-visited. Any proposed changes should be consulted upon widely and could not plausibly be introduced rapidly. In particular, the effects of any proposal on widening participation should be thoroughly considered, including barriers to studying at postgraduate level.

- Meanwhile, the Sutton Trust education charity has published research showing that four out of five young people in England and Wales now expect to apply to university, but it warns that two-thirds would change their mind if fees doubled to £7,000. The poll also revealed that young people from poorer backgrounds were likely to be the worst affected.

<http://hereview.independent.gov.uk/hereview/>

<http://www.suttontrust.com/news.asp#a079>

## **2. ACADEMIC STRATEGY**

### **2.1 Student applications**

- Figures for applications for 2010 entry as at 1 June 2010 show increases on the previous year as follows:
  - Home undergraduate: +17%
  - Overseas undergraduate: +35%
  - Home postgraduate taught: +13%
  - Overseas postgraduate taught: +22%
  - Home postgraduate research: +24%
  - Overseas postgraduate research: +14%

### **2.2 Academic planning**

- The University's Mission, Vision and Identity (MVI) document, which was presented to Council on 21 June, is now presented for formal approval and appears as item 5 on the agenda for the 12 July meeting. Work is in progress to develop the associated Strategic Plan, and an update on this appears as item 6 on the agenda.
- Following UEB agreement of Non-Quota Controlled student number targets for 2010-11 to 2013-14, individual department level targets have been agreed. These have been used to underpin the financial forecasting and budget setting process.
- In April 2010, the University submitted a bid for 150 Additional Student Places to HEFCE's University Modernisation Fund. This Fund was initially intended to fund 20,000 places (later reduced to 10,000) linked to projects to deliver long term efficiencies and cost reductions for institutions. The University has recently been informed by HEFCE that its bid has not been successful.
- The University has submitted a response to inform the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance chaired by Lord Browne (see 1.5 above).

### **2.3 University performance metrics / tables**

- The first tranche of the 2010 HESA Performance Indicators was published in April 2010. They provide information designed to reflect the diversity of the sector and include a sector benchmark to enable comparison with individual institutions. The first tranche covers: widening participation and non-continuation rates and projected learning outcomes. The indicators relating to research output and employment of graduates will be published in July 2010.

Sheffield's performance in 2010 is significantly better than its benchmark for two of the indicators and is not significantly below the benchmark for any of the indicators.

The University is first in the Russell Group plus York for: young full-time first degree entrants from low participation neighbourhoods; young full-time undergraduate entrants from low participation neighbourhoods; mature part-time undergraduate entrants with no previous HE qualifications and from low participation neighbourhoods; all part-time undergraduate entrants with no previous HE qualifications and from low participation neighbourhoods.

- Three of the UK League Tables were published in May/June 2010. The University's performance can be summarised as follows:

<b>League Table</b>	<b>2010 ranking</b>	<b>2009 ranking</b>	<b>Overview of methodology and subject tables position</b>
Guardian University Tables (published 8 June 2010)	31st in the UK	30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eight measures in total</li> <li>▪ Three are based on NSS results (worth a total of 25% of the overall score)</li> <li>▪ No measures are based on research.</li> <li>▪ Sheffield appears in 31 of the 46 subject tables, is second in Materials and Mineral Engineering, and top 10 for 11 of these subject tables.</li> </ul>
Times Good University Guide (published 27 May 2010)	18th in the UK	18th in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eight measures with a weighting of 1.5 for student satisfaction and research and 1 for all other indicators.</li> <li>▪ Sheffield appears in 41 of the 62 subject tables (top 10 for 30 subjects and 2nd in 5 subjects).</li> </ul>
Complete University Guide (published 20 May 2010)	25th	joint 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nine measures (with subject tables compiled using four measures).</li> <li>▪ Sheffield appears in 40 of the subject tables, top 10 of 21 of these and is top in 2 subjects (Librarianship and Information Management and Dentistry).</li> </ul>

### **3. FINANCE**

#### **3.1 Financial headlines to 30 April 2010 (third quarter results)**

- The key headlines from the results are as follows:
  - as at 30 April 2010 the operating surplus was £14.2m against a budgeted deficit of £7.4m for the year to date, giving a positive difference of £21.6m;
  - total income was £307.5m against a budget to date of £299.7m, giving a positive difference of £7.8m;
  - total expenditure was £293.3m, including indirect costs, against a budget to date of £307.1m, giving a positive difference of £13.8m.
- Academic Fee and Support Grant income was £7.8m higher than budget, comprising additional income from Doctoral Training Accounts of £1.5m and £6.3m from other fees, of which £1.2m is attributable to services rendered activities. The additional Doctoral Training Account income is matched by additional expenditure.
- Non research expenditure is £16.3m less than the profiled budget, which includes underspends on academic core expenditure of £8.1m, Professional Service departmental expenditure of £4.1m and shared services expenditure of £5.1m. These are offset by other expenditure being £1.0m higher than the profiled budget. The principle cause of this difference is additional Doctoral Training Account activity noted above

- The latest forecast shows a projected operating surplus to 31 July 2010 of £4.9m. The results to the end of the third quarter are better than anticipated and may therefore lead to an improved year end position.

### **3.2 Financial Forecasts**

- A separate paper is on the Council agenda (item 9) in respect of the Financial Forecasts 2009-10 to 2013-14.

### **3.3 HEFCE consultations**

- Revisions to the Financial Memorandum and Regulating Higher Education Institutions as Charities: no further consultations have taken place on these consultation documents, although a revised draft of the Financial Memorandum (which incorporates the requirements under the charities act) has been made available to a number of sector bodies for comment. This revised document incorporates significant changes.
- Review of the Teaching Funding Method: an initial consultation on principles and features of the methodology for funding of teaching has been undertaken by HEFCE, with responses required by 12 July 2010. A group chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching is drafting the University's response to the consultation questions.

### **3.4 Public Sector Spending Review**

- Following the election of the Coalition Government there have been a number of speeches and comments about the need to make significant savings in public expenditure. The Government announced in May 2010 reductions to total public sector funding in the 2010-11 fiscal year of £6.2bn of which £836m of savings relates to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. Announcements in May 2010 by HEFCE relating to the fiscal year 2010-11 include cutting HE funding by £200m.

At the time of writing there has been no specific announcement with regard to the funding of universities over and above those announced by the previous Government in December 2009 of cuts of £600m for 2012-13. The impact of these upon the University should be known following the revised HEFCE grant letter which is due in July. However, it is likely that further savings will be sought from the sector.

### **3.5 Review of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)**

- The Joint USS Review Group was unable to agree changes to the scheme to maintain it as an 'attractive and affordable defined benefit pension scheme' based on separate proposals put forward by the employers and the University and College Union. A meeting of the USS Joint Negotiating Committee is to be held on 7 July 2010 at which a decision on future changes to the scheme is expected. The outcome of this decision is likely to have cost implications for the University, which has approximately 2,800 USS members.

## **4. CAPITAL PROJECTS**

### **4.1 General**

- HEFCE published a circular letter in February 2010 announcing the deferment of Teaching Infrastructure Capital Funding from the year to March 2011. This claw-back was not quantified with certainty, but is estimated at £500k. Subsequently, further government cuts have been identified in teaching funding and this will mean further substantial capital claw-back. It is HEFCE's intention to reimburse any clawed back funds in April 2011 if the next CIF funding round is awarded and there is sufficient funding in the teaching award. The Estates and Capital Sub-Group (ECSG) of UEB have been informed of this and will report to UEB and Finance committee in due course. A review of the planned teaching projects is being undertaken to manage

the funding risk.

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

- All projects are progressing satisfactorily. Some underspends have occurred and the resulting sums will be reinvested within the CIF 1 timescales, subject to the governance approvals process.
- The Arts Tower Phase 2 for £9.5m has been reviewed by ECSG on 16 June 2010 and its recommendation for further approvals to UEB, Finance Committee and Council will follow.

#### **4.3 Future Capital Pipeline 2011-14**

- At ECSG in May 2010, Faculties and Professional Services presented their strategies, with particular reference to space and associated potential capital projects.
- These strategies have since been further considered and condensed into a pipeline of potential projects for the 2011-14 funding round. Further teaching infrastructure projects are likely to be included within the pipeline at a later stage. The Engineering Faculty has commissioned an Engineering Development Framework review due to be completed in the early Autumn.

Feasibility funds have been approved to develop some of the key projects in order that business cases can be considered by ECSG in early Autumn.

The intention is to provide a list of prioritised projects at the same time as the capital funding award announcements anticipated later this calendar year.

#### **4.4 Tapton site**

- A decision by the City Council on Miller Homes' revised plans for redevelopment of the Tapton site has been deferred until 12 July 2010.

### **5. STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

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

- The University has participated in the National Student Survey and the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey. Results will be available later this summer. Plans for future survey participation and the internal management of surveys will also be under discussion during the summer.
- The rolling programme of Periodic Review visits to academic departments has continued with visits to made to Biomedical Science, Nursing and Midwifery, SchARR and Politics. While a number of areas for development and improvement have been identified, the visits have highlighted a wide range of good practice and development activity as departments grow their portfolios and enhance the student learning experience.

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

- Progress continues to be made against the Sustainable Excellence in Teaching (SET) agenda. The third phase of the Review of Feedback and Assessment, concerning the processes of assessment, has now reported. Key proposals relate to the reduction of the volume of assessment and the encouragement of the greater use of synoptic assessment at Levels 2, 3 and 4, in order to integrate learning across modules. The final phase will commence shortly and will consider the results of the discussions in the earlier phases and their implications for University policies and activities.
- Work has been taking place on the development of a new timetabling and room bookings system for the whole University, seeking to maximise efficiencies in the use of resources whilst also providing for an increase in the effectiveness of teaching and of the experience of staff and students. Pilot exercises have been undertaken in

two Faculties and the results have been encouraging. Senate will be asked, during the autumn, to approve a set of significant new policies in this area, in the expectation that a new system can be fully implemented for the start of session 2011-12.

- Work is continuing across other workstreams relating to the SET agenda.

### **5.3 Key projects**

- A project group has been set up to implement the new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Blackboard 9. Pilot departments have been chosen for the session 2010-11 and a gradual, supported transfer from the current to the new VLE will be completed in 2012.

### **5.4 Senate Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching**

- Senate Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching for 2009-10 have been awarded as follows:
  - Sustained Excellence category: Dr Philip Warren (Animal & Plant Sciences), Dr Helen Griffiths (Oncology), Eur Ing Dr Tony Cowling (Computer Science), Dr David Hyatt (Education).
  - Rising Stars category: Dr Paul Cardwell (Law), Dr Andrew Cox (Information Studies), Dr Rachel Horn (Civil & Structural Engineering), Dr Felix Ng (Geography).
  - Excellence in Collaboration category: Dr Martin Nicklin, Dr François Guesdon, Dr Jon Shaw, Dr Helen Marriott (Infection and Immunity), Iliara Bellantuono (Human Metabolism), Janine Kirby (Neuroscience) and Jane Shields (Medical School) for 'Developing the MSc in Molecular Medicine'.
  - Excellence in Inquiry-based Learning category: Dr Myles Jones (Psychology).

### **5.5 Other student-related matters**

- Work has been undertaken to revise the Student Charter and also to define the qualities of good taught programmes at the University.
- There are continuing issues associated with the Points Based Immigration system as it relates to international students. Further policy and procedural changes were announced prior to the election and there have been delays in seeking clarifications and resolutions as a result of the change in government. A particular concern relates to new rules on student transfer/progression between institutions, which has the potential to impact significantly on international student recruitment at the start of 2010-11. Student Services is actively involved in national lobbying on the issue and has also hosted a visit during June from a senior UKBA official at which we were able to reiterate our concerns.
- The English Language Teaching Centre has received very positive feedback following a British Council premises inspection arising from the ELTC move to their new base on Hoyle Street earlier in the year. The formal opening ceremony for the new ELTC building will take place during degree week in July.
- With effect from 1 August 2010 the Careers Service will become part of the broader Student Services Department structure.
- Andrew West, Director of Student Services, has been appointed Chair of AMOSSHE, the student services organisation, for a term of two years from Summer 2010. AMOSSHE is the national professional association for HE student services in the UK.

## 6. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### 6.1 Progress against KPIs

- New awards for the 12 months ended May 2010 totalled £104.9m, which compares favourably with £81.1m at the end of May 2009.
- The order book at the end of May 2010 for research work yet to be undertaken is £191.8m.
- Indications are that the research forecast for 2009-10 will be in line with the budget, with income of £93.8m and research net contribution of £19.9m.
- Significant recent awards include an EPSRC Programme Grant to Professor John Harding (Engineering Materials), with six collaborating UK universities. The total value of the award is £5m, with £1.8m to Sheffield. The research programme will investigate the interface between 'hard' and 'soft' materials, taking the understanding gained towards applications that may span disciplines from medicine to geology, from climate science to nanotechnology.
- An analysis of HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency) data places Sheffield at 11<sup>th</sup> for the Russell Group + York for the most recent available data (2007-08). Our lowest position since 2001 has been 13<sup>th</sup> and highest 8<sup>th</sup>. HESA measures research grant and contract *expenditure*, so there is necessarily a lag between any improvement in grant capture and HESA position.
- On 29 April 2010 the Impact Team (Research and Innovation Services) and Media Team (External Relations) ran their first joint event titled 'Making An Impact – Promoting Your Research to the Media and Beyond'. Over 100 members of academic staff and postgraduate students attended the event, which focused on demonstrating the public value of research through the media and to potential funders. In response to feedback received at the event, further Faculty-based events are being planned to share best practice on disseminating the outcomes of research

### 6.2 Wakeham Report

- The Wakeham report, published in June 24, 2010, is a direct response to the Alexander Report for UUK and RCUK published in April 2009, which examined the impact of Full Economic Costing (fEC) on UK HE. . Key recommendations were:
  - that improvement was required to more clearly demonstrate the contribution made by fEC to the sustainability of the research base and to encourage a more efficient use of funds;
  - that KPIs and other metrics should be developed and/or used to this end, both internally by HEIs and externally by DIUS (as it was at the time);
  - that there should be an examination of how improved funding translates into accumulated resources for the replacement of equipment and other infrastructure.
- The Wakeham Review was set up ostensibly to consider practical ways of implementing the Alexander recommendations, as well as why the £2bn deficit in UK research costing persists. A briefing on the Wakeham Review is being prepared by the Director of Research and Innovation Services for consideration shortly by UEB.

### 6.3 Research student matters

As part of the new Doctoral Development Programme, which will replace the Research Training Programme for the 2010 intake of full-time doctoral students, each faculty has prepared a training needs analysis of researcher skills and competencies against which students will assess their capability prior to embarking on their PhD. Training will fall within four main categories: generic skills, advanced

subject specific skills; 'craft' skills and broad scholarship skills (including wider engagement with the relevant academic community).

## **7. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **7.1 Outstanding achievements**

- Professor Peter Horton (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology) and Professor Paul Brakefield (Animal and Plant Sciences) have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society for their work in photosynthesis and evolutionary and ecological development respectively.
- Professor Mahdi Mahfouf and Dr Moulmoud Denai (ACSE) received the top prize at this year's Medipex NHS Innovation Awards Ceremony.
- A team including Professor Noel Sharkey (Computer Science) has received the Royal Academy of Engineering Rooke Medal for their 'Walking with Robots' project, which enabled the public to engage with advanced robotics.
- Jim Catto (Oncology) has been awarded the European Association of Urology's Crystal Matula Award, which is given to the most promising European urologist under the age of 40.
- Ahlam Al-Zahrani, a PhD student (Nursing and Midwifery), organised the first ever-academic forum for female Saudi Arabian students in the UK and Ireland, held at the University of Sheffield.
- Qi Wang, a PhD student (Electronic & Electrical Engineering) has been awarded one of only 35 Chinese Government Awards for Outstanding Chinese Students Abroad.

### **7.2 New key appointments**

- Professor Mike Braddick has been appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts & Humanities) with effect from 8 June 2010. Professor Braddick has been Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts & Humanities) and is a Professor in the Department of History.
- Mr Keith Lilley has been appointed as Director of Estates & Facilities Management with effect from 13 September 2010. Mr Lilley is currently Director of Facilities Management at the University of York.
- Dr Peter Wright has been appointed to a Chair in Economics in the Department of Economics with effect from 1 September 2010. Dr Wright is currently a Reader in Labour Economics in the School of Economics at the University of Nottingham.

### **7.3 Staff well-being**

- The University of Sheffield Staff Support Line was launched on 1 June 2010: this will complement the existing Staff Counselling support and will ensure that staff are able to access 24 hour/7 support.
- A number of development sessions in managing stress (both personal and those of team members), and workload are being offered to staff. Support for Wellbeing Risk Assessment is available for University managers, particularly during periods of change.

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

### **8.1 Events**

- On 30 April 2010, the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred on local author Barry Hines.
- On 4 May 2010 a Special Honorary Degree Congregation was held to confer the degrees of Doctor of Science on Professors Sir Ken and Lady Murray, in recognition

of their distinguished careers and contributions to the field of molecular biology.

- The second and third lectures in a series to mark the centenary of the Sheffield and District Cambrian Society were delivered on 5 and 12 May by The Rt Hon George Reid, lately Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, and Lord Bew of Donegore, Professor of Irish Politics at Queen's University, Belfast. These were joint events with the University and took as their general theme 'The Future of the United Kingdom – a personal perspective'.
- On 21 May 2010, the John Carr Design Centre, Portobello, was officially opened by Peter Carr, son of Hilda and John Carr. Approximately 60 people attended the event.
- On 17 June 2010 Paul Collier, Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economics at Oxford University, delivered a lecture on 'The Plundered Planet - Why we must and how we can manage the world's natural resources to ensure global prosperity'.
- On 8 June 2010, the Director General of the CBI, Richard Lambert, delivered the 2010 Sheffield Management Lecture and set out some of the key challenges facing British business and HE in the context of the recent election and the current recession.

## 8.2 External relations: international

- **Libya:** UEB members, including Professor Keith Burnett, Professor Tony Ryan, Professor Dominic Shellard, Professor Tony Weetman, visited Libya in early April. The objectives of the visit were:
  - to discuss opportunities for supporting the development of Libya's HE infrastructure with government ministers, universities and the British Ambassador, Sir Vincent Fearn;
  - to visit Al Fateh Medical University, Al Fateh University and the Academy of Graduate Studies to discuss collaboration opportunities;
  - to progress discussions with Omar Al Mukhtar University (OMU) about ongoing collaborations in the areas of student recruitment and capacity building.

An initial intake of five OMU PhD students has subsequently been welcomed to the University to start pre-sessional English Language training. Discussions continue in relation to potential further collaboration with OMU and other institutions.

- **Japan.** UEB members, including Professor Keith Burnett, Professor Dominic Shellard and Dr Philip Harvey visited Japan in April. The objectives of the visit were:
  - to meet with Waseda, Ritsumeiken and Doshisha universities to discuss current collaborations and potential for extending the areas in which we are working together;
  - to meet with senior officials from MEXT (Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Culture) to discuss their ongoing programme of internationalisation of Higher Education, and how UoS can help;
  - to meet with the British Ambassador, David Warren.

A number of opportunities emerged during the visit, including the potential for running a range of cultural summer schools, and joint Masters/PhD programmes across a number of subject areas.

- **Saudi Arabia:** A visit to King Abdulaziz University (KAU)'s Centre of Excellence for Osteoporosis Research (CEOR) by Tim Crick, Director of International Liaison, and senior colleagues from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health was undertaken in early June. The aim of the visit was to evaluate the possibility of joint research and initiate collaboration if appropriate. The visit was very successful and produced the following outcomes:
  - a consultancy agreement for UoS academics worth \$200,000 p.a. consultancy

for five years;

- agreement to progress three visiting research chairs for Sheffield staff for a total of £6m;
- agreement to explore potential joint research, should KAU be successful in their recent bid to become a Technology Innovation Centre.

The visit was also useful in identifying other potential opportunities with KAU.

- The University has signed an agreement to become part of the Santander Universities network. This is a network of universities in the UK, South America and Spain/Portugal. A donation of £50k pa for three years will be made by Santander and will provide funding for scholarships, research mobility, student enterprise activities, and awards for non-academic student achievement. Santander have confirmed that additional scholarship funding of £28k will be available to UoS for the academic year 2011-12.

### **8.3 External relations: regional and national**

- Discussions with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council are taking place, involving colleagues from the Faculty of Social Sciences, to explore how UoS can support the Council's scrutiny process, and also evaluation of the Imagination Library project.
- The University supported UUK's 'What's the Big Idea' campaign, a week-long PR campaign aimed at communicating the value of HE to the UK population.

### **8.4 External relations: community**

- UoS student Community reps, under the guidance of Greg Oldfield (External Relations Manager) ran a tea party for the local community at the Broomhill Library, also attended by a number of local Councillors. The University and Union provided a series of activities for children with the aim of raising awareness of the library and to recruit volunteers for the garden up-keep.
- The University has worked closely with Sheffield City Council on their 'Good Communities, Great Neighbours' project.
- Various community meetings/events were supported over the period including:
  - Student task force with Sheffield City Council (SCC);
  - Central Partner Panel (part of the SCC Community Assembly);
  - Sheffield United FC Community Day;
  - Sheffield Children's Hospital's Theo's Games;
  - Crookes Community Forum;
  - Broomhill Neighbourhood Action Group;
  - City Centre Neighbourhood Action Group.

### **8.5 Internal communications**

- The first meeting of the Internal Communicators Network was held in April, bringing together around 40 colleagues from across academic and professional services departments to discuss best practices in internal communications.

### **8.6 Media coverage**

- The University generated 876 articles in the press and media between 24 March 2010 and 15 June 2010. This amounted to £3,148,513 in AVE - in other words the amount the coverage would have cost if paid for in terms of advertising. This included coverage in *BBC Radio 4*, *BBC 2*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Financial Times*, *The Daily Mail*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Times Higher Education*, *The Stage*, *New Scientist*, *Yorkshire Post* and *Sheffield Star*.
- The first ever-academic forum for female Saudi Arabian students generated coverage in *Saudi TV*, *Arab News*, *The National*, *UAE Digest*, Saudi student magazine

*Wazzup, Arabian Women* magazine and numerous Middle East websites.

- Professor Grant Bigg (Geography) led research that suggested that the onset of the British summer has been advancing since the 1950s. This story featured in *The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Daily Mail, Yorkshire Post, Sheffield Telegraph* and *Sheffield Star*.
- Professor Roger Butlin (Animal & Plant Sciences) led a study with the University of Leeds which resulted in the discovery of a type of bat never seen before in the UK. This story featured in *BBC News Online, BBC Radio Sheffield, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, Morning Star, Yorkshire Post* and *Sheffield Star*.
- Dr Petra Meier (Health & Related Research) will lead a team awarded £1m in funding to study policy interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm. Coverage of this story appeared in *ITV Calendar, BBC Radio Sheffield, Sheffield Telegraph* and *Sheffield Star*.
- Professor Danny Dorling (Geography) published a new book on the causes on inequality in the UK. This story, and commentary associated with the book, appeared in *BBC Radio Sheffield, The Guardian, London Evening Standard, Regeneration and Renewal, Environmental Health News* and *Yorkshire Post*.

#### **8.4 Awards**

- University of Sheffield Enterprise received the High Impact Badge of Honour for an event organised as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week 2009.
- Simcyp, a University of Sheffield spin-out company, which specialises in simulating how the body deals with new drugs, has been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise.
- The University's Student Services and HR teams both won awards at the 2010 *Times Higher Education's* Leadership and Management awards. The awards are designed to celebrate the sector's leadership, management, financial and business skills and showcase the innovation, teamwork and commercial acumen of UK HEIs.
  - The Student Services Department won the 'Outstanding Student Services Team' award on the basis of excellence in service strategy, integration, innovation and evaluation. Recent initiatives Student Services, include an 'E-support' project, which has delivered new services such as online health promotion using Web 2.0 technologies; the team's 'Supporting the Supporters' project, which has also developed a range of support services for staff across the institution with a student administration/student support remit; and the launch of a research project on how students find a sense of community and 'belonging' on campus.
  - The Department of Human Resources won the 'Outstanding HR Team' award, on the basis of overall strategic performance, initiatives to support the institution's strategic plan and contribution to improving institutional performance. Recent projects have included initiatives to recognise the major contribution female academics make to the University; implementation of a new environmentally-friendly online recruitment system, streamlining procedures, reducing the time to approve and publish staff vacancies by 55 per cent and saving the use of over 100,000 sheets of paper per annum; and the organisation a celebratory day of discussions and workshops called Out@Work Day, to raise awareness of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender issues and promote inclusion and respect for diversity.

