



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Office  
Of  
The President &  
Vice-Chancellor.

UEB/2020/2206/02

## Minutes University Executive Board

**Date:** 12 May 2020

**Present:** Professor K Lamberts (KL) (in the Chair)

Professor J Derrick (JD), Professor S Fitzmaurice (SF), Professor S Hartley (SH), Professor M J Hounslow (MJH), Ms J Jones (JJ), Professor W Morgan (WM),

Professor C Newman (CN), Professor D Petley (DNP),

Mr R Sykes (RS), Professor G Valentine (GV), Professor C Watkins (CW)

**In attendance:** Dr T Strike (TS), Ms S Bridgeford (SB) (item 1), Mr D Barcroft (DB) (item 2), Ms B Abrams (BA) (items 3 & 4)

**Apologies:**

**Secretary:** Mr N Button (NB) / Mr D Swinn (DS)

### 1. Management of Sexual Violence Cases

(Ms S Bridgeford in attendance for this item)

- 1.1 UEB considered a paper that proposed strengthening the current approach of senior management oversight of the management of sexual violence cases in line with expected regulatory requirements on the sector. Attention was drawn to the delay in the OfS consultation on sexual harassment and misconduct as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, the work that had already been done to strengthen the University's policies and procedures on these issues, and the need for clearer statements of policy, particularly those that related to other campus visitors who were not students or staff.
- 1.2 During discussion, UEB noted the following:
  - University Council would have oversight of the University's work in the form of an annual report.
  - The University had made a great deal of progress on these issues and would be able to clearly communicate that progress to the OfS, though there was still room for further improvement and clarity.
- 1.3 UEB agreed the proposals for enhanced monitoring and management arrangements and identified the Provost & Deputy Vice Chancellor as the UEB Sponsor for this work. It was further agreed that Council would be informed of this strengthened oversight and given assurance that they would receive their first annual report on the matter in due course.

## 2. Closed Minute and Paper

## 3. ITSG Technology Enabled Strategic Framework

(Ms B Abrams in attendance for this item)

- 3.1 UEB considered an update on work to re-prioritise IT Services activity in the short-term (next three months) in response to the Covid-19 crisis, and agreed an associated funding request, following consideration by ITSG and discussion with relevant UEB leads. It was noted that the funding request comprised costs from existing budgets, in 2019-20, and additional revenue requirements for subsequent years, which had been proposed for subsequent years as part of the current financial forecasting process.
- 3.2 During discussion it was noted that cases for staff recruitment provided for by this additional funding would be taken through the Recruitment Advisory Panel.

## 4. Closed Minute and Paper

## 5. Coronavirus update

- 5.1 UEB was updated on a recent discussion Russell Group Vice Chancellors had had with the Secretary of State for Education. Although the Secretary was sympathetic to the needs of the sector during the Covid-19 outbreak, there was ongoing resistance within the Treasury to a more substantive support package. UEB discussed the position of the Russell Group now that the DfE had announced its sector support package without the crucial elements of support for research and the recruitment of international students and the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on the UK's reputation internationally.
- 5.2 UEB also discussed the arrangements for restarting some research activities providing that appropriate safety measures and social distancing procedures could be guaranteed in line with government guidelines. The principle would be that research most essential to the University's research and innovation needs, vital to future research and University partnerships, and the needs of PGR students would be prioritised. Local knowledge would be essential in determining what counted as essential research, and how best to ensure safe working practices, but would need to be driven by principles decided and communicated centrally.
- 5.3 **Action:** Communications would be issued following a meeting of the Return to Work Group that set out some of the principles behind which these decisions would be made.

## 6. Round Table

- (a) Nominations to Senate: TS reminded FVPs that nominations of Heads of Departments to Senate were now open. The attendance record of this year's members had been provided.
- (b) Year abroad: SF informed UEB that work was ongoing in developing plans for students who had been due to be studying abroad in the next academic year.
- (c) Year in industry: MJH informed UEB that most Year in Industry placements appeared to be proceeding as planned for the next academic year.
- (d) Professor Thomas Helleday: CN informed UEB that Professor Thomas Helleday has decided, due to ongoing uncertainty about oncology funding, to return to the Karolinska Institutet from August.