



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Office UEB/2020/1606/01
Of
The President &
Vice-Chancellor.

Minutes

University Executive Board

Date:	26 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), Professor G Valentine (GV), Professor C Watkins (CW)
In attendance:	Mr I Wright (IW), Dr T Strike (TS)
Apologies:	Mr R Sykes (RS)
Secretary:	Mr N Button (NB) / Dr E Smith (ES)

1. Notes of UEB Away Day Held on 28 January 2020

1.1 The notes were approved as an accurate record.

2. Minutes of UEB Held on 7 April 2020

2.1 The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3. Closed Minute and Paper

4.1 Closed Minute and Paper

5. Update on Return to Campus - Research

5.1 UEB considered an update on the phased return of research to the campus, having endorsed the plan informing this work at a previous meeting. It was reported that the REF Steering Group (RSG) and Faculty Directors of Research and Innovation (FDRIs) had both contributed feedback and that the paper had been revised in accordance, chiefly to bring the Priorities List into greater alignment with Faculty priorities and update the criteria for assessing which areas of research could be reinstated. The updated paper placed greater emphasis on the continuing need for research to be undertaken on campus, where practicable; further thought had also been given to contractual issues for Research Associates and other research staff, and urgent completion dates for PGR students. It was recommended that the plan be implemented, with further updates to be incorporated as and when issues were raised.

5.2 With regard to publicising the plan, UEB noted that communications would be circulated first to senior staff and then research-active staff. Key messages would revolve around the principles informing the phased return of research to the estate, and the importance of staff adhering to Government guidelines. In respect of health

and safety considerations, work was ongoing with Estates and Facilities Management (EFM) and Health and Safety to finalise the Risk Impact Assessments (RIAs) and share them with Departments/Schools in advance of the plan coming into effect.

5.3 During discussion, it was noted that further clarification was needed on the role of Faculty Vice-Presidents in approving RIAs.

5.4 UEB noted the update and endorsed the implementation of the plan.

5.5 **Actions:**

- (a) The updated paper would be shared with UEB members.
- (b) RSG would be consulted on role of the Faculty Vice-Presidents in authorising RIAs, with the aim of clarifying the expectations in this regard.

6. Coronavirus Update

6.1 Research

Vice-Presidents for Research of Russell Group institutions had met with a senior representative from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). It was reported that work was ongoing around covering the cost of extensions for UKRI-funded PGR students. The importance of the 'levelling up' agenda was also noted.

6.2 Santander

UEB noted that Santander, which had previously provided funded for University schemes, was reviewing that funding in the light of the financial difficulties presented by COVID-19.

7. Closed Minute and Paper

8. Report of UEB Student Mental Health Strategy Group

(Meeting on 29 April)

8.1 UEB received the report. Clarification was provided about the role of the Group in providing oversight over the implementation of the University's Student Mental Health Strategy. With respect to progress on the four principal work streams (Training, Wellbeing, Communications, and PGR), attention was drawn to the benefits of the evidence-based approach taken, in which decisions informed by the relevant research and data were having positive impacts. UEB also noted external developments in student mental health policy and strategy that would influence the University's activities in these areas.

8.2 UEB approved the report.

9. Round Table

- (a) Education: WM updated UEB about letters sent out to applicants regarding the blended learning approach that the University proposed to employ for the 2020/21 academic year.