

The Council, 17 October 2016

Annual Report of the Alumni Board

The Alumni Board was established as a recommendation of the Task and Finish Group Report on Alumni Engagement and approved by Council in 2014. We are an advisory body, meeting three times a year and working alongside Department for Alumni Relations and Events (DARE) to help develop alumni engagement. The Chair and Deputy Chair are members of Council.

The Board has now been working for two years and has met six times with four meetings in Sheffield and two in London. At our next meeting on November 4th 2016 we welcome the first new board members, replacing those whose two-year term of office ended on 31st July. On the retirement of John Kelly from Council, the Board has a new Deputy Chair, Alison Legg.

Convocation Fund

In November 2015 Convocation held an EGM at the University when it voted to suspend itself. This resulted in the Alumni Board taking responsibility for the Convocation Fund and the establishment of a working group including the current trustees. The working group reported to the June meeting of the Board, at which it was agreed that the income generated by the Convocation Fund would be split between providing support for international events and groups (Charter Day – see below) as well as a lecture in Sheffield from a distinguished alumnus, which will take place once every two years. It was agreed that the lecture would provide for the opportunity to hold an Alumni Forum, which would give the opportunity for the Alumni Board to report to and take feedback from fellow alumni.

All Board meetings begin with a short report on topical issues from either the Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice-Chancellor with an opportunity for questions and feedback from members of the Board. Our meetings conclude with a consideration of past and future alumni events.

Among the other major agenda items considered by the Alumni Board in 2015-16 were:

- **Alumni Volunteering:** a presentation from Emma Packham, Alumni Volunteering Manager, followed by an appraisal of the alumni volunteering programme
- **Careers and eMentoring:** discussion of the eMentoring programme, matching alumni volunteers with online mentoring.
- **Alumni Survey:** scrutiny and discussion of headline figures from the annual survey conducted by DARE
- **Distinguished Alumni Awards:** selection from list of nominees presented by DARE.
- **Charter Day:** discussion of the planned pilot programme for international alumni, consideration of feedback and review of activities.

- **Learning and Teaching Strategy:** presentation, followed by discussion of the consultation process and input from alumni.
- **Library Services for Alumni:** presentation by the Director of Library Services University Librarian, Anne Horn and discussion of alumni access to the university libraries.
- **University fundraising:** presentation from Robert Dufton, Director of Campaigns, and discussion of the effectiveness of the campaign, especially about how DARE can make fundraising relevant to younger alumni.

Among the items for future consideration are:

- Embedding alumni relations across the University: examining a case study from the Faculty of Engineering. (Based on a recommendation of the Task and Finish Group Review of Alumni Engagement)
- Alumni and the Students Union: how alumni can provide support for the Students Union
- The Role of Alumni Ambassadors
- The Role of the Alumni Board in contributing to the University's strategic aims and objectives.
- Developing the Alumni Portal and Alumni Membership Cards.
- Developing the Alumni Forum to provide for feedback from Alumni.

Richard Mayson 03/10/16
Chair of the Alumni Board