



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

The Council, 12 February 2018

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 Development, Alumni Relations & Events (DARE) to help develop alumni engagement. The Chair and Deputy Chair are Pro-Chancellors of the University.

The Board has been working for three years and is about to hold its 11th meeting. Meetings are held in Sheffield and London – two per year in Sheffield and one per year in London. We have welcomed two sets of new members since the Board first started, due to various original members' terms ending.

All Board meetings begin with a short report on topical issues from either the President and Vice-Chancellor or Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor with an opportunity for questions and feedback from members of the Board. We have also welcomed other members of University staff to update the Alumni Board on activities including Corporate Communications, Global Engagement, Accommodation and Campus Services and Estates. Our meetings conclude with a consideration of past and future alumni events.

Among the other major agenda items considered by the Alumni Board in 2016-17 were:

- **Convocation Fund:** the future management and use of the Convocation Fund was approved.
- **Convocation Lecture:** the establishment of a Convocation Lecture to take place every two years and funded by the Convocation Fund. The inaugural lecture will be delivered by alumna Helen Sharman on 6 June 2018. An alumni forum will be held on this date prior to the lecture allowing alumni who attend the event to ask questions and feed back to Board members and DARE staff about alumni activities.
- **International Alumni Ambassadors:** the Convocation Fund would help to support the establishment of some key international groups in countries / cities of strategic importance, with a focus on SE Asia.
- **Distinguished Alumni Awards:** selection from list of nominees presented by DARE. The two most recent awards went to alumnus David Fyfe and alumna Sarah Evans at the July 2017 graduation ceremonies, whilst former Chair of Convocation and Alumni Board member Brian Wrigley received his award at the graduation ceremonies in January 2017.

- **Students' Union:** discussion with the President of the Students' Union on how alumni can provide support for the Students' Union, including receiving a report on student mental health.
- **Alumni Portal:** presentation, followed by discussion on the development of an alumni portal to provide alumni with access to a range of services including peer to peer global networking and involvement in University activities.
- **#WeAreInternational:** presentation by Ian Gardiner from Corporate Communications, followed by discussion on the outcomes of the international alumni memories campaign as part of #WeAreInternational
- **University fundraising:** regular updates from the Deputy Director of Advancement, Michelle Moore, on the latest fundraising achievements and how members of the Board can help to promote our campaigns including the Big Walk and the Scanner appeal. Many members of the Board have helped these campaigns by either volunteering their time or providing donations.
- **Alumni Relations:** focus on how alumni relations activities are embedded across the University, with specific presentations from the Faculty of Engineering and the Management School on how they work with DARE and the activities they engage their alumni in.
- **Stewardship:** presentation from Stewardship Officer Lucy Arnold who discussed how alumni donors are thanked and the different levels of stewardship they receive.

Richard Mayson
Chair of the Alumni Board
29 January 2018