

The Alumni Board met three times in 2017-18, twice in Sheffield and once in London. All meetings begin with a short report on current issues facing the University from a member of the UEB with an opportunity for questions, feedback and discussion. Every meeting concludes with a consideration of past and future alumni events. The Board receives regular updates on fundraising from a member of DARE staff as well as international activities from both from DARE staff and the board's international representatives.

Among the major agenda items considered by the Board in 2017 – 18 were:

Organisation of the first **Convocation Lecture** which was delivered by Dr Helen Sharman on 6th June 2018. Prior to the lecture there was an Alumni Forum with a presentation from DARE and an opportunity for questions and a discussion covering alumni relations. The lecture was attended by just under 400 alumni and guests. The next Convocation lecture will be delivered in 2020.

Presentation and discussion of **Student and Staff Mental Health Strategies** with Student Union Officers also in attendance. The board discussed the reasons for the increase in mental health issues and the University's strategy for staff and student mental health was considered.

Students' Union Special Research Projects: a presentation on this from Union Officers and a discussion of its long-term funding link with the Alumni Foundation.

Distinguished Alumni Awards: selection from a list of nominees presented by DARE. It was agreed that, where possible the presentation of these awards would be tied with graduation or an alumni event overseas.

Presentation from the Chief Operating Officer and discussion about the **appointment process of a new Vice Chancellor**. The Chair of the Alumni Board sat in on one of the stakeholder interview panels and raised the subject of alumni relations with the shortlisted candidates.

Presentation and discussion covering **International Alumni Groups** including the increasing numbers of members in China, Malaysia, Mexico and India. Discussion of the Alumni Ambassador's pilot scheme.

Corporate Communications - Our Reputation and Engaging Alumni: presentation and discussion of the two-year project to develop the University's website. The Brand 100 Tracker research project was discussed in the context of other Russell Group universities.

On-going discussion about the **Alumni Portal** and its potential advantages for the University of Sheffield's global alumni community.

Presentation and discussion on the **new Social Sciences Hub and Engineering Heartspace Projects**. We are grateful to the architects of the respective projects for their attendance and for answering questions from board members.

Faculty Partnerships: discussion of work by DARE to create greater awareness within Faculties and Departments of the importance of alumni relations and the Alumni Volunteer Programme.

Alumni Survey: a new survey will be undertaken in 2019 and will involve the Alumni Board in testing and submitting questions.

**Richard Mayson,
Chair, Alumni Board
February 2019**