



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Office UEB/2019/1604/01
Of
The President &
Vice-Chancellor.

Minutes University Executive Board

Date: 19 March 2019

Present: Professor G Valentine (GV) (in the Chair),
Professor J Derrick (JD), Mrs H J Dingle (HJD), Professor S Fitzmaurice (SF), Professor M J Hounslow (MJH), Professor D Petley (DP), Professor Dame Pamela J Shaw (PJS), Mr R Sykes (RS), Professor C Watkins (CW)

In attendance: Dr T Strike (TS); Dr R Birch (RHB) (item 4)

Apologies: Professor K Lamberts (KL), Mr A Dodman (AD), Professor W Morgan (WM)

Minute Secretary: Mr N Button (NB)

1. Minutes of UEB held on 26 February 2019

- 1.1 The Minutes of the UEB meeting held on 26 February were approved as an accurate record. There was an update on the action arising about a UEB item regarding AMRC finances.

2. Minutes of UEB held on 5 March 2019

- 2.1 The Minutes of the UEB meeting held on 5 March were approved as an accurate record.

3. No Deal Brexit

- 3.1 UEB received an update on the University's no deal Brexit planning, noting that it was not yet possible to rule out a no deal scenario on 29 March. Updates were given on the following issues:
- Erasmus: the numbers of students involved in the Erasmus scheme studying at or originating from the University of Sheffield were noted. Clarity was being sought on the trigger for the University's commitment to underwrite Erasmus funding for one semester.
 - Tuition fees: there was no further information relating to tuition fees for the 2020/21 academic year.
 - Horizon 2020: The Government portal for uploading details had been active for some time. There was currently no replacement for European Research Council or Marie Curie funding.
 - Citizens' rights: the 36 month limited leave period problem had not been resolved. The President & Vice-Chancellor had written to the Home Secretary about this.

- Visas and travel: the proposal that UK citizens should be allowed short-term visa free travel to the Schengen area was still under discussion in the European Parliament.
 - Mutual recognition of qualifications: the UK would have to seek individual arrangements with EU countries following no-deal, many of whom had incentives to not recognise UK qualifications.
- 3.2 UEB noted the decision by the Brexit Co-ordination Group to revise the approach to a Critical Incident Helpline. This would involve initial reliance on existing contacts processed in Departments and the University, but with the option to activate a specific Helpline if necessary.
- 3.3 UEB also discussed the travel advice for staff and students in the event of no deal. During discussion, UEB noted the following:
- All Departments had now responded to the request to detail University-instigated student travel over the period.
 - It was important for Departments to have contingencies in place if field trips were unable to take place to replace lost learning.
 - There were legal concerns about whether staff travel advice was sufficient to mitigate the foreseeable risks associated with travelling during a no deal scenario.
 - There were teaching and accommodation implications if students currently planning to undertake a year abroad as part of their course were unable to do so as a result of Brexit.
- 3.4 UEB agreed to recommend to the President & Vice-Chancellor the following:
- (a) The current situation regarding university-instigated student field trips was acceptable, provided sufficient Faculty oversight.
 - (b) Legal advice would be sought on the University's duty of care responsibilities relating to risks associated with staff travel.
 - (c) Further clarity would be sought on the accommodation status of Erasmus students in the event of no deal.
 - (d) Concerns around teaching implications for students planning to study abroad would be communicated to the Brexit Co-ordination Group.

4. Closed Minute

5. Round Table

- (a) Researchfish: DP informed UEB that the response from Departments had finished at 97.7%.
- (b) REF Code of Practice: DP noted that the code of practice would be considered by University Senate on Wednesday 20 March. There were discussions ongoing about the use of stocktake data in the assessment of performance.
- (c) Bangladesh: PS informed UEB of collaborative work ongoing with Bangladesh on health initiatives.
- (d) Sir John Kingman: MJH informed UEB that the Chair of UK Research & Innovation was visiting the University.
- (e) Information Cascade: SF provided some feedback regarding the UEB Information Cascade.

- (f) Learning and Teaching: SF informed UEB of concerns regarding learning and teaching information being communicated to Heads of Department.
- (g) Head of Department interview: CW informed UEB that he was looking for a UEB member to chair the interview panel for a HoD in Economics.