



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Office UEB/2017/2410/03
Of The
President &
Vice-Chancellor.

Minutes

University Executive Board

Date: 17 October 2017

Present: Professor D Petley (DP) (in the Chair),
Professor N Clarke (NC), Mr A Dodman (AD),
Professor S Fitzmaurice (SF), Professor M J Hounslow (MJH),
Professor W Morgan (WM), Professor Dame Pamela J Shaw (PJS),
Professor C Watkins (CW)

In attendance: Dr T Strike (TS)

Apologies: Professor Sir Keith Burnett (KB), Mrs H J Dingle (HJD),
Professor G Valentine (GV)

Secretary: Ms S M Stephens (SMS)

1. Further developing online and digital learning

(UEB/2017/1710/001)

- 1.1 UEB considered a paper outlining current activity in the area of digital learning and drivers for further development, including the need to create new offers to attract students from both domestic and international markets, and enhancing the use of technology to support the teaching excellence agenda. UEB endorsed a proposal to:
- (a) identify new markets for online learning and explore new models of partnership with external online programme management providers; and
 - (b) deepen and broaden engagement with digital technologies to support campus-based learning.
- 1.2 Points noted in discussion included:
- that academic colleagues would play a key role in providing content, and that the initial focus would be on areas of existing expertise and capacity;
 - that market research should consider the relationship between the University's standard and online offers and the place of digital learning within the wider portfolio;
 - that the further development of online and digital learning would support the development of the broader and more externally focused Education 4.0 initiative.
- 1.3 **ACTION:** A plan for online course development would be presented to UEB on completion of the market research project.

2. Report of the Strategic Advisory Group – Student Numbers and Fees

(Meeting held on 20 September 2017) (UEB/2017/1710/002)

- 2.1 UEB considered the report and agreed to recommend to the President & Vice-Chancellor the approval of proposals relating to:
- the Home undergraduate and taught postgraduate scholarship scheme for 2018 entry;
 - the process and principles for setting tuition fees, including a scheme of delegation for inclusion in the Financial Regulations;
 - fees for placement years and study abroad;
 - fees for the MA in Legal Practice.
- 2.2 **ACTION:** With respect to the proposed scholarship scheme, it was agreed that the entry requirements for the undergraduate component should be broadened to include, for example, designs and posters, as well as essays and films.
- 2.3 **ACTION:** It was noted that a wider review of expenditure on scholarships was currently being completed under the aegis of the Strategy Delivery Group, and that its outcomes would be reported to UEB later in the year.

3. Round table

- (a) School of Architecture: The School's RIBA accreditation had been confirmed for a further five years following a recent review. Strongly positive feedback had been received.
- (b) Erasmus programme: A British Council audit of the University's Erasmus provision was currently taking place.
- (c) UoS EU webpages: The University's EU advice webpages were being updated to clarify the position in respect of Brexit and Horizon 2020 funding.
- (d) Off the Shelf: The Off the Shelf festival (7-28 October) had attracted between 14,000 and 15,000 attendees to date.
- (e) AHRC DTP: The White Rose consortium of Leeds, Sheffield and York had submitted a DPT2 bid for doctoral professional training funding to the Arts & Humanities Research Council.
- (f) Cabinet Office briefing: Professor Mary Vincent (History) had been invited to brief the Cabinet Office on the Catalan situation.
- (g) CESAER meeting: MJH would attend the annual meeting of the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research in Budapest on 19 October.
- (h) Connecting Capability Fund: The University's Northern Triangle project had been successful in Round 1 bids to HEIF's Connecting Capability Fund. A Round 2 bid was in preparation.
- (i) PGR recruitment: DP reported on figures for new registrations compared with the same date in 2015 and 2016, which suggested that PGR numbers were likely to be lower than in previous years. A fall in non-UK EU student numbers was noted. There were, however, variations across faculties, and a fall in Home registrations was to

some extent offset by a rise in Overseas registrations. Professor Lorraine Maltby was consulting Faculty Directors of Research & Innovation to better understand the position and any underlying factors.

- (j) UEB-HoDS forum: **ACTION:** FVPs were asked to contact GV with examples of departmental good practice in student recruitment.