



**The
University
Of
Sheffield.**

**Office
Of The
President &
Vice-Chancellor.**

UEB/2017/2111/01

Minutes

University Executive Board

Date:	14 November 2017
Present:	Professor G Valentine (GV) (in the Chair), Mrs H J Dingle (HJD), Professor Dawn Hadley (DH) Professor M J Hounslow (MJH), Professor W Morgan (WM), Professor D Petley (DNP), Professor Dame Pamela J Shaw (PJS), Professor C Watkins (CW)
In attendance:	Dr T Strike (TS)
Apologies:	Professor Sir Keith Burnett (KB), Mr A Dodman (AD), Professor S Fitzmaurice (SF)
Secretary:	Mr M Borland (MB)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2017

(UEB/2017/1411/01)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

Professor Nigel Clarke was stepping down from the University Executive Board and UEB thanked Professor Clarke for his work as Faculty Vice-President.

2. University Research Priorities

(UEB/2017/1411/02)

UEB considered a paper and received a presentation setting out a proposed approach to the development of university research priorities. The proposal focused on a structure of light touch University Research Institutes, sitting above two lower levels of research centres, with limited central funding to support their formation and delivery. The proposal included an open competition, of 2 waves, within the university to identify potential priorities.

Following discussion during which a number of points were identified UEB endorsed the proposals and agreed:

- The issue of leadership was important, and in particular the expected requirements of leaders.
- There should be further reflection on the criteria; specifically the inclusion of an 'impact' criterion and the wording of an 'interdisciplinarity' criterion.
- The language in the paper should be amended to be more aspirational.
- The marketing and communications approach of a University Research Institute would be important as its reputation could provide an ability to respond to funding opportunities and could play a role in UG, PGT and PGR student recruitment.
- University Research Institutes would need to be embedded within the planning round and need not involve the creation of new cost centres.

- There would be advantages in aligning other university activity with the focus of University Research Institutes, for example the work of DARE, and also departmental appointments.
- All University Research Institutes should be subject to a mid-term review.
- Communications regarding the process would need to be consistent.

Actions:

- The proposals would be presented to Research and Innovation Committee on 15 November and to Senate on 13 December.

3. Report of the Estates and Capital Sub-Group (Meeting held on 26 October 2017)

(UEB/2017/1411/03)

- 3.1 UEB considered a report that updated on capital projects as reported to the Estates and Capital Sub-Group on 26 October 2017.
- 3.2 Attention was drawn to the Psychology and Social Sciences business cases which would be assessed as planned and if approved the programmes would be deferred by one year to keep within affordable limits. All forthcoming capital business cases would be viewed from the lens of prioritising expenditure on student facing activities and/or projects which generate significant positive returns.
- 3.3 The Interim Faculty Vice-President for Social Sciences spoke to the Social Science Hub business case. During discussion it was suggested consideration be given to: the possibility of developing options for the Elmfield building refurbishment project at a faster rate than initially planned; a marginal analysis of the benefits of different costings for the Elmfield building refurbishment project; and communications regarding the Social Science Hub.
- 3.4 UEB recommended to the President and Vice-Chancellor for approval the proposals set out in the paper in relation to:
 - Social Science Hub
 - New Build at 23 Shepherd Street – Logistics Centre
 - Translational Energy Research Centre (TERC) – Equipment Only
 - PACT – 2 Translational CCUS Research Centre – BEIS Proposal
 - Energy 2050 Office Space in the Bioincubator Building
 - AMRC North West
 - Engineering Buildings on AMRC2, LVV, RTC and iCAIR Financial Review
 - Accommodation and Commercial Services Capital Plan
- 3.5 UEB agreed the recommendation that all future ERDF bids for all institutional activities are to be approved in the first instance by UEB and the President and Vice-Chancellor before submission. UEB additionally agreed that where timescales would not allow a UEB discussion a smaller group comprising the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Chief Financial Officer and Vice-President for Research & Innovation would act on behalf of UEB.

Actions:

- 3.6 UEB asked that the PEG consider the issues in section 3.3 at its meeting on 14 November.

4. Round table

This item was deferred to the following meeting.