



**The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.**

**Office  
Of The  
President &  
Vice-Chancellor.** UEB/2018/1302/01

## **Minutes**

## **University Executive Board**

**Date:** 6 February 2018

**Present:** Professor G Valentine (GV) (in the Chair),  
Professor J Derrick (JD), Professor D Hadley (DH),  
Professor M J Hounslow (MJH), Professor W Morgan (WM),  
Professor D Petley (DP), Professor Dame Pamela J Shaw (PJS),  
Professor C Watkins (CW)

**In attendance:** Dr T Strike (TS); Mr P Hardy (DLA Piper)

**Apologies:** Professor Sir Keith Burnett (KB), Mrs H J Dingle (HJD),  
Mr A Dodman (AD)

**Secretary:** Ms S M Stephens (SMS)

### **1. Review of Brexit preparations**

(UEB/2018/0602/001)

- 1.1 UEB welcomed Paul Hardy, Brexit Director at DLA Piper. A paper had been circulated summarising the University's preparations for Brexit to date and potential issues for consideration.
- 1.2 In his presentation, Paul Hardy outlined the current position in terms of the Brexit negotiations, drawing attention to those aspects particularly relevant to HE.
  - (a) December agreement: Agreements have been reached in respect of citizens' rights, the financial settlement and the Irish border. Whilst these are not yet legally binding, they represent a milestone in the negotiations:
    - EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU27 now have increased clarity as to their futures, as do their employers. The UK Government will operate a system of 'settled status', which will allow successful applicants to remain indefinitely in the UK. An online registration system will be available from Autumn 2018, and individuals will have a two-year window from 'Brexit day' on 29 March 2019 in which to apply. It should be noted, however, that the recently published EU guidelines on a transitional period suggest that the final date should be the end of the transitional period, 31 December 2020.
    - Agreement has been reached on the scope of the UK's financial commitments and the principles for valuation of these.
    - Both sides committed to ensuring there would be no hard Irish border, and the onus is now on the UK Government to find a workable solution, though this is problematic given the Government's position that the UK will leave the Single Market and the Customs Union.

In relation to HE, commitments have been made in relation to maintaining existing finance arrangements for EU students up to 2018-19 and ongoing access to Horizon 2020 and Erasmus up to 2020.

- (b) Phase two negotiations: These will focus initially on the arrangements for a proposed transition period, and then on the future relationship between the UK and the EU and an outline trade agreement. The recently agreed EU guidelines for the transitional period involve maintaining the status quo, with the UK staying in the Single Market and Customs Union and remaining subject to EU law. The UK may negotiate new trade and other international agreements during this time, but those affecting existing EU policies cannot come into force until after the transitional period without the EU's authorisation. Points of particular note for HE include:

- a proposed later cut-off date for registration applications from EU citizens resident in the UK (see (a) above);
- the publication by the European Council of guidance on the framework for the future relationship between the UK and the EU in late March 2018.

HEIs should also pay attention to:

- the expected EU Withdrawal Agreement and Immigration Bill and any changes to existing legislation contained in this;
- Home Office consideration of citizens' rights, including whether to suspend a requirement for students to take out private health insurance.

More generally, HEIs should undertake the impact assessments necessary to identify issues that might arise should a hard Brexit position emerge and potential mitigating actions.

1.3 Additional points noted in discussion included:

- the importance of sector lobbying, for example by UUK and the Russell Group and the need for individual institutions to ensure their interests are appropriately represented;
- the extent to which UK HEIs' EU-based operations could be classified as EU entities for the purpose of research funding eligibility and procurement;
- the possible secondary consequences of Brexit for HEIs, for example a change of Government or a further period of financial austerity in which HE was unlikely to be a funding priority.

1.4 **Action:**

- Further investigation to be undertaken (including seeking legal advice) concerning the potential advantages of an EU base outside the UK. DP to liaise with Malcolm Butler and his EU Monitoring Advisory Group and also discuss with FDRIs to identify possible partnership opportunities.
- The role of the International Faculty to be considered in light of the above.
- TS to monitor policy developments and bring a further update to UEB in late March, following the publication of EU guidance on the framework for the future relationship between the UK and the EU.
- Malcolm Butler/the EU Monitoring Advisory Group to identify issues for consideration in the context of a possible hard Brexit.
- Further consideration to be given to sector lobbying.

## 2. **Bioincubator building renaming** (UEB/2018/0602/002)

- 2.1 UEB received a proposal for the renaming of the Bioincubator building, which was currently being redeveloped for academic use, including in the medium term Energy 2050, The Grantham Institute, Department of Archaeology laboratories and parts of the MLTC. Having considered three potential names, UEB agreed to recommend to the President & Vice-Chancellor that the building be renamed the Ella Armitage Building.
- 2.2 Ella Armitage (d. 1931) was an inspirational pioneering female academic who made a major contribution to Sheffield history (*A key to English Antiquities: with special reference to the Sheffield and Rotherham District*). She undertook very detailed and careful descriptions of many of Sheffield's monuments at a time when they were disappearing rapidly. As one of the first women to attend Cambridge, she was Newnham college's first research student (male or female). She was also the first woman to serve on the Rotherham board of education and continually championed the education of women.
- 2.3 **Action:**  
Communication of the new name would take place once it had been confirmed and reported to Council.

## 3. **Round table**

- (a) N8 Research Partnership: GV and DP reported on their recent attendance at board and executive management meetings. The N8 would, under its new Director, Dr Annette Bramley, formulate a new strategy and vision and seek to promote its projects in the context of the Northern Powerhouse.
- (b) HEPN: TS reminded members that David Willetts, former Minister of State for Universities and Science, would be speaking at the next meeting of the University's Higher Education Policy Network on 13 February. Security Services had been notified of the event.
- (c) Industrial action: WM reported that 14 days' industrial action would commence on 22 February. Action would include action short of a strike, covering a range of activities. Communications to staff and students were being prepared and would be circulated shortly. Clarification was being sought on the position regarding the rescheduling of cancelled lectures and other classes.
- (d) NSS boycott: This was expected to go ahead.
- (e) TEF: Subject-level TEF results had been received and a paper proposing next steps would be brought to UEB in the near future.
- (f) HLF event: DH reported that the Faculty of Arts & Humanities was to host, with DARE, a Heritage Lottery Fund event focusing on the University's work on the Castlegate area of the city.
- (g) HoD appointment: DH reported that Dr Simon Keegan-Phipps had been appointed as Head of the Department of Music from 1 September 2018.
- (h) ESRC: The ESRC's new Chief Executive and Executive Chair Designate, Professor Jennifer Rubin, had been invited to visit the University in March. CW would circulate details of the visit once finalised.
- (i) Medicine, Dentistry & Health: PJS reported on potential new appointments in the Faculty.

- (j) Membership of UEB: The future membership of UEB was discussed, in the context of the University's new executive structure.
- (k) Membership of Council: Clarification was provided concerning a recommendation to be made to Council on 12 February. The purpose of the proposed amendment of the Regulations relating to the composition of Council was to make it possible for the Senior Academic Officers appointed to serve on Council to be drawn from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Presidents without the current restriction requiring the inclusion of at least one Faculty Vice-President. At the same time, action would be taken to promote Council's relationship with and understanding of faculties by means of a new lay member/Faculty Vice-President buddying arrangement and regular presentation to Council from Faculty Vice-Presidents.
- (l) Faculty of Social Sciences: An advertisement would shortly appear for the permanent position of Vice-President & Head of Faculty.
- (m) Policies relating to parents and carers: Members were asked to remind colleagues of the University's policies relating to parents and carers and to be mindful of their needs when organising events. On a related matter, it was agreed that clarification should be sought on the policy on children on University premises and related insurance provisions. More generally, GV noted that any issues relating to equality, diversity and inclusion should be referred to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.