1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016**
   (UEB/2016/2911/01)

   The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

2. **Closed Minute and Paper**

3. **EU Student Recruitment Plan – 1st Year Progress Update**
   (UEB/2016/2911/03)

   (Jenni Saville in attendance for this item)

   UEB received and noted an update on progress against the EU Student Recruitment Plan 2016-18, which had set an intentionally ambitious target of doubling new EU student registrations by 2018. It was pleasing to note the successes that had been achieved against a number of key objectives, including growth in enrolments by EU students at both UG and PG level.

   However, the current plan had been agreed before the UK Referendum on EU membership had been announced. Uncertainties about the effect of Brexit meant that the current plan, and the means by which it was implemented, would need to be reviewed. It was clarified that scenario modelling would be undertaken to inform the development of revised targets and the prioritisation of EU markets. The review should take into account fee status, eligibility for loans, scholarships, and the broader damage that the Referendum had caused to the UK’s reputation as a destination of study. The potential contributions of the White Rose Brussels office and City College should also
be considered. UEB recognised the need for the EU recruitment plan to be reflected in a forthcoming strategic discussion about student recruitment in general and that Student Numbers and Fees Sub-Group could consider how scholarships might be used to incentivise applicants.

4. **Student Recruitment Update**
   (UEB/2016/2911/04)

   (Christina Edgar and Jo Purves in attendance for this item)

   UEB received and noted an update on the early applications position for 2017 entry and on supporting activity. UEB also noted the potential market volatility that represented a significant threat to recruitment from China, which was traditionally an area of significant institutional strength, although the University was already responding proactively.

   With respect to UG applications, it was reported that the University was receiving greater numbers of applications later in the cycle and had continued to increase the number of students recruited via Clearing and Adjustment. For overseas applicants, particularly at PG level, UEB noted the significant challenges created by the uncertainty and negativity surrounding Brexit. During discussion it was recognised that the University may need to consider how it promoted itself to potential applicants before the applications cycle began. In addition, student number target setting during the planning round needed to balance realism with ambition.

   It was noted that UEB would be discussing the student recruitment strategy at its Away Day on 6 December and requested that analysis of the following data was provided as background, including trends over the previous five years:

   - Data on the comparative position of key competitors, excluding deferred applications and without the distorting effect of significantly lower applications in specific disciplines, particularly where these were expected and understood;
   - Volume and average tariff compared to key competitors;
   - Comparative subject or discipline level data;
   - Market share of key overseas student markets;
   - IELTS scores required by the departments.

5. **Closed Minute and Paper**

6. **Draft UEB Away Day agenda, 6 December 2016**
   (UEB/2016/2911/06)

   UEB noted the draft agenda for the 6 December Away Day.

7. **Round table**

   (a) **Festival of Arts and Humanities 2017**: Further details were provided about the launch event on 3 May, which UEB were encouraged to attend.

   (b) **Department of Archaeology**: The potential recruitment of the holder of a significant AHRC grant was reported.

   (c) **AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership**: Details of Call 2 had now been made published, with funding for between 30-80 studentships available, but the expectation of 50% matched funding. the White Rose Consortium was considering its response.

   (d) **Staff Release Scheme**: The closing date for applications was 30 November.
(e) Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Grants:
(i) The Department for Health and the National Institute for Health Research had announced £3.1m funding for the University and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to continue the Clinical Research Facility into experimental medicine.
(ii) The Medical Research Council had awarded c.£1m to support the Experimental Cancer Medical Centre.

It was noted that both of these developments were strongly aligned with the implementation plan for the Tooke review.

(f) ScHARR: The appointment of a new Dean was reported.

(g) REF 2020: The outcomes to the consultation would be published on 30 November. An initial briefing would be provided to UEB on 6 December.

(h) Autumn Statement: The Russell Group PVCs (R&I) would be discussing the announcement of additional R&D funding in the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement with the BEIS Director of Innovation. It was noted that a rapid response would be required when this funding became available.

(i) EPSRC DTC: The mid-term review would take place shortly but a mock-review, with external input, had been positive.

(j) EPSRC Restructure: Proposals would be submitted to the EPSRC Council during December that were likely to present both opportunities and challenges for the Faculty of Engineering.

(k) Student Systems Project: Council had approved the business case to proceed to the next phase on 28 November.