

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

18/51 **Matters Arising**

Received:

2019/20. The confirmation of two TEF Gold awards and the positive evidence of “world leading teaching” from the QS World rankings would be useful for the application process;

- v) that the Secretary of State had made recent speeches regarding “Essay Mills”, grade inflation and unconditional offer making practices. The University did not have evidence of grade inflation and while it had started to use, in certain cases, conditional offers in 2018/19 in response to market demand, these were being used carefully and were not being made on the basis that applicants withdraw from other applications, as was the case in some HEIs. This so-called “conditional unconditional offer” making approach was causing particular concern and had been identified as potentially

Document Library and would receive a report on action taken at its next meeting and be asked to formally endorse such actions; **MJL/DGL/CEB**

Professor Ormerod left the meeting for this commercial in confidence item

18/54 **Strategic Projects**

Received:

Officer of Grow Up had joined the meeting and answered questions about the business model, funding plans and strategic plans for the Company;

- ii) that the Committee remained supportive of the proposal, noting that the independent surveyors report had confirmed that the proposed use of charity land for the purpose suggested was in the interests of the charity and that the proposed rental was appropriate. The surveyor had also reviewed and noted the proposed academic collaboration as set out in the draft Heads of Terms;
- iii) that F&GP members had requested clarification of the circumstances in which the University might need to pay Grow Up for the building, should the lease be subject to a break, or be broken for another reason. The Committee understood that the lease could not be reassigned by Grow Up and so the residual risk related to understanding in what circumstances the University might need to be prepared to pay a cost for the building on a straight line depreciated basis (or market value whichever was lower) and less rental for the lease term of 20 years. Build cost was understood to be £300K. Members had suggested that the University should explore whether it might be feasible for the University to only pay for the building in the event of a break or breach due to formal insolvency, however this was not felt to be an absolute requirement, as it might be too onerous a request and it was

- Noted:
- i) that Course Action Plans and Course Monitoring documentation for 2017/18 have been provided on the Governor's Document Library as usual;
 - ii) that Academic Board had discussed the 2017/18 Access Agreement and associated monitoring report as included earlier on the agenda and had been content with the report and progress made;
 - iii) that Academic Board had also noted the challenges being set for the sector with regard to closing all attainment gaps;
 - iv) that the UKVI Audit had been positive, with no actions required;
 - v) that the key outcomes from the National Student Survey had been noted and actions agreed. Assessment and feedback remained key areas for further work;
 - vi) that the Academic Overview reports for taught and research degrees were positive overall, and where further work was needed, Academic Board was satisfied that work was in hand;
 - vii) that the full PGR Report had been included for Governors to consider for the first time;
 - viii) that the responses from remaining external examiners had been positive. Where one examiner had raised a query about professional body requirements this was being addressed by the Department as it was understood that the examiner may not be fully aware of the rules;
 - ix) that the annual report on appeals and complaints remained very positive with no cases referred to the OIA. A recent disciplinary matter had just been referred by a student to the OIA, the outcome was awaited.

18/62 Audit and Risk Management Committee

Received: a report on the meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 14 February 2019

- Noted:
- i) that thanks were due to the Farm Manager for his useful briefing on how risks relating to the University Farm were being managed, in a complex situation where competing demands for teaching, research and delivering a commercial return as far as possible were all in play;
 - ii) that KPMG's update on key issues affecting UK HE was useful and confirmed that the University was aware of the key risks and opportunities;
 - iii) that the UKVI Audit had been well managed, with a good outcome;
 - iv) that the Students' Union had made sound progress with its actions arising from the internal audit of its governance, although some dates had slipped due to staff changes. Internal Auditors were following up formally the following week and would report to the Committee in due course;
 - v) that ARMC was content to move its meeting to January and to take on the work to review and approve TRAC and TRACT (T) on behalf

of the Board, which would enable F&GP to meet in February to consider in year re-

18/70 Date of next meeting

Noted: that the next meeting would take place on 4 July 2019. The day would commence with the 2019 Effectiveness Review Workshop and the Board meeting would follow. A dinner on the