

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors held on 4 July 2020 in the Boardroom

Present:	Mr Peter Nixon	Chair
	Dr David Llewellyn	Vice-Chancellor
	Mr Colin Bailey	

Noted:

creative on-

- vii) that no replacement government funding for teaching and learning had been identified to date, despite requests from the sector for consideration of such support. Recent Ministerial speeches had suggested that there was a view that restructuring HE might be a suitable alternative and that some HE students should really be studying in FE Colleges instead of an HEI. There has also been that HE funds should not be spent on marketing but on summer schools. There had also been a suggestion that contextualised offers made to students from backgrounds where progression to HE is more challenging might become less acceptable to the government. However, the OfS had not yet supported this approach, which would be a significant change to its access and participation approach should OfS change its policy direction in this way;
- viii) that there was currently a consultation on research with the aim of developing a resea
- ix) that GuildHE and other sector groups were actively engaging with policy makers to remind them of the value of HE and how it has contributed and will continued to contribute to recovery for COVID-19;
- x) that the University had reviewed undergraduate applications and was currently expecting c 609 new students in 2020/21 compared to a target of 670. This analysis was an estimate as the usual pattern of conversion and decision making had been severely affected and changed by COVID-19. Late cycle applications were looking pleasing, but it was difficult to predict whether these would materialise into actual enrolments in October 2020. Every effort to secure further students was in hand and further Virtual Open Days (VOD) for UG and PGT students had been arranged, following the 10% up on previous open days). Those attending had included

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lockdown period and for their on-going commitment as future changes continue to unfold.

19/67 Members Discussion

- Received:
- i) proposed plans for Board meetings in 2020/21 including the annual Strategic Planning Day;
 - ii) a report by WONKHE/KPMG on governing universities during the COVID-19 crisis;
 - iii) a pro
proposing amendments to the Articles, including tD4

included a significant focus on risks arising from COVID-

would help the University prepare for autumn 2020 blended learning.
Thanks were expressed to Mr Oatey, MS France and Mr Burr for their work on the survey;

- iv) that the SU had appointed a new Trustee with significant experience and was currently seeking a further two external trustees. A further student Trustee would be sought in autumn 2020 when students return to the University; **DJ**
- v) that plans to engage pro-actively with student reps, building on the

19/73 Committees

Note: Dr Llewellyn, Professor Mills, Mrs Furey and Dr Baxter were not present for consideration of the reports of the Remuneration Committee

- Received; i) a report on the meeting of Health & Safety Committee held on 28 May 2020
ii)

publication in due course. Members noted the outcome of the annual review of the effectiveness of the Committee and had no further suggestions or comments to make about .

- viii) that Audit & Risk Management Committee had met twice since the last meeting of the Board. Internal Audits for the year had been completed with two remaining reports being presented at the June meeting, both of which
- ix) that a very helpful briefing by the Director of Marketing and Communications on the management of risks in her area of work had been received by the Committee. In this regard members had also noted, in particular, the work to ensure that the Access and Participation Plan continued to receive positive attention to encourage students from all backgrounds to aspire to study at the University in preparation for a career in agri-food and environmental/rural industry sectors;
- x) that the ARMC had reviewed a mapping of its work in light of the newly released refreshed CUC Code for HE Audit Committees. Some minor areas for further work had been agreed, together with a suggestion that the new Code in the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2019/20;

Agreed: i) to approve that reference to adoption of the CUC Code for HE Audit Committees be included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements;

CEB

- ii) to approve the Annual Report of the Remuneration Committee for publication in due course.

Mr Nixon left the meeting at this point

19/74 **Annual Review of the Performance of the Chair**

- Noted:
- i) that Mr Wong had completed the annual review in his role as Vice-Chair;
 - ii) that Mr _____ a smooth hand-over from Mr Lewis; to ensure that sustainability remained a key focus of the University and to ensure that the senior team continued to be effective;
 - iii) that a helpful weekly telephone call had been taking place between the Chair and Vice-Chancellor, with a focus on year 1 implementation of the new Strategic Plan;
 - iv) Mr Wong felt Mr Nixon had effected a smooth hand-over and that his performance as Chair was strong. Mr Wong reminded members that they were welcome to speak to him any point about any issues that members may wish to raise about the work of the Chair;
 - iv) that _____ members to ask challenging questions. They also welcomed his focus as Chair of Nominations Committee over the next few months in ensuring succession planning for members due to leave in summer 2021;

Agreed: that members were very appreciative of Mr _____ contribution as Chair, agreed that he was very effective in the role and had no issues to raise.

Mr Nixon re-joined the meeting at this point

Part B

19/79