

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Summary Report on the Business of Academic Board

This report provides a summary of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 11th March 2020. The Board of Governors is asked to note the report.

1. The Board noted under Matters Arising: that the University was still awaiting further sector guidance on Student Protection Plan requirements from the Office for Students (OfS), initially due in October 2019; that a number of student-facing policies affecting student progression had been reviewed in light of guidance
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2. The Board received and endorsed an overview report arising from annual course monitoring. The Board was reassured that the health of courses delivered at Harper Adams University and [REDACTED] was good. The Board noted that the action plan for Workforce Development courses remained outstanding and would be presented at the next meeting in June 2020.
3. The Board received the Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy and noted the monitoring and generating a high level of interest, that the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) submission was due in the summer and that the Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission was due in November. It was
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have a positive impact on the level of research funding available regionally. It was noted that student responses to the optional NSS question... in 2019 and had been 5-10 percentage points higher than the sector mean since 2016 and that it would be a useful metric to include in future reports.
4. The Board received the proposed governance structure for the Harper & Keele Veterinary School
9. The Board received the review of complaints and appeals for 2018/19 and noted that the University continued to record very low volumes of both formal academic appeals and complaints. At the time of writing, the University maintained a clear record with the OIA since 2012, in that, of the small number of complaints referred to it, none had been upheld.
10. The Board approved the draft academic calendar for 2020/21 and the undergraduate term dates up to 2025/26. The Board agreed that the summer Open Day in 2020/21 would be best placed at the end of the examination period, to eliminate disruption to students and examination arrangements.

