

C

Committee

e or update their entry in the Register of Interests as necessary.

**22/40 Chair's welcome to new members of Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) to have an opportunity to attend a Board meeting to observe how the Board considers reports from Committees. Mrs Marisa Virseda, the other co-opted ARMC member had already observed two years of Board meetings during her previous role as a Board Apprentice.**

22/4

**1 Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 November 2021 and 26 January 2022**

Approved:

- i. the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on 25 November 2022 (22/01-21/39);
- ii. the notes of the Harper 2030 Strategy discussion held on 25 November 2023.

## **22/42 Matters Arising**

**Received:** a matters arising report from the University Secretary.

**Noted:**

- i. that sound progress was being made to address actions arising from the 2022 Effectiveness Review;
- ii. that the outcome of the OFSTED monitoring visit had been “reasonable progress” which the inspectors had advised was the most likely outcome for the first visit of this kind. The report highlighted good practice and also recommended a number of actions which should be taken before the full OFSTED inspection which would be arranged within 18 months of this initial monitoring visit. Mrs Hawkins has also agreed to be the Lead Governor on Apprenticeships;
- iii. that at its November Meeting, Finance and General Purposes Committee had agreed to recommend to the Board that the Financial Regulations be updated to permit the Vice-Chancellor to be the Finance and General Purposes Committee Lead.

- iii. that some vet students hosted at Harper Adams felt taking the coach to Keele was sometimes a less positive aspect and they tended to drive themselves. In discussion it was noted that the coach is wi-fi enabled to allow students who are able and wish to work “on the move” to do so and that many vet schools are located on a separate campus and/or they may have to travel to the University farm for practical facilities. It was also noted that the vet professional tends to be highly mobile so being required to travel to attend sessions was good preparation for future careers;
- iv. that some students suggested having more awareness of the best form/specification of laptop for their course ahead of starting their course might be helpful; **SC**
- v. that Ms Bray had recently visited Sheffield Hallam University. Food Technology students at Sheffield had been keen to engage with primary food production/agriculture. Ms Bray had passed this information on to relevant Harper Adams Staff and it was hoped that some collaborative opportunities may emerge;
- vi. that some members suggested being able to shadow one student for a full day might be useful for a future session. The SU President also suggested that the SU President/ Vice-President and Student Educational Champions might

LEAF project linked to S2F2 which aims to support the understanding of 12-17 year-olds about the origins of their food was due to hold a residential at the University in April 2023;

- iv. that at the Oxford Farming Conference, 4 winners of a competition focusing on exemplary examples of upskilling had been announced. The awards in association with Farmers Guardian were being sponsored by Trinity Ag Tech, Bradford Estates and S2F2;
- v. that the University's Future Farm was seeking to grow a network including LANDEX members with a focus on education and research on achieving net zero carbon. The Agricultural Universities Council was also going to be asked to participate;
- vi. that S2F2 had been publishing a range of policy reports on its web site and had presented a report to the House of Lords on the agricultural transition with support from DEFRA and

from the student body on their views about the strike. The student body appeared to be



support for a new staff role in the SU had greatly helped secure more engagement with this important area of work. A report with recommendations had been made to the Learning Teaching and Student Experience Committee and actions were in hand;

- iv. that feedback from students who identified themselves as a member of the LGBTQ+ community had indicated some less positive feedback, as while students felt they could be themselves on campus they also felt that their peers did not necessarily feel this way. Three members of the LGBTQ+ society are attending a leadership workshop funded by the SU which it is hoped may help. Responses to feeling “safe” also varied as students interpret this in different ways. The SU had recognised that it needed some professional help to define the questions it was using more clearly in the future;
- v. that the SU was planning a Mental Health Day in March in partnership with Student Services. It was also running a “support British Agriculture” campaign which supported all diets;
- vi. that the President had found attendance at Oxford Farming Conference very useful and was grateful to the University for supporting this opportunity;
- vii. that the SU had needed to raise its prices due to rising costs but had tried to keep such increases as modest as possible. The SU also funded free events such as “give it a go” and early bird discounted tickets for events. Students had stated in the recent survey that 43% were in employment of up to 10 hours and a further 20% were seeking employment currently;
- viii. that a new Trustee had started following a successful recruitment round and elections for new sabbaticals and other officers were in hand. Unfortunately, a further Trustee had advised they needed to step back, but would continue to support until they were replaced;
- ix. that the SU finances are positive currently, but it was recognised that costly large events have yet to take place and so careful management will continue;
- x. that the year-end audit went well and all actions are in hand;
- xi. that the SU Strategy is being rolled out;
- xii. that the University has received some additional hardship funds from the OfS and the SU would be helping to encourage students to apply for this support. It was also noted that money management sessions are offered by Student Services to help support students and changes have been made to the timetable for this year to help facilitate work opportunities and support commuter students where possible. In discussion it was clarified that while international

- iii. that the priority for capital spend would continue to be Pathology unless the partnership plans discussed earlier in the meeting were confirmed, in which case funds for other projects such as Salix (which if progressed included a need to decant a hall of residence in 2024/24 and create replacement space) could be further considered as part of overall plans for hall refurbishment.

Agreed:



and Named Person for Compliance with Ms Jo Horsburgh incoming Chief Operating Officer.