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- In the Chair: Professor Richard A Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor
- Present Also: Professor Julian Jones, Vice-Principal
Professor Robert Craik, Vice-Principal (Malaysia)*
Professor Ammar Kaka, Vice-Principal (Dubai)*
Professor Gill Hogg, Deputy Principal (External Relations)
Professor John Sawkins, Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching)
Professor Robert MacIntosh, Head (Management and Languages)
Dr Peter Morris, Interim Head (Life Sciences)
Professor Beatrice Pelloni, Head (Mathematics and Computer Sciences)
Professor Gareth Pender, Head (Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure, and Society)
Professor Fiona Waldron, Head (Textiles and Design)
Ms Ann Marie Dalton, Secretary of the University
- In Attendance: Mr Richard McGookin, Director of Planning
Mr Mark Adderley, Director of Human Resources Development
Mr Martyn Spence, Director of Marketing and Communication*
Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences
Mr Joe Pacitti, Assistant Principal (Strategic Projects and Policy Advisor)
Mr Brett Dodgson, Clerk
- Apologies: Professor Duncan Hand, Interim Deputy Principal (Research and Knowledge Exchange)
Mr Alick Kitchin, Acting Head (Edinburgh Business School)
Professor Stephen McLaughlin, Head (Engineering and Physical Sciences)
Mr Andrew Menzies, Director of Finance

* Indicates member participating remotely

MINUTE REF
M16/237

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the members of the UE and those colleagues who were in attendance.

M16/238

BUILDING EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

The UE considered a draft schedule of key political stakeholders.

It was noted that:

1. building productive relationships with critical stakeholders was an important factor in the successful delivery of the University's strategy and of significant strategic projects;
2. the University had in the past been successful in exploiting such relationships, but this activity had not always been systematically planned;
3. a more strategic approach would be needed as the University developed as a global institution and, in particular, there was a need to identify critical stakeholders, define the objectives for the relationship with each of these stakeholders, assign clear responsibilities within the University for establishing and maintaining these relationships, and develop general and specific messages which the University would want to communicate to these stakeholders;

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4. greater use could be made of social media channels to maintain contact with stakeholders and to stay informed as to their views and priorities; and
5. greater use could be made of University events and other special occasions to foster stakeholder relationships and to raise the profile of the University.

It was agreed that:

1. the schedule should be supported with guidance on the general and specific messages which the University would want to communicate to critical stakeholders and that these messages should reflect the solution-based approach which characterised much of the University's academic work as well as clearly articulating those features which distinguished the University from its peers;
2. existing relationships with critical stakeholders should be mapped and these existing relationships reflected in the schedule so that they could be maintained and developed; and
3. members should identify the three most important political stakeholders for which they would most appropriately be responsible and, in each case, identify the key objectives for the relationship and any areas of mutual interest.

M16/239 DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL RESEARCH AGENDA

The UE considered a presentation on the development of the University's global research agenda.

The UE noted the UK and international context in which the agenda was being developed. It was noted that it was intended to launch the University's vision for global research by September 2016 and that this would provide the framework within which the University would build on its existing research strengths and global positioning and move to package research so as to deliver transformational innovations. The vision would be based on a more ambitious approach to research and a scaling up in the number of research proposals and the number and size of research grants.

The UE welcomed the presentation and noted that this would form the basis for an expanded presentation to the Court later in June 2016. The UE suggested a number of refinements to enhance the presentation.

M16/240 UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE: KEY PROJECTS [Paper: UE/16/157]

The UE received a revised draft of the schedule of key projects and actions [minute 16/230].

It was agreed that members should submit to the Clerk any feedback on the revised draft schedule and that the Principal and the Secretary of the University should prepare a final draft for approval.

M16/241 UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES UNION: INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The UE noted that the Universities and Colleges Union had confirmed that its members would be participating in strike action 24 June 2016. This action would coincide with degree congregations for the School of Management and Languages and the Secretary of the University was working with relevant colleagues to ensure that this action did not result in disruption to the congregations. It was noted that a member of the University branch of the Union had written to students in the School and had invited them to support this action by not participating in the degree congregations. It was agreed that students should be reassured that the degree congregations would take place as planned.

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The UE noted the position of the Student Union and its Executive in support of the Universities and Colleges Union action. It further noted the support of the Student Union for individual students participating in the degree congregations. In view of this, and of the overriding need to ensure all degree congregations proceeded as planned, the UE discussed the appropriateness of the customary speech by an elected Student Union officer and whether the presentation of the School of Management and Languages Graduate Teaching Award might be better accommodated at the November 2016 ceremony.

M16/242 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The UE noted that its next meeting would be a business meeting and would be held 22 August 2016.

Signed by Chair

Date