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- In the Chair: Professor Richard A Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor
- Present Also: Professor Julian Jones, Vice-Principal
Professor Gill Hogg, Deputy Principal (External Relations)
Professor John Sawkins, Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching)
Professor Robert MacIntosh, Head (Management and Languages)
Professor Stephen McLaughlin, Head (Engineering and Physical 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-Pillay, Secretary of the University
Mr Andrew Menzies, Director of Finance
- In Attendance: Ms Nuala Boyle, Assistant Principal (Development)
Mr Mark Adderley, Director of Human Resource Development
Dr Alicia Greated, Director of Research and Enterprise Services
Mr Brett Dodgson, Clerk
- Apologies: Professor Robert Craik, Vice-Principal (Malaysia)
Professor Ammar Kaka, Vice-Principal (Dubai)
Professor Duncan Hand, Interim Deputy Principal (Research and Knowledge Exchange)
Mr Richard McGookin, Director of Planning

* Indicates member participating remotely

MINUTE REF
M16/302

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed to the meeting the members of the UE.

The UE agreed that, to reflect the format of the meeting as an opportunity for in-depth discussion of strategic matters, full minutes of the meeting would not be needed and that the minutes should record just the subjects of the discussion and any actions arising.

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STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS

The UE received a verbal report on student communications and recent discussions with the Student Union.

It was agreed that the University should make greater use of communications with students and that messages for students should normally be reported through the Student Union only if there was a specific need to do so. It was agreed that the Director of Marketing and Communication should develop communications to students on the various enhancements to the student learning environment at the Edinburgh campus that had been completed in 2016.

It was agreed that those Heads of School who did not already do so should consider whether there was a need for them to have regular meetings with their School's student representatives. It was agreed that there was a need to support the development of leadership capacity within the Student Union and the student community more broadly and to strengthen engagement with the leaders of the student societies. It was agreed that there was a need to articulate a clear model of what effective leadership would look like in a student context. It was noted that potentially this could be supported through the establishing of a student leaders group and that

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there might be opportunities to involve members of such a group in University projects and initiatives. It was also agreed that the University should continue to support and be seen to support opportunities to celebrate the positive achievements made by students. It was agreed that the Deputy Principal (Learning and Teaching) and the Assistant Principal (Development) should develop initial proposals for the consideration of the UE.

M16/304 REPORTS ON UNIVERSITIES UK AND UNIVERSITIES SCOTLAND MEETINGS

The UE received a verbal report on recent Universities UK and Universities Scotland meetings of vice-chancellors and principals.

It was noted that the strategy and positioning of the University's academic framework would form a project within the Transformational Initiatives. It was agreed that this project should consider the flexibility and structure of the University's undergraduate degree programmes and the potential to expand direct entry to the second year of four year degree programmes. It was agreed that any changes to the academic framework would need to be designed and implemented so as not to disrupt student recruitment. It was noted that specific consideration might be needed with respect to the mathematics capacity of direct entry applicants for science and engineering programmes.

It was noted that the UK Government had announced that it would continue the Britain is GREAT campaign and that this would continue to include an education component. It was agreed that the Assistant Principal (International Development) and the Director of Research and Enterprise Services should develop proposals for supporting the University's international engagement through the UK Foreign Office and international governments.

M16/305 STUDENT RECRUITMENT

The UE received a verbal report on student recruitment and enrolments for the 2016-17 academic year.

It was agreed that the findings of the current financial performance review should be presented to the UE for consideration at a future meeting.

It was agreed that a report on the proposals for an international graduate school should be presented to the UE for consideration at a future meeting.

It was noted that proposals for new taught postgraduate programmes for 2017-18 entry were being brought forward. It was agreed that there was a need to prioritise the academic approval of these programmes, that relevant members of the UE should take action as needed to support the progress of these proposals, and that any issues should be raised directly with the Principal.

It was agreed that there should be a further strategic discussion on student recruitment at a future meeting of the UE. Issues to be covered in such a discussion could include the need for a more targeted approach to student recruitment and the effective use of digital marketing channels. It was noted that Heads of Schools would in the near future be invited to confirm that School recruitment targets for international taught postgraduate students for 2017-18 entry were appropriate.

It was agreed that the Deputy Principal (External Relations) should circulate the market intelligence report commissioned in respect of taught postgraduate recruitment opportunities. It was noted that there might be a need to develop institutional capacity in relation to market intelligence.

It was noted that the Director of Planning and the Director of Student Admissions would be consulting with Heads of Schools on School recruitment strategies with respect to students from the European Union. It was agreed that the UE should at a future meeting consider the University's positioning with respect to the recruitment of students from the European Union.

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M16/306 EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW OF THE SENATE AND SENATE COMMITTEES

The UE received a verbal report on initiatives arising from the review of the effectiveness of the Senate and the Senate committees. It was noted that it was intended that a number of proposals would be presented to the Senate for consideration at its meeting in October 2016.

It was agreed that the initiatives arising from the review should deliver greater efficiency in academic governance processes and procedures.

It was noted that a parallel review of the role and responsibilities of the Deans of the University was almost complete. It was intended that a report on the findings of the review and the recommendations arising from this would be presented to the UE at its next meeting. It was noted that the recommendations were intended to facilitate the engagement of the Deans in work to enhance academic governance processes and procedures and that there would be a need to align that work with the relevant projects forming part of the Transformational Initiatives.

M16/307 TRANSFORMATIONAL INITIATIVES

The UE received the draft schedule of leads and members for the projects which would together comprise the four Transformational Initiatives.

Members of the UE were invited to consider the draft schedule and to provide the Chair with any comments or suggestions in relation to this. It was noted that the draft schedule was not intended for wider circulation.

M16/308 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The UE noted that its next meeting would be a business meeting and would be held 20 September 2016.

Signed by Chair

Date