

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 13th June 2018. The Board of Governors is asked to note this report.

1. The Board noted under Matters Arising: That the Students' Union complaints arrangements remained under consideration, that the University had successfully achieved a Gold rating in the TEF Year 3 round, and that the University's approach to coursework submission had been revised to facilitate a migration to online marking.
2. The Board agreed a proposal to formalise the Student Success and Retention Working Group into a permanent sub-committee of the Board, to allow for a greater focus on taught student success and retention, and a greater level of scrutiny of, and input into, the Access and Participation Plan.

The Board agreed that student representation to Academic Board would include from 2018/19: elected undergraduate; elected taught postgraduate; Students' Union President or nominee.

3. The Board received and endorsed a progress report on the measurable strategic objectives of the Internationalisation Strategy. The Board noted that a cost-benefit analysis of each of the University's international partnerships would be presented to Academic Board in November and to the Board of Governors in September.
4. The Board received and endorsed a paper outlining proposed revisions to the Academic Quality Assurance Manual.
5. The Board received an oral report summarising the registration submissions made to the Office for Students, the outcomes of which would be made available in September 2018.
6. The Board received and approved proposed revisions to the Admissions Policy. Further to the launch of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and following the decision by UCAS to cease asking the question of applicants, the University would no longer receive information from applicants regarding their criminal convictions. Applicants are to be alerted to the requirements of some placement providers and the risk of restrictions imposed by professional bodies which may prevent the individual from qualifying with the intended professional award or finding employment in their chosen field.
7. The Board received and approved revisions to the Harper Adams University Complaints Procedure.
8. The Board received and approved the draft complaints procedure for franchise partners, for use by [REDACTED]
9. The Board received a paper outlining proposed revisions to the Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure. It was agreed that evidence of mitigating circumstances would normally be required from professionals rather than third parties, setting out any impact on the appellant.
10. The Board received and approved the proposed revisions to the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy for Students with Disabilities and Guidance for Staff, Students and Applicants. The proposal to include a minimum attendance expectation of 66% was endorsed for those with disabilities and for whom a reasonable adjustment request to deviate from the normal 100% attendance expectation had been made.

The Board also received an oral update from Dr Hind which explained that the University intended to invest in a more robust system of recording and monitoring attendance from 2018/19 in support of student success and retention and to support compliance with Tier 4 sponsorship licence obligations.
11. The Board received the Research Strategy 2015-20 and noted that the full report of Research and Knowledge Exchange activity had already been reported to the Board of Governors.
12. The Board received and endorsed a paper summarising new course development and suspension recommendations from the Programme Approvals Committee (PAC) meetings held on 2nd March 2018 and 26th April 2018.

The Board endorsed the recommendation of the University Executive on 5th March 2018 to grant approval for work to continue to develop the proposed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The Board endorsed the recommendation of PAC at its meeting held on 26th April 2018 to grant provisional development approval to the following suite of postgraduate [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], for delivery from the 2018/19 academic session:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The Board endorsed the recommendation of PAC at its meeting held on 26th April 2018 to approve, in principle, an extension to the approval period of the [REDACTED] to enable the recruitment of one further entry cohort in February 2019, subject to receiving confirmation that the programme is in good health (via the Combined Annual Monitoring and Critical Appraisal Report) and confirmation from [REDACTED] with respect to accreditation.

The Board endorsed the recommendation of PAC at its meeting held on 26th April 2018 for further work to take place before development approval is granted for the following proposed [REDACTED], for delivery from September 2019:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The Board endorsed the recommendation of PAC at its meetings held on 2nd March 2018 and 26th April 2018 to approve the following interim top-up course structures - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Board endorsed the recommendation of the University Executive on 15th March 2018 to withdraw [REDACTED] with immediate effect.

13. The Board received and endorsed the draft Corporate Planning Statements for 2017/18 and 2018/19.
14. The Board received a progress report on the Risk Analysis and Action Plan 2017/18. The Board commented that it may be prudent to include additional risks regarding non-disclosure of criminal convictions, and threat of mass harm on campus.

15. The Board received an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor, covering strategic matters of relevance to the Academic Board. The Vice-Chancellor thanked [REDACTED] for their contributions to the Board during their first elected term, and reported that the University had been awarded Gold in the third round of the Teaching Excellence Framework.

Dr Abigail Hind
Director of Academic Services
August 2018