

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Staff Meeting

Minutes of the Staff Meeting held on 5 April 2019 at 0900 in the Foulkes-Crowther Lecture Theatre

Attendance: a record of all staff who attended is held in the University Secretary's Office, together with a record of apologies received.

18/13 **Welcome**

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed new staff to their first staff meeting.

18/14 **Minutes**

Agreed: the minutes of the Staff Meeting held on 17 September 2019 (18/01-18/12).

18/15 **Matters Arising**

Noted: that there were no matters arising other than those covered later on the agenda.

18/16 **Presentation from the Vice-Chancellor**

- Noted:
- i) that the Vice-Chancellor's presentation would be made available to all staff on the University Portal following the meeting;
 - ii) that applications as of last week were 4% above the same point last year with numbers expected to tighten in the period to summer;
 - iii) that degree apprenticeship enquiries from employers remained positive and that options for GIS Systems and at Masters level in Food Industry Management were being developed;
 - iv) that taught postgraduate recruitment was variable with fewer domestic student applications and more international applications received;
 - v) that the Joint Vet School proposal was moving along with the building first stage tender completed. Key posts were being sought and a fundraising campaign was in hand.
 - vi) that International student recruitment from China continued to be positive;
 - vi) that formal feedback from the UKVI Audit had been received and there were no issues to report;
 - vii) that Adreen Hart-Rule is progressing her new role to help promote the University for international student recruitment including India and the USA;
 - viii) that performance to the end of December was slightly ahead of budget, however, the financial position remained tight with a projected surplus this year of only c£568k;

- ix) that there are significant opportunities for research funding emerging with indications of a greater demand for applied research via the new Agricultural Bill;
- x) that a second round of MARS with a closing date of 30th April had been launched on the same terms as the first round;
- xi) that the Augar Review of Post-18 Education and Funding was expected to report in May with considerable press speculation on the outcome;
- xii) that overall indicative sector funding for teaching in 2019/20 was down from £1,538m to £1,487m but £50m of the drop is related to capital funding;
- xiii) that OfS teaching capital funding had been announced with a 5% reduction over last year with recurrent grant allocations expected in May 2019;
- xiv) that Institution Specific Funding seemed likely to remain in place for 2019/20 with a review likely after the Comprehensive Spending Review;
- xv) that a review of funding by the DfE, post Augar, could result in a change to the funding model and the results were likely to emerge as part of the Spending Review;
- xvi) that we now have the pilot metrics for TEF 5. The pilot data is being assessed and trial runs will take place;
- xvii) that the OfS has moved from the process of registration to more monitoring of higher education providers with particular focus on financial stability;
- xviii) that UUK International Unit guidance on Brexit 'no deal' planning had been incorporated into our plans;
- xix) that the impact of the Agriculture Bill, a new Food Strategy on our provision need to be taken into account;
- xx) that work on the Agri-Skills Strategy continues with an outline competency-based professional framework now developed;
- xxi) that the T-level funding panel meeting had taken place at HAU as part of the development of the new Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care qualification;
- xxii) that Martin Gillie had been appointed as new Provost and Chief Academic Officer at NMiTE;
- xxiii) that UCS were offering a new Masters Course to focus on data science, machine learning, artificial intelligence and entrepreneurial skills with part funding from the Institute of Coding;
- xxiv) that the University of Wolverhampton had plans to create a new HE centre at Southwater 2 for 1,000 students with a focus on information science;

- xxv) that the Staff Survey Group had recently met to follow up on survey responses;
- xxvi) that Health Assured had been appointed to provide our Employee Assistance Programme;
- xxvii) that the Gender Pay Gap summary report was available on the Portal;
- xxviii) that Naomi Garner, Gerry Boyle, Sarah Hendy, Martin McKendry and Simon Doherty were due to visit the University over the coming months;
- xxix) that HAU had been shortlisted for 6 WhatUni Student Choice Awards;

18/17 Questions

There were no pre-notified questions.

18/18 Date of Next Meeting

5 September 2019 at 0915