



## Minutes Meeting of the University Executive Board

- Date:** 3 October 2023
- Present:** Professor K Lamberts (KL), in the Chair  
Professor A Blom (AB), Professor J Derrick (JD), Professor S Fitzmaurice (SF),  
Professor S Hartley (SH), Professor G Jewell, J Jones (JJ), R Sykes (RS),  
Professor G Valentine (GV), Professor C Watkins (CW), I Wright (IW)
- Secretary:** M Borland (MB)
- In attendance:** J Strachan (JS), T Wray (TW); Caryn Masters (CM) (item 1); Vicki Jackson (VEJ)  
and Lindsey Wilson (both item 2)
- Apologies:** Professor C O'Bradaigh, Professor M Vincent

1. **Accommodation Rents 2024/25**  
(CM in attendance for this item)
  - 1.1 UEB considered recommendations for accommodation rent increases for the 2024/25 academic year and the inclusion of free launderette usage.
  - 1.2 During discussion, the following points were made:
    - Providing accommodation at a loss did not make financial sense.
    - Accommodation provision was significant to applicant choice.
    - The cost would remain below the mean average for comparable universities.
  - 1.3 UEB:
    - (i) Approved the proposal to increase rents.
    - (ii) Approved the proposal to include a provision for free launderette usage within rents from 2024/25.
2. **Draft Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022-23**  
(VEJ and LW in attendance for this item)
  - 2.1 UEB considered a draft of the Annual Report & Financial Statements 2022-23 in order to feedback any comments prior to receiving the final version in November. It was highlighted that the content had been reduced compared with previous years, whilst retaining full compliance, and was more focussed on the University's vision and strategy.
  - 2.2 During discussion the new design and the use of graphics was welcomed.

### 3. **Financial Forecasts**

3.1 UEB received a presentation which showed the impact of the Draft Financial Results to the year ending 31 July 2023, presented to UEB on 19 September, on the financial forecasts. Areas for further work before the financial forecasts would be presented to Council for approval in November were identified.

3.2 The following comments were made during discussion:

- It was clarified that in relation to the USS, employer contributions were included in the forecasts.
- There was scope to increase the efficiency with which the University estate was utilised and proposals to examine this further would be brought to a future UEB meeting.

3.3 An update on the Financial Forecasts would be provided to Council's October meeting.

### 4. **Report of the UEB Sexual Violence and Harassment Steering Group**

4.1 UEB considered the report.

4.2 The regulatory role of OFSTED was discussed in relation to apprentices under the age of 18. It was noted that a significant amount of safeguarding work had taken place, led by HR and the AMRC Training Centre.

4.2 UEB:

- (i) Approved the proposed terms of reference and membership for the UEB Sexual Violence and Harassment Steering Group.
- (ii) Approved the Annual Report of the UEB Sexual Violence and Harassment Steering Group to be tabled at Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee on 12 October.
- (iii) Noted the update on the Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan,

### 5. **Report of the UEB Estates and Capital Sub-Group**

5.1 UEB considered and approved the reports.

- Steam Replacement Programme
- Nano Science Roof - Plant Deck Project
- Arts Tower – Architecture Reconfiguration
- The Diamond – Digitally Enabled Flat Floor Teaching Space
- Goodwin Sports Centre – Pool Scheme
- Central Teaching Laboratory (CTL)
- Future Use of 210 Portobello
- Acquisitions and Disposals Report

## 6. **Round Table**

- (a) Occupation: RS updated on the occupation of the Arts Tower.
- (b) Spin-outs: SH reported on recent work regarding the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and HM Treasury commissioned Independent Review of University Spin-out Companies.
- (c) Northern Gritstone: KL updated UEB following a meeting with the CEO of Northern Gritstone.
- (d) Minimum Service Levels: KL updated UEB on the announcement that the government planned to consult to introduce minimum service levels in universities.