



## Minutes                      University Executive Board

Date:                              26 September 2023

Present:                         Professor K Lamberts (KL) (in the Chair),  
Professor J Derrick (JD), Professor S Fitzmaurice (SF), Professor S  
Hartley (SH), Professor G Jewell (GJ), J Jones (JJ), Professor C O'  
Bradaigh (COB), R Sykes (RS), Professor G Valentine (GV), Professor  
M Vincent (MV), Professor C Watkins (CW), I Wright (IW)

In attendance:                J Strachan (JS), T Wray (TW), A Morgan (AM) and Lindsey Wilson (LW)  
(Item 1), S Duke (SD) (Item 2), E Hartley (EH) (Item 3), D Jones (DJ)  
and D Lodge (Item 4), M Nuttall (MN) (Items 5 and 6)

Apologies:                     Professor A Blom (AB)

Secretary:                     Dr E Smith

- 1.        Closed Minute and Paper**
- 2.        Closed Minute and Paper**
- 3.        Closed Minute and Paper**
- 4.        Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2028: Implications of Proposed Changes  
and Consultation Response**

(DJ and DL in attendance for this item)

4.1        UEB considered the University's consultation response to Research  
England's proposals for REF 2028. The related paper highlighted the  
principal proposed changes across the various components of the REF.

4.2        UEB:

4.2.1      Agreed the University's REF 2028 consultation response for  
submission by 6 October 2024.

4.2.2      Approved the REF Steering Group's recommended messaging around  
Outputs expectations for staff.

- 5.        Annual Report on Value for Money (VfM)**

(MN in attendance for this item)

- 5.1 UEB considered the Annual VfM Report 2022/23, which was the third such iteration of the report provided in accordance with the University's Value for Money Strategy (2020). The report sought to demonstrate how the University was discharging its obligation to achieve VfM in its use of public funds and in furtherance of its strategic objectives. Clarification was provided that, although a VfM Report was no longer a statutory return to the Office for Students (OfS), Condition E2 of the OfS's ongoing conditions of registration contained the expectation that a provider would provide and publish information about its work to ensure VfM. Subject to UEB approval, the report would proceed to Audit & Risk Assurance Committee and Council, and both bodies had fed back that it helped to draw attention to some of the core complexities that UEB needed to negotiate in the management of the institution.
- 5.2 During discussion, emphasis was placed on some of the positive trends identified in the report.
- 5.3 UEB approved the Annual VfM Report for submission to the meeting of ARAC on 16 October 2023, subject to the amendments identified.

## **6. Employability**

(MN in attendance for this item)

- 6.1 UEB received and noted a paper that outlined the direction of travel for employability and placements support at the University. Particular focus was drawn to the strategic opportunities and challenges of the University's development of its provision, together with the key priorities that would be addressed as a result of enacting the proposed plan.
- 6.2 UEB noted the content of the paper and agreed to the direction of travel set out for employability and placements support.

## **7. Round Table**

- 7.1 Knowledge Exchange Framework: SH provided an update to UEB about the expected results release date for the third iteration of the KEF.
- 7.2 Times Higher World University Rankings: KL informed UEB that, in the most recent version of the rankings, the University had improved its position.
- 7.3 Teaching Excellence Framework: MV updated UEB on the timeline for the publication of the TEF outcomes, including for those providers that lodged an appeal against their rating.

7.4 Industrial Action: IW provided an update.