



Minutes

University Executive Board

Date:	31 October 2023
Present:	Professor G Valentine (GV) (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 (CB), R Sykes (RS), Professor M Vincent (MV), Professor C Watkins (CW)
In attendance:	J Strachan (JS), T Wray (TW), A Carlile (AC) (Items 1-2), A Morgan (AM) and Lindsey Wilson (LW) (Item 1), E Hartley (EH) (Item 2), J Butler (JB) (Item 3)
Apologies:	Professor A Blom (AB), Professor K Lamberts (KL), I Wright (IW)
Secretary:	Dr E Smith

1. Closed Minute and Paper

2. University Vision – Annual Performance Update 2022/23

(AC and EH in attendance for this item)

- 2.1 UEB considered the Annual Performance Update for 2022/23, which covered the University's progress against its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the reporting period alongside the performance of academic departments/schools and progress against the institutional strategic objectives for the student population. Members welcomed the overall improvement in KPI performance relative to the previous year, with gains secured in areas such as research income, PGR experience, proportion of high-achieving applicants, intake of students from low participation neighbourhoods (LPNs), reputational position in UK University League Tables, and financial sustainability. Attention was also drawn in the related paper to areas where performance was static or variable, and to the expected impact of the QS Top 100 World University Rankings. In relation to academic department performance, the principal outliers to the general trend of improvement were noted.
- 2.3 UEB approved the paper for onward reporting to Council.

3. Review of NSS Performance

(JB in attendance for this item)

- 3.1 UEB discussed and noted a report on the University's performance in the 2023 iteration of the National Student Survey (NSS). Based on core data points from the NSS, the report provided an analysis of overall performance, the University's rank against institutional targets, trend information, and specific insights related to THE Assessment and Feedback, Organisation and Management, and Student Voice components of the NSS. Additional attention was drawn to the disproportionate impact of the NSS outcomes on the University's position in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), and the positive responses in general from the University's students to the new questions on freedom of speech and student mental health. It was also pleasing to note the University benchmarked well against its peers in the Russell Group across all NSS domains, which had been recognised in national publications such as The Guardian.
- 3.2 It was observed that, although not all departments/schools with large student cohorts performed lower than average, the impact of them doing so in the overall institutional outcome continued to be significant.

4. Round Table

- 4.1 Christmas Closure Dates: UEB discussed and approved the proposed closure dates for Christmas 2023.
- 4.2 Deputy Vice-Chancellor: IW provided an update on the proposed arrangements for UEB Members replacing GV on committees or sub-groups for which she was the Chair or a Member. It was noted that the University Secretary's Office could support with the transitions.
- 4.3 Race Equality Charter: SF informed UEB that an update on the submission and associated Action Plan would be provided at a future meeting.
- 4.4 Islamophobia Month and Interfaith Week: TW provided an update on institutional preparations to observe and support the two events.