



## Minutes Meeting of the University Executive Board

**Date:** 14 November 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 (GJ), J Jones (JJ), R Sykes (RS), Professor G Valentine (GV), Professor C Watkins (CW), I Wright (IW)

**In attendance:** J Strachan (JS), C Hamilton (CH) (Item 1), L McCarthy (LM) (Item 1), B Abrams (BA) (Item 2), C Willis CW (Item 2)

**Apologies:** Professor M Vincent (MV), T Wray (TW)

**Secretary:** K Sullivan (KS)

### 1. Student Recruitment Update

1.1 UEB received and noted an update on applications for 2024 entry as at 1 November 2023 and an update on a range of recruitment and marketing activities.

1.2 There was an in-depth discussion about the down turn in overseas UG applications and point were noted in relation to the following:

- The China market was particularly challenging.
- A number of actions had already been taken to mitigate the impact of this.
- Offer making in advance of the first offer holder days in early 2024.
- It was noted that applicant numbers from China were down across the sector compared to 2023.
- It was highlighted that Australia was aggressively targeting overseas students this was impacting the whole of the UK and elsewhere.
- The importance of UEB maintaining a watching brief on this.

### 2. Cyber Security

(BA and CW in attendance for this item)

2.1 UEB received and noted a detailed presentation and update on the University's Information Security landscape, which included recommendations. UEB considered the options in the context of the UoS environment and the current cyber security landscape.

2.2 There was a detailed discussion about the University's information security risk appetite and key risks. UEB was updated on the impact of recent cyber-attacks on

other UK HE institutions, including the impact on staff and students. In the context of the University environment, UEB carefully considered the alternative approaches to risk appetite, how these would be put into practice, how assurance would be received, cost implications, relative prioritisation and institutional implications, how quickly changes should be introduced and how closely this work should be aligned to other activities.

2.3 The following was noted:

- UEB recognised the importance of this work and welcomed the update.
- Before reaching a final agreement, costs needed to be better understood.
- UEB endorsed taking a tiered approach to risk appetite with input from faculties/schools/departments.
- This work would need to be closely aligned with other activities and should be incorporated into the implementation of the new schools structure.

### **3. Closed Minute and Paper**

#### **4. Report of the UEB Sustainability Steering Group including Diamond Overnight Closure**

4.1 UEB approved the report of the UEB Sustainability Steering Group, which provided an update on the matters considered by the group at its meeting on 21 September 2023. UEB discussed a recommendation to pilot the closure of the Diamond building overnight, between 10pm-6am, with a view to implementing this permanently from the start of the 2024-25 academic year. The following was noted:

- While there were alternative spaces to study/work at night, it was important to recognise the impact this could have on students who routinely worked in the Diamond during the proposed closure period.
- It was also important to recognise the impact this could have on staff currently working in the building and any attendant risks.
- The SU had made a separate request to extend the opening hours of the Wave building, because it was closer to student residences.

4.2 From a sustainability perspective, UEB was supportive in principle of a pilot in Semester two in 2023-24 to further monitor student behaviour and usage figures during term time. It was noted that in any event, the Diamond would revert to 24/7 opening hours during key exam and assessment periods. However, before taking this step there was more work to do to understand the reasons for the request to extend the opening hours in the Wave and the impact closing the Diamond would have on students and staff.

#### **5. Report of the UEB Health and Safety Sub-Group**

5.1 UEB received and noted the report of the UEB Health and Safety Sub Group, which provided an update on the matters considered by the group at its meeting on 12 October 2023. UEB:

- a. Approved the UEB Health and Safety Sub-Group Terms of Reference for 2023/24.

- b. Approved the Annual H&S Report 2022/23.
- c. Approved the Annual Security Services Report 2022/23.
- d. Approved the seven H&S policies set out in Section 6 of the report.
- e. Noted the matters discussed in relation to Health & Safety Policy Implementation.

## **6. Report of the UEB International Steering Group**

6.1 UEB received and noted the report of the UEB International Steering Group, which provided an update on the matters considered by the group at its meeting on 16 October 2023. UEB:

- a. Approved the updated Terms of Reference and Membership for 2023/24.
- b. Approved guaranteeing Turing Scheme funding for students participation in a period abroad for 2024/25:
  - o (The estimated cost of the University underwriting these groups would be £945,000. This would require an investment of £191k by the University (in 2024/25) if Turing funding for 2024/25 was at a similar level to this year)
- c. Approved Partnership funding.
- d. Noted the updates and other work outlined in the report.