



Minutes University Executive Board

Date:	12 March 2024
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 (CB), R Sykes (RS), Professor M Vincent (MV), Professor C Watkins (CW), I Wright (IW) (Except Item 5)
In attendance:	J Strachan (JS), T Wray (TW), R Latham (RL) and Y Knight (YK) (Item 2), V Jackson (VEJ) and A Rayner (AR) (Item 3),
Apologies:	Professor A Blom (AB)
Secretary:	Dr E Smith

1. **Closed Minute and Paper**

2. **Economic Impact Assessment 2024**

(HM in attendance for this item)

- 2.1 UEB considered proposals relating to the process, consultation, and outstanding actions for the University Economic Impact Assessment (EIA). The previous such exercise was undertaken in 2019, and the timeliness of completing a new EIA in 2024 was highlighted, among which was both political and media scepticism about the value of higher education. Further envisaged benefits of the new EIA included its potential value as a mechanism to measure the effectiveness of the University's Regional Engagement Strategy and for the University to remain in step with Russell Group peers that had comparable assessments in place.
- 2.2 With regard to progress to date, an EIA Working Group has been convened with a broad membership and input had been sought from across Professional Services and senior Research and Innovation leaders. It was anticipated that the EIA would take approximately six months to complete. UEB raised and/or noted a number of points during discussion.
- 2.3. UEB:
 - 2.3.1 Agreed on the proposed audience and messaging for the EIA as set out in the related paper.
 - 2.3.2 Provided feedback on how both UEB and University in general might make best use of the headline figures and messaging from the EIA.

3. **2024/25 Budget Update**

(VEJ and AR in attendance for this item)

- 3.1 UEB received and noted an update on the process for setting the budget for 2024/25. During a related presentation, focus was drawn to the following:
 - 3.1.1 The latest position.
 - 3.1.2 Outstanding actions required.
 - 3.1.3 Key metrics from the March 2024 forecast.
 - 3.1.4 Indicative changes to the 2024/25 OfS budget.
 - 3.1.5 Forecast direct contributions for 2024/25, alongside contribution rates for the faculties, AMG, and Professional Services and shared costs.
 - 3.1.6 Key capital investments.
 - 3.1.7 Year-end cash balances for each financial year up to 2026/27.
 - 3.1.8 The University's Balance Sheet for each financial year up to 2026/27.
 - 3.1.9 Bank covenant and USS Metrics headroom.

4. Closed Minute and Paper

5. Closed Minute and Paper

6. Closed Minute and Paper

7. Campaign Ambassador Role

- 7.1 UEB received and noted an update on recent activities to appoint a Campaign Ambassador from within the current pool of FVPs. This external representation role would support, but not replicate, the work that KL would undertake in this area as the University moved into the public phase of its institution-wide campaign, and entail hosting events, championing the University's planned project across the disciplinary range, representing the University in initial conversations with prospective major donors, and working in close liaison with RS and the Director CAR on broader campaign delivery. Confirmation was provided that AB had agreed to take on the Campaign Ambassador role, which would be scoped so that it could be delivered alongside AB's existing substantive commitments.

8. UEB Agenda Discussion: 26 March 2024

- 8.1 UEB considered agreed the Agenda for the upcoming Strategic Meeting on 26 March.

9. Report of the UEB Strategic Advisory Group – Student Recruitment and Population

(Meeting Held on 7 February 2024)

- 9.1 UEB approved the report.

10. Report of the UEB Sustainability Steering Group

(Meeting Held on 15 February 2024)

10.1 UEB approved the report, noting specific discussions concerning timelines and next steps for the University's Decarbonisation Strategy and an internal staff and student engagement programme to replace the sector-level Green Impact Scheme. The Steering Group had also received a presentation from the Students' Union Wellbeing and Sustainability Officer about student views on sustainability.

11. Round Table

- 11.1 Immigration: KL noted the letter of the Home Secretary to the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) asking the MAC to conduct a rapid review of the graduate visa scheme on the belief that some students could be abusing this entitlement to transition to work visas. The University would work with the Russell Group and Universities UK (UUK) to make the case for the retention of the scheme and relevant internal activities in support of this approach would be conducted through the Public Affairs Group.
- 11.2 Vice-President and Head of Faculty for Social Sciences: JS confirmed that Professor Ruth Blakeley would begin to receive UEB papers with immediate effect as the incoming FVP for Social Sciences.
- 11.3 Awards: RS updated UEB on the University's nomination in six categories of the WhatUni? Awards, including University of the Year and Students' Union of the Year. (RS)