



Minutes Meeting of the University Executive Board

Date:	5 November 2024
Present:	Professor K Lamberts (KL), in the Chair Professor R Blakeley (RB), Professor A Blom (AB), Professor J Derrick (JD), Professor S Fitzmaurice (SF), Professor G Jewell (GJ), J Jones (JJ), Professor R Mokaya (RM) (Items 1-4), R Sykes (RS), Professor M Vincent (MV), I Wright (IW)
In attendance:	J Strachan (JS), Tracy Wray (TW), R Gower (RG) (Items 1-2), V Jackson (VEJ) (Item 3), A Williams (AW) (Item 4)
Apologies:	Professor C O'Bradaigh (CO)
Secretary:	Dr E Smith (ES)

1. Revised Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy

(RG in attendance for this item)

- 1.1 UEB considered the latest version of the institutional Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy, which had been revised following an internal audit. The related paper detailed the principal findings of that audit. Attention was drawn to the substantive changes made. To raise the profile of the Policy, it was proposed that, subject to UEB approval, the Policy would be communicated to staff via the standard channels and incorporated into the Staff Induction Checklist for new starters.
- 1.2 During discussion, UEB noted that the campus Trade Unions had requested no significant amendments to the revised Policy at a recent meeting of the Joint University Campus Committee (JUCC).
- 1.3 UEB approved the revised Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy, which would be reported onward to ARAC.

2. Closed Minute and Paper

3. Closed Minute and Paper

4. National Budget Briefing and Next Policy Steps

(AW in attendance for this item)

- 4.1 UEB received and noted an update that outlined the headlines from the government's Autumn Budget 2024 and the associated implications for the

University and wider sector. In a related presentation, particular emphasis was placed on the following:

- Home Students
- Research
- International Education

4.2 Members noted the Policy Team's planned next steps in its work with policy-makers and the 'deep dive' work it would undertake.

4.3 During discussion, UEB noted points in relation to:

4.3.1 The areas that would benefit from further engagement with the Policy Team.

4.3.2 The effectiveness of QR funding.

4.3.3 The Student Contract.

4.3.4 The Policy Team would arrange meetings with individual UEB Members as part of its work to progress the deep dives noted in Minute 4.2, above.

4.3.5 Members recorded their thanks to Matthew Borland, the Senior Policy Officer, for his prompt and comprehensive analysis of the Autumn Budget 2024.

5. Report of the UEB International Sub-Group

(Meeting Held on 2 October)

5.1 UEB considered and approved the report, and noted the updates provided on:

5.1.1 The outcomes of the UEB Sub-Group Review and the Terms of Reference and Membership 2024/25.

5.1.2 Transnational Education opportunities.

5.1.3 Fee-paying Study Abroad (including Summer Schools)

5.1.4 Relevant policy developments since the change of central government in July.

5.1.5 Reputational activities.

6. Report of the UEB Sustainability Steering Group

(Meeting Held on 19 September)

6.1 UEB considered and approved the report, and noted the updates provided.

7. Round Table

7.1 Secretary of State for Education: KL updated UEB on the Secretary of State's letter announcing the increase in the UG tuition fee. The letter also set out the Secretary of State's five priorities for reform of the UK's higher education system. These covered (i) expanding access and improving outcomes for disadvantaged students, (ii) making a stronger contribution to economic growth, (iii) having a greater civic role in communities, (iv) driving further improvements to teaching standards, and

(v) engaging in a sustained efficiency and reform programme in recognition of the financial challenges facing the sector.

- 7.2 Furniture Management: TW and SH reiterated the findings of EFM's report, as noted in Minute 6.1.1, above, and highlighted the need for UEB Members to champion the recovery, repair, and reuse of furniture as far as possible rather than the procurement of new furniture to fit out buildings.