

Present:	Mr Mike Lewis	Chairman
	Dr David Llewellyn	Vice-Chancellor
	Mr Colin Bailey	
	Mr Tim Burnhope	
	Mr Peter Cowdy	
	Dr John Donaldson	Staff Governor
	Mrs Emma Folkes	
	Miss Charlotte Garbutt	President of the Students' Union
	Mr Richard Hambleton	
	Mr Peter Nixon	
	Prof Mark Omerod	
	Dr Julia Pointon	
	Mrs Christine Snell	
	Dr Martin Thomas	

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continuing in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for a further year.

17/02

Approved: the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on 6th July 2017 (16/58 to 16/78)

Received: a matters arising report prepared by the University Secretary.

confidential to ensure the University's bidding position was protected as well as that of the tenant. The final legal steps were in hand and it was anticipated that final documentation would be signed over the next few weeks. Members recognised that this was a very important investment for the future of the University and helped to manage the risks around access to farmland which had been a concern for quite some time.

vii) that the Industrial Strategy was still under discussion within government, and links to the agri-tech strategy were not yet fully clarified. The four centres of innovation developed under the agri-tech strategy were at different stages of development. However it was understood that the NFU and the AHDB were hoping to provide a forum to draw Hub activities together and focus on the benefits for the sector as a whole.

viii) that the university was continuing to engage with BEIS and Treasury officials as well as the Marches LEP to ensure that the development of agri-tech businesses as a cluster around the University remained a priority. The Newport innovation Park was due to start construction at the beginning of 2018 with initial phases focusing on infrastructure and some incubation units developed by the local authority. All parties remained interested in attracting companies relating to agri-tech and advanced manufacturing in general;

ix) that the Agri-EtB (120503TW10823(001(902 013-19639(413-204)132 (8204690058T.0

being offered to good candidates. Members recognise that it was

- v) that the University, also reported regularly to the Board on market intelligence where information was available. However in discussion, it was suggested that it would be useful for the Board to be further briefed about how the University's performance in relation to TEF 1 compared with close competitors. It was also suggested that it may be useful to include a review of HEI's that may not be direct competitors but which appear to be performing well at cognate subject level as this might increase the basket of comparators.
- vi) that the Board recognised the importance of the work of its subcommittees and that members felt they were well briefed by senior team through reports at both Board and subcommittee level.
- vii) that the University had developed a number of new programmes to improve its ability to compete with others for a wider range of students without however diluting standards or moving too far away from the University specialist nature.

Agreed:

- i) that a report would be prepared focusing on the 10 universities that are ahead of Harper Adams in the recent TEF.
- ii) that the management team would continue to brief F and GP Committee and the Board on key documents such as HEFCE's annual report on the financial health of the sector;
- iii) that the report of the Vice Chancellor and that of the Director of Marketing and Communications would continue to provide information on competitor awareness and intelligence as far as such data is available.

17/06

Received: i) an oral briefing from the Director of Finance on progress of preparation

Agreed: to the action taken by the Chair of Audit and Risk Management Committee to agree minor changes to the external auditor's engagement;

17/07

Received a report from the Deputy Vice Chancellor on the veterinary school project with Keele University (note Prof M Ormerod left the meeting for discussion of this item)

Noted:

- i) that following the July Board meeting the agreed announcement of discussions between Harper Adams and Keele University have been received positively by the British Veterinary Association as well as a wide range of veterinary practitioners. The University's alumni also appeared to understand the University's reasons for considering the development of the vet school and feedback had been positive, with no one expressing any particular concerns;
- ii) that there was an opportunity to bid for Catalyst Funding which would not directly support the development of the vet school but might support a project such as a national centre for animal well-being. This proposal was currently under development and was due to be submitted in the next few weeks;
- iii) that the Director of Finance was now chairing the Finance and Legal group set up between Keele and Harper Adams. The steering board also contained the Chairs of each of the key subgroups. It was also likely that a member of staff at Harper Adams may be asked to chair the operational group with Keele chairing the curriculum group at the current time;

Agreed:

- i) CEB as Secretary, to confirm a date for a special board meeting in January 2018.
- ii) Prof Mills to continue to keep the working group briefed on the project

17/08

Consideration by the Board of Governors of annual reports on academic quality matters

Considered:

a briefing note and annual reports on the arrangements for assuring academic quality at Harper Adams University and a summary report on the annual review of the academic quality manual.

Noted:

- i) that as agreed in September 2016, the Board would be receiving during each year a number of key reports on academic quality matters which it was hoped would inform the Board's decision-making when considering

- v) that the SU have been working hard to increase the number of social events and improve the social calendar in particular ensuring that the range of events were offered which would hopefully offer something to everyone;
- vi) that the widening participation plan had been developed to try and support all students and provide a wider student experience;
- vii) that the Student Union was trialling a link with Easy Coach to provide transport to and from Newport for students for major events.

Agreed:

to congratulate the President on her hard work over the summer and to wish the team every success for the coming year.

17/10

Received:

the final report on the HAR held in June 2017 noted that no recommendations have been made. The report was very positive about the governance arrangements at the University

17/11

Noted:

that the above act had would come into force with effect from 30 September 2017. It focused on tax evasion and corporate responsibility where

17/14

Received: the draft management accounts report for the period to 31 July 2017

17/15

Received: a report from the Director of Marketing C

Received: An outline of work undertaken since the last meeting of the Board to address and engage with these issues.

Agreed: that the briefing note would be considered in more detail