

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors held on 27 September 2019 in the Boardroom

Present:	Mr Mike Lewis	Chair
	Dr David Llewellyn	Vice-Chancellor
	Mr Vernon Blakeman	Staff Governor
	Mr Tim Burnhope	
	Mr Peter Cowdy	
	Dr John Donaldson	Staff Governor
	Mrs Emma Foulkes	
	Mrs Sarah Mukherjee	
	Mr Peter Nixon	Vice-Chair
	Mr Daniel Jervis	SU President
	Prof Mark Ormerod	
	Rebecca Payne	Staff Governor
	Dr Julia Pointon	
	Mrs Christine Snell	
	Dr Martin Thomas	
	Mr Campbell Tweed	
	Mr Stephen Vickers	Vice-Chair
	Mrs Debbie Winstanley	
	Dr Tim Watson	
	Mr Dominic Wong	
Apologies:	Mr Colin Bailey	
	Mr Richard Hambleton	
In attendance:	Dr Catherine Baxter	University Secretary & Clerk to the Board
	Mrs Liz Furey	Director of Finance
	Prof Peter Mills	Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Register of Interests

Members were reminded to complete or update their entry in the Register of Interests as necessary.

19/01 Welcome to New Members and Staff Observers

- Welcomed:
- i) Adeola Olufayo and Marisa Virseda, members of the Board Apprentice Programme (External Observers)
 - ii) Sarah Mukherjee, Independent Board member, to her first meeting and Mr Vernon Blakeman, Support Staff Governor, to his first meeting.
 - iii) David Edwards, University Solicitor, Staff Observer
- Mr Nixon, Mr Vickers and Mr Wong left the meeting during consideration of the next item*
- Noted:
- i) that three expressions of interest in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chairs had been received as previously notified to members. Mr Nixon was willing to be nominated for the role of Chair and Messrs Vickers and

preferred a fuller week with no or fewer evenings/quieter events. This contrasted with feedback in 2018. The SU would engage with feedback and review its plans for 2020 and an overall review of Welcome Week would also take place;

- vii) HAUSU was clear it does not permit its clubs and societies to undertake such activities. The SU will be engaging with all clubs and societies and training their Executive Teams;
- viii) that the Vice-Chancellor had attended an HE event at the Conservative Party Conference and would attend similar events at other conferences as they arise;
- ix) that a close watch on possible risks relating to Brexit was in place drawing on UUK & DfE guidance as well as wider UK government advice and information provided by key suppliers e.g. of catering. The University had done its best to mitigate known risks to date;
- x) that the review of HE Innovation Funding (HEIF) is in hand. A £10m national competition fund to look at how students contribute to HEIF is being offered. A commitment to increase research funding by 2.4% has been made. Opportunities for small specialist HEIs to access some of this funding has been highlighted as an important factor;
- xi) that UKRI will have a change of CEO during 2020;
- xii) that the Home Office is making some changes to student visas to allow overseas students to remain in the UK to work for a period after graduation. Interest from contacts in India had already grown in response to this new approach;
- xiii) that the Student Loan Company is reviewing its financial model and may set up an administration fee, GuildHE are reviewing all subscription rates pre- & post OfS as it is anticipated that HEIs are now funding significantly higher fees to support the OfS and other new subscriptions previously funded by government;
- xiv) that the next round of Institutional Specific Funding (ISF) may be launched during October 2019. It is anticipated that competition will be increased for the available funds. Details of the fund value and requirements for applicants are not yet available, but demonstration of
- xi) that a post qualifications admissions review is in hand together with further reviews of conditional/unconditional offer making; further work on longitudinal employment data (LEO) including a possible regional weighting; a review of degree standards and a review of level 4/5 provision;
- xvi) that the University has been shortlisted for University of the Year in the THE awards and was delighted to be named as Modern University of the Year by the Sunday Times Good University Guide and runner up to St Andrews for University of the Year. This is the first time a post 1992 HEI has been featured in the top 20 UK universities in this table. Members offered their formal congratulations to all staff and students on this important achievement. A celebration would take place later in the day to which all Board members were invited;
- xvii) that the University was not in a position to offer a monetary award to staff to recognise their hard work and commitment, however, it was

19/18 Briefing on the University's Access & Participation Plan

Welcomed: Dr Abigail Hind to the meeting;

Noted: i) the briefing document included in the agenda papers together with the

clearly linked;

- xiv) the work on the Development Trust will continue to be reported to the Board and will include an analysis of Characteristics of Students to support the APP; **CEB/AMH**

Agreed: