

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Summary Report on the Business of Academic Board

This report provides a summary of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 10th June 2020, as well as the exceptional joint meeting with the Quality & Standards Committee on 22nd April 2020, which was convened to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University's operations, circumstances, progression and award rules. The Board of Governors is asked to note the report.

1. The Board noted under Matters Arising: that the anticipated sector guidance on Student Protection Plan requirements from the Office for Students (OfS), initially due in October 2019, had been superseded by the alternative Coronavirus-related guidance released on 9th June; that the Harper & Keele Veterinary School governance structure had been finalised and was appended to the meeting papers; and that the actions arising from the exceptional meeting of the Academic Board with the Quality and Standards Committee, which took place in April to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University's operations, circumstances, progression and award rules, had been completed.
2. The Board received and endorsed an overview of progress with the International Strategy. The Board noted that good progress had been made prior to the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, but that significant international recruitment challenges lay ahead for Harper Adams and the wider sector. It remained to be seen as to the level of confidence that the international community would place in the UK, but in the meantime the University continued to maintain positive relationships with

- x Condition C3 (Student Protection Plan): the Board noted the OfS was no longer seeking to provide sector-wide recommendations on Student Protection Plans, but would instead target individual institutions where they had concerns. The University was not anticipating any intervention.
- x Condition E6 (Sector integrity and stability): the Board noted that the consultation on this proposed new condition had concluded at the end of May. The condition sought to prohibit the use of unconditional offers and other incentives to sway applicant decision-making. At the time of the meeting (and preparation of this summary), no announcement has been made on the implementation of the proposed new condition.

The University had challenged UCAS on its new paid-for marketing offer, which seemingly aimed to fuel competition, contradicting the OfS measures looking to achieve stability and the opposite effect.

- x Condition F1 (Transparency Information): the board noted that the OfS would not require providers to publish this data for the time being, but would instead take responsibility for the publication of sector data until further notice.
 - x Condition F2 (Transfer Policy): the Board noted and endorsed the extant Policy.
7. The Board received and approved revisions to the Academic Appeals Policy. The Board D J U H H G W K I Action could be sought for the proposed changes to writing style as time permits.
 8. The Board received