

Environmental Strategy (which was a later item on the agenda), also
due course that funding for capital may depend on being able to
demonstrate a commitment to carbon reduction and environmental
sustainability, as this remained an important topic of debate in a range
of national fora including the Universities Climate Change Commission;

- vi) that the University remained supportive of the social mobility pledge.
This project was expected to re-start once the COVID-19 situation had
eased;

Approved: the Carbon Management Plan 2020-2025

19/38 **Vice-Chancellor's Report**

Received: an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on recent developments of note
-going response to COVID-19 and planning for
2020/21 and an update on
autumn 2020 for publication on the web site for the information of applicants
and current students

Noted: i) that although the University had fallen by 14 places in the Complete
University Guide published in the previous few days, it retained the

Safe measures in place. Consideration was also being given to whether some elements of home working might be retained where staff and managers were able to demonstrate that this would be an efficient and effective way to deliver the services required for all their stakeholders;

- iii) that a wide range of constantly changing advice and guidance had been issued to the HE sector from UUK, GuildHE and many other sector wide networks and professional or practitioner groups in addition to the general UK Government advice. Legal advice and government advice from DfE as well as OfS guidance continued to be issued and to inform
 Considerable on-going effort was required to review and digest this on-going rapidly changing and developing work was required to meet the expectations set by DfE, OfS and other sector bodies engaged with HE such as UCAS and Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA);
- iv) that communication to staff and current students, as well as to prospective students, applicants and their parents had been fundamentally important, alongside briefings for the Board through engagement at Board and Committee meetings and via the weekly Newsletter, as well as very regular discussions between the Chair and the Vice-Chancellor;
- v) that the CMA and OfS require HEIs to issue clear information to current students and applicants on teaching and learning plans for 2020/21 so they could determine if they still wished to continue to study/take up their place. This was challenging when government guidance on exactly what measures may be in place at the end of September remains unclear. However, the university had made a statement which was shared with members of the Committee confirming its intention to offer a blended learning approach with smaller classes being held on campus such as practicals. A more detailed statement would be made in due course as further information emerges at government level and as the University works through its revised timetable and other requirements to accommodate small group teaching, catering and accommodation on campus in accordance with known COVID-Safe requirements at the time of publication. Andy Jones as Director of Learning and Teaching was working with Abigail Hind, Peter Mills and a wide range of other staff to develop these plans in detail. While some HEI has published more lengthy statements, not all appeared to include the alla..7m0.0000rhT@q

resident included a number of international students who were being well supported by the University;

- vii) that a virtual Open Day had been developed for 17 June 2020, drawing on experience of involvement with other on-line events including Cereals and other agricultural shows and also drawing on the models being used by other HEIs. 525 people had registered so far of which 119 had indicated an interest in studying in 2020. While 89 of this group had already applied, the others had not done so to date, so there may be an opportunity both to assist decision making for current applicants and attract new applications as part of the usual late cycle. Applicants had been given an extended UCSA deadline to make their decisions which also made it difficult to compare acceptances and likely conversions year on year. Added to this was the uncertainty around the new way of determining grades for students completing A levels or BTEC/similar qualifications;
- viii) that Vet School acceptances were very positive, and while HAU numbers overall were holding up generally in a number of areas, there were some subject areas where numbers were not strong at the current time. Every effort to secure further committ

further embed its respect campaign and to continue to welcome people from all backgrounds to the campus. The Chairman had approved the statement for publication;

- xiii) that there had been discussion about the need to ensure HEIs with the standard model of Instrument and articles of Governance were able to continue to use virtual meeting platforms. The formal process to amend these documents was to apply to the Privy Council and this would be difficult of all 50 plus HEIs needed to do so. This matter had been raised with GuildHE with a view to asking DfE to consider it. While the Companies Act enables meetings by virtual means, the I&A take precedent for Harper Adams as they do for all HEIs whatever their underlying structure. Legal advice was also being sought via AHUA;
- v) that the Marches LEP had been in touch that morning to advise of a possible opportunity to re-submit a bid for a contribution to support the Vet School capital project costs. This would be followed up. Details of the precise criteria set for bids were yet to be confirmed; **LF**

Agreed:

- i) to thank all staff at the University for their hard work during the current situation;
- ii) ly solvent
and independent, as this would be fundamentally important in the challenging time ahead and may provide opportunities to secure market share should there be changes to the programmes offered at other HEIs offering similar courses. The closure of some providers in earlier decades had led to additional students wishing to study at Harper Adams and being willing to travel to Shropshire to do so.

19/39 Management Accounts

Received:

the Management Accounts for the period to 30 April 2020 and forecast for 2019-20, including an update on farm performance

Noted:

- i) that as agreed by the Board in April 2020, the university felt it was fees. This had led to a loss of £1.1M income. Short course and conference income had also

- iv) that discussions with relevant banks including Barclays had been helpful and it would be possible to meet bank covenants if very close management continued, however the margin was very tight. Barclays were willing to agree to a different draw down pattern for year-ending July 2020, but were not willing to agree at this stage to further flexibility

it would be prudent to continue to aim to meet covenants fully this financial year and reserve any possible further negotiation in this regard to 2020/21 in case this was needed; **LF**
- v) that the prospects of recovery of an expected payment (£30K) from Huazhong University appeared limited at this stage, although efforts were being made. There were also risks around farm income/expenditure as set out in the paper;
- vi) that costs were being controlled very closely and there may continue to be a further reduction in planned spending to the year-end 2020 where possible. Capital forecast balances were slightly higher at this time due to project delays and there may be an opportunity to carry forward some

19/42 Report from Cedar Energy Limited

Received: a report from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Estates and Facilities

Noted: that Cedar Board had noted the positive progress with the system at its last meeting. Energy generation had become steadier and more reliable and new priorities for further improvement could begin to be considered as and when finances would permit further investment as noted in the report.

19/43 Committees

Received:

- i) the minutes of Health and Safety Committee held on 28 May 2020
- ii) an oral report on the operation of the farm as Farm Strategy Committee has not met due to COVID-19 and would next meet in October 2020

Noted:

- i) that members were pleased to note the positive engagement with health and safety matters as they related to COVID-19 in particular;
- ii) that it remained important to remind staff returning to the workplace and those who had been working as key workers to report accidents and near misses as usual and to ask staff to consider possible new risks when social distancing was required;
- iii) that plans for the farm operation had already been discussed and agreed earlier in the meeting.

19/44 Date of Next Meeting

5 November 2020

Part B

19/45 Risk Management

Received: a report by the University Secretary on risks monitored by the Committee.

Agreed: that the management of these risks remained appropriate.

19/46 Estate Developments plans for development of a revised Carbon Management Plan (CMP)

Received:

- i) a paper by the Head of Estates and Facilities on progress with current estate developments
- ii) a report on progress with the targets set for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) 2017-2022 and plans to refresh the ESS during 2020/21

Agreed: that progress with the ESS was positive and members were supportive of the plans to refresh the ESS as set out in the agenda paper. Thanks were expressed to Jonathan Cain and Adam van Winsum for their work on this important area.
Agreed: that members were content with the report and with the proposals for revised CMP and had no issues to raise.

19/47 KPMG Higher Education Financial Statements Benchmarking 2018-19*

Noted:

library. Audit and Risk Management Committee considered the report at its May 2020 meeting.