

## UNIVERSITY CENTRE WEST ANGLIA

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of University Centre West Anglia held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 in Milton.

**PRESENT:** Mr D Pomfret (Chair) (DP)  
Mr S G Bennett (SB)  
Ms A Clark (AC)  
Professor Lesley Dobree (LD)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Miss C Ludlam (CL)  
Mr C Challender (CC)

### Action

#### 260. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

260.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### 261. APOLOGIES

261.1 Apologies were received from Professor M Thorne.

#### 262. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

262.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record.

#### 263. MATTERS ARISING

*QAA HE Review (Minute 248.1)*

263.1 It was noted that LD and AC met over summer to discuss the QA HE review and were now waiting for recruitment numbers. AC confirmed that she would speak with Trevor Bolton (TB) and would report back at the next meeting.

**Action: AC to report back once spoken to TB**

#### 264. COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA STRATEGIC UPDATE

264.1 It was reported that there were big changes facing further education (FE). In the summer, the National Audit Office published a report: Overseeing financial sustainability in the further education sector which identified declining financial health in the FE sector.

- 264.2 As a result, it was reported that the Government had launched “area reviews” of FE colleges which will take place over an 18 month period throughout England. The College were still waiting to find out what wave and area of review they fall into. Guidance is not clear but the next wave should be announced soon.
- 264.3 It was reported that student number performance in 2014/15 was strong and the College had exceeded targets in most areas including a £200k over-performance on 16-18 apprenticeships. There was no clawback from the Government. The College had a strong track record of meeting targets and had made a strong start to 2015/16 including a 6% growth in new 16-18 year old student recruitment.
- 264.4 It was reported that the £6.5M development at Wisbech was finished and highly successful. The University Centre project had commenced and the current building had been demolished. Completion is set for summer 2016.
- 264.5 It was reported that CWA Academy Trust had achieved a 5% improvement (5 A\*-C incl. E&M) trust wide and things were moving forward positively.
- 264.6 It was reported that the College were facing challenges regarding identifying the location of all former students and had hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to assist. The College currently knows 75% of destinations and 97% of that 75% were positive.
- 264.7 It was reported that there were 7 CWA students competing in this year’s World Skills national finals taking place in November, representing 25% of all Eastern regional finalists.
- 264.8 It was reported that the College were building a HE relationship around teacher training and intend to work with Bishop Grosseteste University who will assist in validating teacher training courses.

## **265. ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC UPDATE**

- 265.1 It was reported that the latest round of admissions and registration was positive overall and ARU was within its target. Part time registrations showed some recovery and international recruitment held up despite visa difficulties. It was noted that post graduate and research degrees were also growing.
- 265.2 It was noted that ARU had a new partnership with LCA London and that it had now become a core part of ARU.

- 265.3 It was reported that ARU wanted to increase its pool of admissions and be less dependent on clearing. The University carried out a massive marketing review and intends to modernise its approach.
- 265.4 It was reported that building work had commenced on the new science building on the Cambridge campus but was currently at a pause whilst costs were investigated. Young Street was now fully operational.
- 265.5 It was reported that shortlisting had now taken place for the new VC position and interviewing is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- 265.6 It was reported that Roderick Watkin had replaced Richard Andrews as the new Deputy VC of Research and Innovation and Andy Salmon was now acting dean of ALSS.

## **266. REVIEW OF THE JOINT VENTURE RISK REGISTER**

- 266.1 The Board received and considered a report.
- 266.2 The Board updated the Risk Register.

## **267. UCWA CLEARING & HE ENROLMENT**

- 267.1 It was reported that the clearing campaign was similar to 2014/15 intake. UCWA started with 98 confirmed applicants and closed clearing with 168 unconditional offers. All 168 applicants registered as students and are still registered.
- 267.2 It was reported that there were now 154 students in the first year cohort and 32% of 154 were studying land based programmes (including 40 on the Veterinary Nursing programme). The BSc in Business Management course recruited well.
- 267.3 It was reported that the Equine Science course was struggling. New modules on riding maybe written and the course may consequently be renamed.
- 267.4 It was reported that there were 308 students in the 2014/15 ARU validated cohort.

## **268. ARU STUDENT REGISTRATION**

- 268.1 It was reported that student registration of the new cohort was slower than in previous years from ARU. This had been addressed internally at ARU to prevent tardiness next year.

**269. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2015**

269.1 The Board approved the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

269.2 The Board re-appointed the Auditors, Scrutton Bland for the year ending July 2016.

**270. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

270.1 It was noted that it would be beneficial for Chris Chang to do a presentation at the next board meeting on our marketing approach in light of the confusion caused this summer.

**271. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

271.1 It was noted that the next meeting would take place at 2.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 in Milton.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRMAN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**