

UNIVERSITY CENTRE WEST ANGLIA

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of University Centre West Anglia held on 13th May 2015 in Milton.

PRESENT: Mr D Pomfret (Chair)
Mr S G Bennett
Ms A Clark
Professor M Thorne

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss C Ludlam
Mr C Challender

Action

241. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

241.1 There were no declarations of interest.

242. APOLOGIES

242.1 Apologies were received from Professor Lesley Dobree.

243. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

243.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2014 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record.

244. MATTERS ARISING

244.1 There were no matters arising.

245. COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA STRATEGIC UPDATE

245.1 It was noted that there was a £2M budget variation between the draft 2015/16 budget and the 2014/15 budget and the overall budget had been reduced by 20% over the last three years. Commercial streams needed to be identified and developed in order to accommodate growth.

245.2 It was reported that the draft budget was £650k in deficit. Two restructure proposals had been taken forward but those alone would not address the budget deficit.

- 245.3 It was reported that the World Skills entry had been launched and the College had the highest number of competitors in the region.
- 245.4 It was reported that European work had been embraced with 20 relationships across all parts of Europe which resulted in a positive impact on staff, students and apprentices.
- 245.5 It was reported that the £6.5M accommodation project in Wisbech which included a rebuild and refurbishment was underway. Completion being due at the start of September 2015.
- 245.6 It was noted that residential accommodation on the Milton campus was not being actively developed at present. Letters of underwrite had been received from the New Anglia LEP in relation to the University Centre accommodation, which would commence this summer and complete in August 2016.
- 245.7 It was reported that the College was now the lead provider of the National Citizenship programme which was two counties wide and was opening opportunities and was positive.
- 245.8 It was noted that the College hadn't extended on academies this year and currently had five in total. There was a focus on improving achievement in all academies and two of the academies had been inspected this year and three more visits were expected in the near future from the office of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

246. ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC UPDATE

- 246.1 It was reported that the University had won Entrepreneurial University of the year award.
- 246.2 It was reported that the University now had twelve areas of world leading research (from eight) including the business school which was very positive. The aim as set out in the Corporate Plan was to have world leading research in all academic departments.
- 246.3 It was noted that recruitment was uncertain although applications were 2% up. International recruitment was a tough market but colleagues were working hard and the University was being well marketed.
- 246.4 It was reported that there was a new science building in Cambridge planned. Demolition of the current site was to start within the month. A further, £5M had been received from the Funding Council for remodelling the facilities on the Chelmsford campus.

246.5 It was reported that the University had the biggest contract in the East of England for the Paramedic Science course and the University had applied for additional funding as Science was an area of continuous growth.

246.6 It was reported that the University was downsizing administrative areas and spending money on academic staff.

247. REVIEW OF THE JOINT VENTURE RISK REGISTER

247.1 The Board received and considered a report.

247.2 The Board considered the Risk Register.

248. QAA HE REVIEW

248.1 It was reported that the QAA review took place on 2nd march 2015. The College received the provisional findings from QAA via letter on 19th March 2015 which stated that they were perceived as meeting UK expectations on all 4 points. The final report will be published on 28th May 2015. MT expressed some concern with the current Pearson provision arrangements.

Action: LB/AC to discuss and report back

249. UCWA Networks FOR COLLABORATIVE PROVISION

249.1 It was reported that the College was a member of two collaborative networks. Both had moved on and managers had been recruited. The first meeting is scheduled to take place on 9th June 2015.

250. UCAS 2015 APPLICATION

250.1 It was reported that the deadline for applications was 6th may 2015. The target sits at 10 for each course. 355 applications were received in total and the College had received 104 firm acceptances.

250.2 It was reported that the College was going to re-launch the Equine Science course and was looking into the numbers on the Business Management course.

Action: MT/DP to discuss statistical analysis

251. UCAS 2015 CLEARING PROVISION

251.1 It was reported that there had been a more structured approach in 2014/15 which achieved positive results. The College received an additional 71 applications through clearing. 13 applicants accepted offers and 11 students were still with the College. Further improvements were being made for this round of clearing in terms of engagement and profiling.

252. GRADUATIONS 2014/15/16

252.1 It was reported that last year's graduation was a success and further improvements were being made for this year. The College had changed the pricing schedule and introduced a campus focus including current students preparing the buffet as opposed to hiring outside caterers.

252.2 It was reported that graduation was confirmed to take place on 10th October 2015 and robing was being introduced at the Kings Lynn site.

253. NEW UCWA HE PROVISION

253.1 It was reported that the Business Management course was revalidated last month.

253.2 It was reported that documents were being prepared in relation to the Travel and Tourism programme and discussions were still being had regarding the development of Criminology and Sociology programmes.

253.3 It was reported that the College were keen to promote Veterinary Nursing and Equine courses with Bio-science in Cambridge and in Kings Lynn.

253.4 It was noted that the big data was still moving forward and two access programmes were starting in Cambridge this year.

254. OFFA 2016 TUITION FEES

254.1 It was noted that tuition fees for 2016/17 would be £8000 for full time students and pro-rotas for part time students. A bursary scheme will now be more favourable.

255. NEW BUILD AT UCWA MILTON

255.1 It was reported that the master planning had been carried out and capacity of teaching accommodation was being looked at. Funding was not yet finalised and was still being investigated. Details to follow. The Principal requested that consideration be given to a direct grant contribution from ARU.

256.1 FORECAST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2015

256.1 The Board noted the accounts for the year ending 31st July 2015.

257. BUDGET 2015/16

257.1 The Board **APPROVED** the budget for 2015/16.

258. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

258.1 There was no other urgent business to discuss.

259. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

259.1 It was noted that the next meeting would take place at 2.30pm on 22nd October 2015 in Milton.

CHAIRMAN

DATE