



ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of Academic Board held on Wednesday 3rd December 2008

Present: Professor S West (Chair), D Allen, Professor J Arthurs, Professor M Boddy, J Bradley, P Catley, Professor G Channon, P Dowdall, Professor J Duffield, M Frutos-Perez, Professor P Gough, M Grey, S Grive, Professor S Hagen, Dr J Harrington, T Harrison, W Jones, T McGoldrick, Dr N McKenzie, P Nolan, M Partington, K Phillips, Professor R Ritchie, J Rushforth, J Thomas

Apologies: A Cheshire, D Passfield, Dr E Smith

In attendance: H Jackson (Clerk), Dr M Wells was in attendance for minute No. AB08.12.5.1

AB08.12.1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 OCTOBER 2008**

Paper AB08/12/1 was received.

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of 22 October 2008 noting the following changes:

- AB08.10.8.2 should read Ho Chi Minh City University of Law, Vietnam
- The title of Professor to be inserted for J Arthurs.

AB08.12.2 **ACADEMIC BOARD GOVERNANCE**

Paper AB08/12/2 was received. The Board noted updated version of its terms of reference, membership and business plan.

AB08.12.3 **VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Paper AB08/12/3 was received.

AB08.12.3.1 The Vice Chancellor reported on:

- (a) student registration 2008
- (b) need to prioritise investments in current sites and buildings pending the development of the HP land. Recognition was given to the working environment on both Glenside and St Matthias sites noting that investments would be made to ensure they were fit for purpose for the short term with a view to future disposal rather than retention of both sites.
- (c) the recent global economic downturn which may lead to increased employers' contribution being required in respect of employee pensions. The Board of Governors may need to review the University's position and examine alternative models.
- (d) the appointment of external consultants for the recruitment of executive deans in BBS and FET, an associate dean in BIT and the new post of PVC to lead on research, enterprise and KE. Posts would be advertised during January 2009.

AB08.12.3.2 The Vice Chancellor extended his thanks to the Director of Finance and the Finance Team for their work on the significant purchase of the HP land.

AB08.12.4 **STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

AB08.12.4.1 **STUDENT EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME**

Paper AB08/12/4 was received.

AB08.12.4.1.1 The Dean of Students introduced the report on progress noting the review of the GDP along with recommendations that had been submitted to LTAC. LTAC had agreed and accepted the recommendations. The evaluation process was now complete and recommendations were being implemented.

AB08.12.4.1.2 A Student Experience Workshop had been held on 26th November 2008 designed to maintain the momentum of improving the student experience. The workshop had highlighted the following areas for further work:

- * the transition from federation colleges to UWE
- * post-graduate students
- * international students
- * part-time students

Outcomes would be available in due course.

AB08.12.4.1.3 The Chair thanked the Dean of Students for his report.

ACTION: DEAN OF STUDENTS

AB08.12.4.2 **STUDENT MATTERS**

The SRC Vice President's Report was received (tabled)

AB08.12.4.2.1 The SRC Vice-President introduced the report on progress which included the following:

- the SRC Union Council had met with an almost entirely new membership
- the Students' Union Annual General Meeting had taken place
- preparations continued for the forthcoming QAA Audit
- the first ever National Union of Students Course Representatives meeting had been held at UWE
- a Halls Representatives Council had been formed to raise issues and to provide a link between halls of residences and relevant UWE services
- a Disabled Students Group had been formed

AB08.12.4.2.2

Following an invitation for the SRC President and the UWESU Rep Coordinator to attend an event at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, UWESU had been invited back to offer training and advice on how to improve the Edge Hill student representative system and to showcase the work of UWESU.

AB08.12.4.2.3

The Chair thanked the SRC Vice-President for the update suggesting that many of the achievements of the SRC could and should be celebrated by applying for the Times Higher awards and he strongly encouraged the SRC to do so.

AB08.12.5 **LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT**

AB08.12.5.1 **QAA INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT 2009**

Paper AB08/12/5 was received.

AB08.12.5.1.1 Assistant Vice Chancellor Channon presented the first draft of the QAA

Institutional Audit Briefing Paper and asked members for their comments, particularly on:

- matters of factual inaccuracy
- whether the document reflected the University
- supporting evidence

AB08.12.5.1.2 During discussion members made a number of suggestions for enhancing the Briefing Paper. Members were invited to send specific and additional comments to Professor Channon and the Academic Registrar.

AB08.12.5.1.3 The Chair thanked Professor Channon for presenting the paper and for the on going work of the QAA Audit Executive.

ACTION: AVC CHANNON/ ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

AB08.12.6 **RESEARCH**

AB08.12.6.1 **RESEARCH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

AB08.12.6.1.1 Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Gough informed the Board that a Research Strategy Implementation Group (RSIG) had been formed by the Vice-Chancellor and tasked with reviewing the University's research strategy.

AB08.12.6.1.2 The review had drawn upon three primary sources of data:

- bidding data/completions data
- self reviews prepared by research directors
- external peer review including RAE 2008.

AB08.12.6.1.3 Collection and review of the data was now complete and the following strengths had been identified:

- the breadth and depth of research at UWE
- the ability for diversity in different areas
- the opportunities for articulating an 'ecological model' for research at UWE that would provide a platform to support scholarship activity whilst creating a culture of developing research and beacons of research excellence

AB08.12.6.1.4 The stratified research activity as follows:

- groups/critical mass operating at or near beacon status
- emerging research areas with potential for significant development
- research areas particularly significant to UWE's areas of strategic importance
- less sustainable areas for further review
- cross discipline areas for further investigation

AB08.12.6.1.5 The final report would be received in March 2009.

ACTION: PVC GOUGH

AB08.12.6.2 **RAE OUTCOMES**

AB08.12.6.2.1 Pro-Vice Chancellor Gough informed the Board that the results of the RAE 2008 would be made available to the Vice Chancellor early on 17th December. Access to the results of other institutions would be made available later on the same day which would enable UWE to compare its outcomes with others. Reasoned cases with more detailed profiles

of subjects and overview reports would be available on 5th January 2009. During Spring 2009 HEFCE were due to publish the complete profiles. Details of funding would be known during Spring 2009. Members were reminded that QR income was £1 billion and Research Councils was £3.5 billion. UWE received only 0.2% of the total.

AB08.12.6.2.2 The Chair thanked PVC Gough for his oral report noting that work would be undertaken on a press release once the data had been compared with other institutions.

ACTION: PROFESSOR GOUGH/VICE CHANCELLOR

AB08.12.7 **KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IMPLEMENTATION**

AB08.12.7.1 The Director of RBI reported on a series of meetings held over the summer to provide a paper to UMG proposing a Knowledge Exchange strategy to roll out across UWE. The UMG had agreed to undertake a review of Knowledge Exchange via an executive group and to gather together the tangible impact of Knowledge Exchange in areas such as public engagement, CPD and other activities driven by stakeholder developments. The aim was to join existing activities into a single programme of activities in order to re-invigorate and reposition UWE in respect of Knowledge Exchange.

The Chair thanked the Director of RBI for his verbal report.

AB08.12.7.2
AB08.12.8

COLLABORATIVE PROVISION

AB08.12.8.1

HARTPURY REVIEW

Paper AB08/12/7 was received.

AB08.12.8.1.1

Assistant Vice Chancellor Channon reported on the ongoing review of Hartpury College, noting that although the final report had not yet been received, the process had been a positive experience for both institutions. The full report was due to be submitted to the March Academic Board.

AB08.12.8.1.2

The Chair thanked AVC Channon for his comments.

ACTION: AVC CHANNON

AB08.12.9

REPORTS FROM FACULTY BOARD

AB08.12.9.1

The Board noted that the October and November 2008 meetings of Faculty Boards had discussed issues relating to:

- a. the purchase of the HP land
- b. Knowledge Exchange
- c. Employability survey return rates
- d. student experience
- e. the planning round
- f. a forthcoming NMC visit in the School of HSC

AB08.12.10

ITEMS TO NOTE.

The Board received the following for information:

AB08.12.10.1

PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS OF HONORARY DEGREES

AB08.12.10.1.1

The Board approved the proposal to confer the title of Emeritus Professor to Professor Martin Lister who was due to leave the University in May 2009.

ACTION: HUMAN RESOURCES

- AB08.12.10.2 **MEETINGS OF SUB COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES**
Paper AB08/12/8 was received. The Board received the following minutes for information:
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment Committee – 7th November 2008
Joint Diversity Committee – 15th October 2008
Research and Knowledge Exchange – 2008
Bristol Business School Faculty Board – 1st October 2008
Creative Arts Faculty Board – 15th October 2008
Creative Arts Faculty Board – 19th November 2008 (tabled)
Environment and Technology Faculty Board – 1st October 2008
Health and Life Sciences Faculty Board – 8th October 2008
Social Science and Humanities Faculty Board – 8th October 2008
UWE Federation Group – 25th September 2008
Research Committee – 14th November 2008
- AB08.12.10.3 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
Confidential minutes of the Research Degrees Committee were noted.
- AB08.12.11 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- AB08.12.11.1 The Vice Chancellor congratulated staff on the success of the recent Award Ceremonies.
- AB08.12.11.2 The Vice Chancellor noted that the development of the Academic Calendar for 2010 and beyond was being led by the Executive Dean of BBS. A report on progress would be made at the next meeting.
ACTION: EXECUTIVE DEAN OF BBS
- Ab08.12.11.3 The Director of RBI informed the Committee that UWE, along with Airbus and City of Bristol College, had won a successful bid. There were 4 successful bids from a total of 135 nationally.
- AB08.12.12 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**
4th March 2009 – 2pm-5pm in Room 3D33
10th June 2009 – 2pm-5pm in Room 3D33

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ACADEMIC BOARD - ACTION SHEET FROM THE MEETING HELD 3 DECEMBER 2008

Minute	Substance	Actioning Officer	Reporting /other deadline
AB08.12.4.1.2	To submit the outcomes from the Student Experience Workshop held on 26 th November 2008 to Academic Board.	DEAN OF STUDENTS	18 February 2009
AB08.12.5.1.2	To receive comments and update the Briefing Paper	AVC CHANNON/ ACADEMIC REGISTRAR	ASAP
AB08.12.6.1	To submit the Research Strategy Implementation Plan to the next AB meeting.	PVC GOUGH	18 February 2009
AB08.12.6.2	To report the RAE outcomes to the next AB meeting	VICE CHANCELLOR/ PVC GOUGH	18 February 2009
AB08.12.8.1	To report the Hartpury Review to the next AB meeting	AVC CHANNON	18 February 2009
AB08.12.10.1.1	To write to Professor Martin Lister on behalf of the VC.	HUMAN RESOURCES	ASAP
AB08.12.11.2	To report on progress of the Academic Calendar for 2010 and beyond.	EXECUTIVE DEAN FOR BBS	18 February 2009