HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors held on 30 September 2016 in the Boardroom

Present:	Mr Mike Lewis	Chairman
	Mr Stephen Vickers	Vice-Chairman
	Dr David Llewellyn	Vice-Chancellor
	Mr Tim Burnhope	
	Mr Peter Cowdy	
	Dr John Donaldson	Staff Governor
	Miss Emma Folkes	
	Mr Richard Hambleton	
	Mr Fred Hammond	
	Mrs Lavinia Moroz-Hale	Staff Governor
	Professor Mark Ormerod	
	Dr Julia Pointon	
	Mrs Christine Snell	
	Mr Martin Thomas	
	Mr Campbell Tweed	
	Mr Dominic Wong	
Apologies:	Mr Colin Bailey	
	Dr Moira Harris	Staff Governor
	Mrs Heather Jenkins	
	Mr Peter Nixon	
	Mr Mark Roach	
In attendance:	Dr C Baxter	University Secretary & Clerk to the Board
	Mrs L Furey	Director of Finance
	Dr L Dodd	Staff Observer

Register of Interests

Members were reminded to complete or update their entry in the Register of Interests as necessary.

16/01 **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Emma Folkes, Tim Burnhope and Fred Hammond to their first meeting. He also welcomed Lindsey Dodd as a staff observer.

16/02 **Congratulations**

The Chairman congratulated the University upon the award of Modern University of the Year. All Board members offered their sincere congratulations to all members of the University on this excellent achievement.

16/03 **Elections of the Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Mr Lewis and Mr Vickers left the room for consideration of this item.

Noted: that the University Secretary had, as usual, invited any member of the Board to express an interest in becoming Chairman or Vice Chairman in accordance with the annual process for determining the process for Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board. The only expressions of interest that had been received were from Mr Mike Lewis (an expression of interest to continue as Chairman) and Mr Stephen Vickers (an expression of interest to continue as Vice Chairman).

xii) that the University had been shortlisted in the Times Higher Awards for University/Business Collaboration for its work with Dairy Crest. The collaboration had also been highlighted by the EU commission as a possible case study by a publication that it was drawing together;

xiii) that the Vice-Chancellor had attended GuildHE Council at which the technical specification for TEF 2 had been discussed. The latest information indicated that the Government wished to establish gold, silver and bronze assessments as part of TEF 2 which would be driven by metrics and supported by a 15-page narrative which needed to be submitted, in Harper Adams's case, by the end of January 2017 with results to be announced in May 2017. Assessors had been selected and announcements were likely to be made in the near future. It was understood that a member of Harper Adams staff was likely to be included in the forthcoming announcement;

xiv) that a student submission was welcomed as part of the 15-page document but not necessarily expected;

xv) that metrics around the graduateness of jobs had been retained following the consultation exercise, although a slightly different approach appeared to be emerging which was not unhelpful to small specialist higher education institutions. This would continue to be monitored closely;

xvi) that a useful presentation from the UUK international unit had been received at the GuildHE conference. Home Office representatives had emphasised their intention to continue to reduce and put in restrictions on the number of visas for international students. It was understood that the Home Office might, in due course, introduce a selective visa system that would be based on qualitOntK i8.9 (on)102 (s)-8.1 aultohe b6T3.3 (1 (r)-icahe)-12.2 ( )Tj senl-1.1 2sen
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iii) that, in light of the fact that the University had, in the past, used a 50-year depreciation process for residences, it was possible that 10 years would be more reasonable for certain fixtures and fittings. For example, in light of this work, the Director of Finance wished to recommend that the Board should review its previous decision to accept revaluation of residences. She wished to propose that the categorisation of buildings, fixtures and fittings and plant should be adopted and that original costs should be reflected in the valuation rather than rental stream valuations;

iv) that if the revised approach would reduce the overall valuation uplift by £7.8m. However, the depreciation charge would also be tempered accordingly;

v) that the Board felt comfortable that historic book cost was a more appropriate approach to take for older assets. Members also welcomed the opportunity for a more robust and specific analysis of depreciation to be put in place.

16/10 **Financial Planning**

To receive: i) an oral briefing from the Director of Finance on progress w esy6-8 (h)-12.2 (t) farming economics to be progressed. The Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust had generously agreed to provide this funding;

v) that a bid to the Regional Development Fund/ESIF to try and secure matched funding for knowledge exchange had also been progressed in relation to the University's engagement with the agri-tech strategy. It was understood that, across the country, ESIF committees were trying to progress bids prior to the Autumn Statement when it was understood that funding arrangements might possible change;

vi) that a new lectureship focused on Sub-Saharan Agriculture was also being progressed. This would be a helpful development prior to the forthcoming meeting with AGCO Future Farm project in Zambia which the Vice-Chancellor would be attending in November. The focus of this meeting was to discuss the future strategy for the

iii) that the Academic Board had also received a mapping of the University's compliance with the Competition and Markets Authority guidance and had been content that appropriate steps and arrangements were now in place;

iv) that the detailed documentation circulated in Booklet 1 Item 10 (ii) provided the Board with a comprehensive range of background information to help it with its new role in relation to academic quality. In particular members noted that it was important for the Board to further enhance its current relationship with Academic Board and to ensure that members had a more detailed understanding of quality assurance arrangements. This was necessary to enable the Board to be in a position by November 2016 and each year thereafter to consider whether or not the Board was content to authorise the Vice-Chancellor to sign off a number of statements which would confirm whether or not the Board of Governors felt sufficiently ensured with the University's quality assurance arrangements;

v) that the new arrangements supported a general drive towards enabling established providers to take responsibility for greater self-regulation with the Board of Governor/governing body of each university taking specific responsibility in this regard in relation to degree standards being effectively managed and quality appropriately maintained;

vi) that Harper Adams would be subject to a higher education assurance review visit during the period January-July 2017. Further arrangements were currently awaited;

vii) that HEFCE had announced that the annual monitoring statement would no longer be required and that further information would be forthcoming shortly;

viii) that the Board had agreed to dedicate its University Executive/Board of Governors planning session for 2016/17 (which would follow the Board meeting) to considering in detail the quality assurance reports presented at Item 10 (ii) and supplemented by further information provided to members on the Governors' document library. A presentation would also be

ii) that the Students' Union President and his team were in discussion with Student Services about the best way to use the new funds. The Students' Union was clear that these would be used to support smaller clubs with less traditional focus and to add to major events and add alternative elements to traditional events so that these appealed to a wider group of students. The President and the Commercial Manager had worked hard over the summer to secure new sponsors. AGCO had agreed to sponsor sports teams and, overall, sponsorship had increased in this area by over five times when compared to the previous year. Further opportunities were being followed up in relation to a proposal to create a new set of awards, the 'True Blue' awards which would recognise students who had demonstrated leadership, management and a willingness to get involved within the University as well as excellence in academic achievement;

iii) that discussions with the Students' Union trustees had led to a decision that the second year student appointed as Vice President would become the chairman of the Students' Union. It had also been decided that final year students would be encouraged to put their names forward to be elected as vice presidents so that a group of that it would be helpful to try and seek a better location. It was noted that this was already in hand;

ii) that with regard to Countryside Live it was suggested that the stand needed to be reviewed as other universities had taken a more engaging approach in designing their stand which had appeared to be more successful in attracting a wider audience. The Secretary would draw these points to the attention of Simon Pride. **CEB/SP**

16/14 **Harper Adams University Development Trust**

Received: a report of a meeting of the Trust held on 5 July 2016.

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