

## **Academic Board 08 February 2017**

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### **Summary of Proceedings**

*The one hundred and thirty second meeting of the Academic Board took place at 2pm on Wednesday 08 February 2017. Papers for the meeting are available on the Academic Board website: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/partners/academic-board.htm>. Academic Board's proceedings are summarized below. Full minutes will be published on the website once they have been approved by Academic Board at the next meeting on 19 April 2017.*

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### Report from the Vice Chancellor

- 1 The Vice Chancellor provided the Board with an update on recent policy development in the UK HE sector concerning the proposal to include international student numbers in the UK immigration numbers. If this proposal was implemented it would likely result in a reduction in the number of students allowed to study in the UK. Alongside this was also the proposal that the quotas of international students that universities were allowed to recruit would be directly linked to their TEF outcomes. A number of universities, including our University and bodies such as UUK were actively lobbying MPs to oppose these proposals and the current signs were that the Government may take a step back with the proposals not progressing in their current form.
- 2 The Vice Chancellor also tabled a report concerning the development of the Northern Powerhouse and the powerful impact that universities like our own had on the development of the northern economy. It was confirmed that our University had been granted two places at the forthcoming Northern Powerhouse conference where the Vice Chancellor would be chairing a session with local authority leaders. Other universities from along the M62 corridor would also join with our University to discuss the contribution of universities to the northern economy.

### Strategic Planning Framework 2016-2021: Year One Performance Report

- 3 The Vice Chancellor provided the Board with a presentation updating the Board on the University's year one performance against 9 of our 12 Key Performance Indicators (data for the remaining 3 indicators was not yet available); a visual overview of our year one performance RAG (red, amber, green) rated against the year one targets; and a visual overview of our performance within the HE sector for those indicators where sector wide data was available, with our benchmark HE institutions mapped onto each chart alongside our own performance. It was noted that performance so far against the KPIs had been good and colleagues continued to work hard to ensure that the University's performance remained on, or above target.

### Report from the Students' Union (SU)

- 4 The SU provided an overview of its current and future work, and work undertaken since the last report to the Academic Board. The report included information concerning: the latest progress in completion of the Sabbatical Officer Objectives; Refreshers for returning

students; Give-It-A-Go week with the focus on students trying new activities; details on the forthcoming SU elections for the Sabbatical Officers and Students' Union Council; the forthcoming Golden Robes awards event; the recruitment and training of Course Representatives; and an update on the first round of School Forums.

#### Student Recruitment

- 5 A report was received from the Deputy Vice Chancellor Corporate Communications providing an overview of the latest position for home and EU undergraduate recruitment, international, and postgraduate student recruitment. An overview was also provided concerning some of the changes being planned for the 2018 recruitment cycle.

#### National Student Survey (NSS) 2017 update

- 6 The Board received a report from the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic providing an update on progress so far and forthcoming plans to coordinate and promote the National Student Survey (NSS) campaign activity across campus in the period January to April 2017. The report also highlighted changes to the survey in 2017.
- 7 During semester 1, the Student Satisfaction Action Group had drawn together plans for the 2017 survey's promotional campaign activity, plans to provide central support from Services for Students to Course and School teams, as well as the coordination of reporting to Senior Management Group of the survey participation rates throughout the survey period.

#### Teaching Excellence framework (TEF) submission

- 8 The Board received a copy of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) that the University had submitted as part of the evaluation process for the TEF. It was confirmed that the final version had been submitted to HEFCE by the deadline of 26th January, after approval by the Vice Chancellor, and DVC (Academic). The submission would sit alongside the metrics which formed the basis of the evaluation against the categorisation of 'gold', 'silver' or 'bronze' institution. The outcome of the process was expected sometime towards the beginning of May 2017.

#### Development of the Academic Regulations in 2016/17

- (a) The report set out the plan for the further development of the Academic Regulations in 2016/17. Subject to a small number of minor amendments the Board endorsed the proposed drafting style and approved the proposals for changes to our 2016/17 regulations for the inclusion of mid-cycle review and University Validation Panel sections which have been endorsed by AQSC.

#### HE-BCI report on enterprise income

- 9 The Board was provided with an analysis of the University's annual official return to the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) Survey.

## Stern Review of the Research Excellence Framework

- 10 The Board discussed the potential implications of the proposals set out in the Stern Review, the independent review of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) commissioned to ensure future university research funding is allocated more efficiently, offer greater rewards for excellent research and reduce the administrative burden on institutions. In particular, the Board discussed the proposals:
- (a) to count all research active staff in the REF but varying the number of pieces they might submit - currently higher education (HE) institutions select the staff that will be included and this innovation will ease pressure and encourage academics to research new areas or on a longer time-scale
  - (b) widening and deepening the notion of research “impact” to include influence on public engagement, culture and on teaching, avoiding distortions of research choices and careers
  - (c) introducing a new institutional level assessment to foster greater cohesiveness between academics and reward collaboration on interdisciplinary activities
- 11 A whole institution response would be provided by our University by the consultation deadline of 17 March 2017.