

University of Central Lancashire

Unreserved Minutes of the Board Meeting Held on 1st July Sue Ion

Graham Baldwin

Lesley Lloyd

Zuleika Chikh

UB940. Reserved and Unreserved Minutes of the University Board Meeting held on 21st May 2021

Resolved : That the Reserved and Unreserved Minutes of the University Board Meeting held on 21st May 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

UB941. Matters Arising from the University Board Meeting held on 21st May 2021

There were no matters arising.

UB942. Vice-Chancellor's Update

Professor Baldwin presented his report. A copy of the report is set out in the Minute Book.

Professor Baldwin commented on his report as follows:

(i) Return to Campus

The plans for students and staff to return to campus for the commencement of the 2021 -22 academic year have to take into account the Government's interventions and changes in the light of unexpected developments in its implementation of the 'road map' to normal life. As regards the desired return to a September start for courses, it seems unlikely that the timing of Government announcements will allow sufficient time for fully considered responses by institutions in the HE sector and thus the Vice Chancellor's Group (VCG) is putting in place arrangements for a 'nearly normal' commencement to the academic year. Arrangements for the return of staff to campus working are in hand with the University committed to getting as many students as possible back to 'face -to-face' learning. There are arrangements in place for pandemic -related provisions such as Covid testing, and plans to address various scenarios or variations have been developed. The testing of campus users will continue up to the start of the new term. From consultation with and messages from the Government, it seems clear that the Government continues to be concerned about the potential consequences of the mass coming together of students at universities in September. There may be special requirements placed upon institutions beyond those applicable to the public at large. In any event, UCLan will continue to maintain close relations with the Directors of Public Health.

The VCG has also resolved to assist international students with financial support.

(ii) League Tables

It is widely acknowledged that UCLan generally performs impressively and attains many outstanding achievements. This is not to overlook aspects and areas where there is scope for improvement, but the national League Tables (which have a particular importance in the context of international student recruitment) tend not to capture or highlight the excellent service which UCLan provides, year on year. Thus, greater consistency in achieving a place in the upper half of League Tables must remain an objective.

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(iii) Burnley Levelling Up Bid

The bid by Burnley Borough Council which include measures which will see significant expansion of UCLan's campus in Burnley has now been submitted.

(iv) Lancashire 2020-25 City of Culture Bid

The County Council's withdrawal from the Bid Team has received media coverage and this is inevitably disadvantageous to the bid's prospects.

(v) TEXT REDACTED –RESERVED MINUTE

(vi) *Covid at UCLan*

The Director of Public Health had been satisfied with the University's responses to the recent rise in Covid cases in the regional community.

(vii) TEXT REDACTED –RESERVED MINUTE

(viii) TEXT REDACTED –RESERVED MINUTE

(ix) TEXT REDACTED –RESERVED MINUTE

(x) TEXT REDACTED –RESERVED MINUTE

Resolved: That the Vice -Chancellor's Update Report be received.

Ms Chikh then commented on the SU governance arrangements and finally, in drawing attention to two lay trustee vacancies in the SU, where experience in financial and general management would be valuable qualities.

Mrs Gurjee considered that the SU work in the last year had been excellent. She expected that, with increasing numbers of students at the Burnley campus, the SU would continue to work towards ensuring that a sense of belonging and integration reached those students.

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UB949. Research Integrity Annual Statement 2020 -21

Dr Livesey presented her report on the Research Integrity Annual Statement 2020 -21. A copy of the report is set out in the Minute Book.

Dr Livesey advised that the Annual Statement indicated how the University's full commitment to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity is translated into practice.

The Board noted that the Annual Statement had been considered by the University's Committee for Ethics and Integrity and had been approved by the Academic Board.

Resources Committee

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UB952. University Access and Participation Plan - Update

Dr Livesey presented the Access and Participation Plan (APP)- update report. A copy of the report is set out in the Minute Book.

Dr Livesey reminded the Board about the University's OfS registration conditions and also about the APP's key significance in the University's drive to improve access to higher education and student progression.

The Board noted the widened scope of the 2020 -25 APP including widening participation, continuation and attainment and graduate outc

The Chair thanked Mrs Adams at this, her final meeting of the University Board, for her extensive and impressive service as a member of the Board including as a Committee Chair and as a member of a number of key sub -groups. He considered that Mrs Adams had made an immense contribution to the University's governance .

All agreed that working with Mrs Adams had been very rewarding and all wished her well for the future.

Mrs Adams thanked the Chair and Board M embers. She commented on several of the colleagues with whom she had served during her nine years as a Board Members and she