

ACADEMIC BOARD

CONFIRMED

Minutes of the Academic Board held on Wednesday 26 February, 2020.

- Present:** Martin Boddy, Sally Clark, Elizabeth Cleaver, Peter Clegg, Hazel Edwards, Marc Griffiths, James Hazzard; Sam Louwers; Elena Marco, Candida McCabe, Jo Midgley, James Murphy, Jane Ojiako, Paul Olomolaiye, Precious Onyenekwu Tatah, Gerry Rice, Jane Roscoe, Jeanette Sakel, Steven West (Chair), Neil Willey, Jingjing Xu
- In attendance:** Jodie Anstee, Rachel Cowie, Katie Jenkins, Heather Moyes (Secretary), Amanda Oliver (Deputy Secretary), Richard Strange
- Apologies:** Paul Bennett; Jason Briddon, Lisa Cole; Sonja Dragojlovic-Oliveira; Chris Gledhill, Mandy Lee; Fidel Meraz, Christopher Moore, Carinna Parraman, Nicholas Ryder, Sarah Todd, Patricia Voaden
- Observers:** Kalpana Woolf
- Absent:** Sanja Dogramadzi, Favour Oweisana

AB 20.02.1		WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
AB 20.02.1.1		The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jingjing Xu, PVC and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law; • James Hazzard (attending on behalf of Mandy Lee); • Kalpana Woolf, a member of the Board of Governors attending the meeting as an observer.
AB 20.02.1.2		He noted apologies had been received from: Paul Bennett, Jason Briddon, Lisa Cole, Sonja Dragojlovic-Oliveira, Chris Gledhill, Mandy Lee, Fidel Meraz, Christopher Moore, Carinna Parraman, Nicholas Ryder, Sarah Todd, Patricia Voaden.
AB 20.02.1.3		No declarations of interest were received.
AB 20.02.2		MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING
		<i>Paper AB 20/02/01 and Paper AB 20/02/02 were received.</i>
AB 20.02.2.1		The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 December, 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record of discussions.
AB 20.02.2.2		Action Sheet and Matters Arising Academic Board noted actions arising from the previous meeting were either underway or had been completed.

AB 20.02.2.3	<p>Chair's Actions</p> <p><i>Paper AB 20/02/03 was received.</i></p>
AB 20.02.2.3.1	<p>Members of Academic Board were informed that the following had been approved via Chair's Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an alteration to the regulatory framework at Taylor's University Malaysia, for students studying dual award programmes; • an application for Professor Emerita status for Professor Katie Williams; • a Self-Assessment Report for Ofsted (FdSc Nursing Associate Apprenticeship). <p>Members were advised further information about the Ofsted review of the programme could be found in paper AB20/02/08, which includes the Self-Assessment Review and a short briefing note outlining the development of the document to date. The Chair reported that the outcome of the visit was positive in relation to how UWE supports its learners. He emphasised, however, that more work was needed and that Academic Board would receive a progress report at its July meeting</p>
	ACTION: Director of Apprenticeships
AB 20.02.3	STANDING AGENDA ITEMS
AB 20.02.3.1	<p>Update from the Vice Chancellor (Presentation)</p>
AB 20.02.3.1.1	<p>The Vice Chancellor advised members that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • following a cabinet reshuffle the new Minister for Universities was Michelle Donelan MP and that Amanda Solloway MP was Minister for Research, Science and Innovation. He reported that this was the first time the role had been split since 2008-10 and there was speculation that the universities brief could expand to include Further Education. • a response to Augar and Subject TEF was expected soon and OfS will decide whether Subject TEF is taken forward. • OfS was consulting on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed changes to terms & conditions of funding - he advised the deadline for responses was 6 March; • regulation of harassment and sexual misconduct in higher education (deadline 27 March). • further consultations were expected on student protection plans, the future of the TEF framework, student contracts and student admissions. He highlighted that the consultation on student admissions was part of a wider review and would be published tomorrow with 21 May as a deadline for responses. • the OfS had produced an indicative timetable for the publication of data analysis reports which included reports on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unconditional offers (March); • Grade inflation(April); • Degree outcomes statements (UUK/QAA). He reported that UWE's Degree outcome statement would be presented to Academic Board in May en route to final approval from the Board of Governors on 2 July; • Transparency returns 2020.

AB 20.02.3.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the University was in regular contact with, and were issuing information in line with advice from, Public Health England on the Coronavirus. He noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff and student facing webpages were up-to-date, appropriate travel restrictions were in place and the University was in regular contact with partner institutions; • a helpline had been established and was ready to go live in the event of a confirmed case at UWE or any local confirmed case; • a major incident team meeting was scheduled for 1 March. The team was established following early indications that the UK could see an escalation of COVID-19 over the next 8-10 weeks. • Strategy 2030 was launched at an external event on 12 February. Academic Board were thanked for their contributions to the Strategy and it was noted that plans and sub-strategies were being progressed and would be presented to Board of Governors in March and July. He reported that comments and feedback on the core strategies would be requested in the next few weeks through the VC update. • two days were held on Strategic Planning 2020/21 which were Faculty-led. He highlighted that the ambition from Faculties is clear and colleagues looking at how to fund the ambition. • the University's strategic risks had been reviewed to align with Strategy 2030 and further discussion on academic risks contained within the risk register would be brought to Academic Board in due course. • there were some challenges around attainment gaps which would be addressed through an institutional approach which would be driven and shared centrally. <p>Academic Board members raised concerns related to an increase in racism following the outbreak of COVID-19 and asked about support services available to staff and students experiencing racist behaviour. The Chair confirmed there was a zero-tolerance approach to racism and individuals engaging in this behaviour were being dealt with according to the University's policy. The President of the SU also noted that a video had been produced to highlight the problems and further information would follow over the coming weeks.</p>
AB 20.02.3.2	Update from UWE Student Representatives
	<i>Paper AB 19/12/04 was received</i>
AB 20.02.3.2.1	<p>The President and Vice President: Education of the Students' Union provided a progress update on their recent activities and achievements. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relaunch of the freshers' fair which attracted over 1,200 students. They reported that the event was attended by students from all campuses and there was a 44% increase in society/club signups for the month of January. They also reported that the feedback on the event was very positive; • extending the bus timetable at Bower Ashton Campus -during February a free shuttle bus service from Bower Ashton to Colston Hall from 8:00pm to 9:00pm Mondays to Fridays was trialled. They informed members that the usage statistics from the mini bus trial would be used to shape the campaign and influence whether the timing of the Bus services at Bower Ashton would be extended; • the relaunch of Student Ideas - involving members of the representation team engaging and encouraging students to raise ideas that could enhance their academic experience at UWE Bristol. <p>They also reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 Student Representatives joined The Students' Union Representation team staff for Rep Committees on 27 January;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Students' Union annual Leadership Race had begun. There were 5 Full Time Presidents, 12 Part Time Officers and 4 Democratic Procedures Officer positions available. It was reported that the candidates would be announced w/c 24 February and students could vote from 10am Monday 2 March until 10pm Thursday 5 March, with the results announced from 7pm on Friday 6 March; Several events were held as part of 'Feel Good February'; William Malcher, the Glenside Campus Officer, had been working with the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences to produce a report on the perceived requirements of Glenside students with regards to wellbeing provision.
AB 20.02.4	ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR ENDORSEMENT
AB 20.02.4.1	Variant to the regulations for the BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy and the BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy Degree Apprenticeship Programme Members were advised that the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) had revised their 'Learning and Development Standards for Pre-registration Education' in 2019 and to ensure these programmes continued to meet the required standards a variant regulation was required.
AB 20.02.4.1.2	Academic Board approved the regulatory variant request for the BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy and the BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy Degree Apprenticeship Programme.
	ACTION: Academic Regulations and Policy Manager
AB 20.02.4.2 AB 20.02.4.2.1	Taylor's Dual Award Regulatory Framework Amendments Academic Board were advised that Taylor's University, Malaysia, had requested that additional regulations relating to time permitted to complete a dual award degree were incorporated into the Dual Award Regulatory Framework. The additional points outlined in B1.6 and B1.7 were approved.
	ACTION: Academic Regulations and Policy Manager
AB 20.02.5	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
AB 20.02.5.1	Transforming Futures: Learning Strategy (Presentation) The PVC Student Experience gave an update on progress with the Strategy since the previous meeting. She reported that there had been further consultation with L2020 Board, LTSEC and Directorate and that the new DVC/Provost had also provided useful insights and feedback on the draft.
AB 20.02.5.1.1	She reminded members that there were 6 ongoing commitments from L2020 that were being taken forward in the Strategy, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspiring, well connected and passionate colleagues and students; Innovative learning strategies and environments; Relevant, authentic and engaging assessment strategies; Inclusive learning communities engendering a sense of belonging; Experiences of practice-based learning within and out of the University; A leading-edge research informed and scholarly focus within all programmes.
AB 20.02.5.1.2	She also highlighted the three key strategic themes in the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice-led; Digitally enabled; Personalisation.

AB 20.02.5.1.3	<p>Members were advised that following feedback the Strategy was being revised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the profile of research into learning and teaching; • Ensure teaching excellence and what we will do to support it as a University priority is clear; • State openly that we will be agile and creative in continuing to embrace new opportunities in programme innovation, pedagogies and curriculum offer; • Maximise focus on work-based learning opportunities as a core focus of practice-led learning; • Make more of the ongoing commitment statements and link them to delivery of the personalisation and practice-led priorities.
AB 20.02.5.1.4	<p>She emphasised that the Strategy would be circulated following the meeting and feedback would be appreciated in advance of the Strategy's presentation to Board of Governors in March.</p>
	ACTION: Deputy Secretary Academic Board
AB 20.02.5.2	Transforming Futures Research and Enterprise Strategy 2030 (Presentation)
AB 20.02.5.2.1	
AB 20.02.5.2.2	<p>The PVC Research and Enterprise gave a summary of the main themes in the Strategy. He noted the name change from "Transforming Futures Research and Enterprise Strategy" to "Transforming Futures Research Strategy" to reflect feedback that "Enterprise" aligned more closely with the Community and Business Engagement Strategy".</p>
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AB 20.02.5.2.4	<p>He reported that the Strategy aimed to achieve "internationally excellent research with real-world impact" which builds on UWE's strengths, prioritises challenge-based research and enhances the student experience. He emphasised UWE's approach to research aimed to be collaborative, agile and student-facing, with local focus and global reach.</p>
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	<p>aim of shaping and driving future prosperity, health and wellbeing, sustainability, cultural and community development across all parts of the region - creating opportunities for all.</p> <p>AB 20.02.5.3.2 He illustrated this by presenting a model of "the engaged university" which included 5 levels of engagement: business engagement, public and community engagement, cultural engagement, civic engagement and learner engagement.</p> <p>AB 20.02.5.3.3 Members highlighted that it was important for UWE to be clear where they want most impact and where they can add most value as the proposed levels of engagement were wide-ranging.</p> <p>AB 20.02.5.3.4 The PVC Research and Enterprise noted that the model was an enabler and supported engagement with the Faculties in allowing them to decide where they can have most impact.</p> <p>AB 20.02.5.3.5 He also reported that the slides would be circulated following the meeting.</p>
	ACTION: Deputy Secretary Academic Board
AB 20.02.6	<p>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>External Peer Review – Updates to Schedule of Fees Members noted the new format and updates to the Schedule of Fees.</p> <p>Ofsted Self -Assessment Report Members noted the report for information.</p>
AB 20.02.7	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>AB 20.02.7.1 The Executive Dean and PVC of the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences highlighted concerns raised in relation to VC Scholarships and the requirement that eligible students require a first-class honours degree.</p> <p>AB 20.02.7.2 It was agreed that this should be reviewed to ensure the requirement does not disadvantage certain groups.</p>
	ACTION: PVC Student Experience and Director, Marketing and Future Students
	<p>DATES OF 2019/20 MEETINGS</p> <p>Wednesday 13 May 2020 Wednesday 1 July 2020</p> <p>NB There will also be a joint meeting of Academic Board and Board of Governors at 1pm on 2 July 2020. The meeting is scheduled to last 2 hours and aims to support strategic planning.</p>