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BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING – 26 FEBRUARY 2019: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The complete version of the unconfirmed minutes [Non-confidential and Confidential] is available to all governors on request, recognising that these are subject to formal confirmation as an accurate record by the Committee at its next meeting. Contact Dr Adam Dawkins, adam.dawkins@northumbria.ac.uk Secretary to the Board of Governors, for any queries about this Executive Summary.

MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING

Chair's Introduction and Welcome to New Governors [Oral Report]

The Chair invited the three new academic staff governors/trustees on the Board of Governors to provide a brief introduction for the benefit of fellow governors/trustees: John R Taylor (Health and Life Sciences), Lucy Hatt (Business and Law) and Jean Brown (Art, Design and Social Sciences)

Independent Governor Succession Planning [Oral Report]

The Secretary to the Board provided an update as presented to Nominations Committee on independent governor/trustee succession following the end of the terms of the office of the Chair of the Board and two of the Board Committee Chairs in July 2020, and a further Committee Chair in February 2021. **The Board noted that use of executive search, whilst endorsed by the Board at its November 2018 meeting, needed to represent value for money.**

Vice-Chancellor's Report [BG18/44]

The Board of Governors noted the key points in the Vice-Chancellor's Report including deferral of the Augar Review recommendations; that the work of the Industrial Action Planning Group did not need to be implemented on the basis the University and College Union (UCU) not achieving the turnout required on an institutional or collective basis to secure a mandate for strike action or action short of a strike; the work of the University's Business Continuity Group which had been planning in the event of a 'No Deal' Brexit, from logistical issues through to policy, regulatory and financial factors.

Staff Engagement Survey 2018 [BG18/45]

The Board of Governors noted the outcomes of the 2018 Staff Engagement Survey, including the five questions where Northumbria's overall scores were more positive than the ORC benchmark group, questions which were below benchmark and neutral responses to questions represent a positively influenceable subset. **The Board noted that: i. the ownership and governance of action planning at a local level was key, as was how overarching actions outside of a specific department's control were addressed; ii. the need to understand the free text comments and iii. that discussions groups should endeavour to capture disengaged staff views as well as those who are neutral or positive.**

Student Wellbeing and Mental Health [BG18/46]

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor presented an update paper on Student Wellbeing and Mental Health. Northumbria's approach to student mental health and wellbeing is cross-University, supported by Faculty, Personal Tutors and Programme Leaders, Security Services for critical incidents, Northumbria Students' Union (NSU) and the dedicated professional support of the Student Support and Wellbeing (SSW) team. Business Outcome 8 will develop a University approach to transform our culture and support for student life and wellbeing and culminate in a Student Life and Wellbeing Strategy and policy framework. Education Analytics has been a means to promote the personalisation of the student experience intervention, aid interventions through 'nudges' which have resulted in earlier access to support services for 1500 'at risk' students. **The Board commended the innovative approach adopted through progressing the next phase of Education Analytics, and asked a range of questions, including how it related to academic staff as a focal point for pastoral care, and whether it helped address the root causes of mental health issues.**

Financial Performance 2018/19 P6 [BG18/47]

The Board noted the period 6 (to 31 January 2019) financial results and the Q1 forecast operating deficit, noting that as we move into Q2 actual performance continued to be better than budget and Q1 projection.

Research and Innovation Strategic Plan 2018-23 Update [BG18/48]

The Board of Governors noted the Research and Innovation Strategic Plan 2018-23 Update. It was noted that the Business Outcomes for research are intended to deliver a step change in research culture, quality, income and performance, and that an effective culture required investment in new and existing staff and systems to embed, incentivise and reward research success is critical to achieving the research income targets by 2023. The Board acknowledged the progress made to date in improving the University's research reputation and funding is important, and that an output-oriented research culture driven by REF, required funding to invest in and sustain high quality research was important, with strong outputs being produced as a consequence.

Strategic Partnership with Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism [BG18/49] The Board noted and was invited to provide endorsement for the development of a Strategic Partnership between Northumbria University and Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism and acknowledge the proposed next steps. **The Board endorsed progress to date and noted the significant work and risk assessment and resolution required prior to any final Board approval.**

Strategic Risk Register 2018/19 [BG18/50] **The Board of Governors considered and approved the revised Strategic Risk Register**, culminating from the deep dive review exercises and the new University Strategy, following University Executive consideration, and that of Audit Committee at its 11 February 2019 meeting.

Student Recruitment Semester 2 2018/19 and 2019/20 [BG18/51]

The Board of Governors noted the Student Recruitment update for Semester 2 2018/19 and the plans and assumptions for 2019/20 recruitment.

Northumbria University Netherlands Update [BG18/52] The Board of Governors noted the Amsterdam Campus update as presented by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Employability and Partnerships).

Independent Review of the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) Consultation [BG18/53] **The Board of Governors considered and endorsed the University's response to the call for reviews to inform the Statutory Independent Review of Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework.**

Office for Students (OfS) Prevent-Review Meeting Audit and Outcome: 27.11.18 [BG18/54]

The Board of Governors commended the outcome of the Prevent Review Meeting (PRM) conducted by the Office for Students (OfS), culminating in a visit to the University on 27 November 2018, which concluded that Northumbria has demonstrated sufficient evidence of due regard to the Prevent duty.

Gifts and Hospitality Policy Review and Implementation [BG18/55]

That the revised Gifts and Hospitality Policy as endorsed by University Executive and Audit Committee be approved.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Update Q2 2018/19 [BG18/56]

The Board of Governors noted the Q2 Report for 2018/19 including completion rates of mandatory health and safety training; accident statistics; the status of health and safety lead and lag indicators; sickness absence data and progress made on staff wellbeing for the period. The outcomes of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection which took place on 23 November 2018, resulting in HSE issuing an Improvement Notice and Notice of Contravention, the actions in which had been fully addressed, and followed up by Audit Committee.

Executive Summaries of Meetings: Strategic Performance Committee, Employment and Finance Committee, Audit Committee and Academic Board [BG18/63-66]

The Board of Governors noted the Executive Summaries of the recent meetings of Board Committees.

Dr Adam Dawkins
Secretary to the Board of Governors
April 2019