

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING – 30 September 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONFIRMED)

Contact Susan O'Donnell, susan.odonnell@northumbria.ac.uk, Secretary to the Board of Governors, with any queries about this Executive Summary.

MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING

Chair and Independent Governor Recruitment update [BG19/01]

The Board of Governors considered the latest position on the recruitment exercise underway for the Chair of the Board and Independent Governors. Longlist Review Panel meetings were held on 16 and 19 September 2019. A total of ██████████ Chair applicants and ██████████ Independent Governor applicants were identified to progress through to the initial interview stage. **The Board noted the updated position.**

Vice-Chancellor's Report [BG19/02]

The Board of Governors noted the key points in the Vice-Chancellor's Report including the continuing volatile political and economic situation and continuing uncertainty around Brexit. More positively, both the Secretary of State for Education and the Universities Minister have expressed largely positive albeit challenging messages around the government's view of the role of HE in wider policy delivery. There also appeared to be real opportunities for growth emerging from the Government's International Strategy, which could overall help balance the expected reduction in EU student numbers. Northumbria fell five places in the Times/Sunday Times, largely because of the disappointing NSS results, but improved in the THE World Rankings, driven by citations. Student recruitment for 2019/20 is on track to exceed targets for most categories of student. Recent senior staff changes were highlighted.

Student Recruitment Update 2019/20 [BG19/03]

The Board of Governors noted the student recruitment update report as at 26 September 2019. **The Board noted the Report and commended the current out-turns in a highly competitive market, particularly results achieved via clearing.**

UK Exit from the European Union - Business Continuity [BG19/04]

The Board of Governors noted the summary of activity in preparation for a potential No-Deal Brexit; risks to student recruitment, our supply chain and research projects are being reviewed and monitored on an ongoing basis, with all areas are being actively mitigated. Support to EU students in the UK and to Northumbria students currently in other EU countries can be delivered via normal procedures and processes; staff and student travel arrangements should be unaffected. It was confirmed that all required support will be provided to the 158 colleagues who are EU nationals. The overall message to staff, students (current and potential) and partners is that we were not changing how we operate and are doing all we reasonably can to prepare. **The Board noted the updated position.**

Monthly Financial Performance Report: Period 12 2018/19 [BG19/05]

The Board of Governors noted the University's financial position at the end of period 12 (31 July 2019). The results as at period 12 were not the finalised year end position owing to the inclusion of some non-operational pensions adjustments which will be made after the year end, and because the results remain to be audited. **The Board noted the updated position.**

National Student Survey (NSS) 2018: Results and Action Planning

The Board of Governors considered the report and presentation, which highlighted that Northumbria's overall student satisfaction score has decreased to 83.0% in 2019. The sector (all institutions) average has increased in the same period to 83.7%. Action plans and reporting arrangements up to University Executive and Board of Governors are already in place to address this disappointing result, with lessons from strongly-performing subjects being applied to those that did less well. **Board expressed its disappointment with the results, and its concern that in some subjects we are not delivering what we promise to students during recruitment, but noted and endorsed the approach to delivering improvement.**

Executive Summaries of Meetings: Audit Committee 09 September 2019; Employment and Finance Committee 16 September 2019 [BG19/13-14]

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

Susan F O'Donnell
Secretary to the Board of Governors
05 November 2019