



**STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

**22 September 2022 in room 209, Sutherland Building, City Campus West and via Microsoft Teams  
(including videolink)**

**CONFIRMED SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Contact Georgina Bailes, [georgina.bailes@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:georgina.bailes@northumbria.ac.uk). Secretary to the Board of Governors,  
with any queries about these Summary Minutes.**

Present: C Apsey (Chair), Dr R Blackman-Woods, E Collier, K Fawcett, S Haagenzen, Professor A Long, H Thorne.  
Apologies: S Yellowley, A Dunlop.  
Secretary: G Bailes, R Elliott (Assistant Secretary).  
In attendance: Professor L Bracken [SPC22/02], G Hillier [Entrepreneurship Update], D Monnery, S Newitt, Professor G Wynn [SPC22/01, SPC22/05 and SPC22/06], Professor J Reast [SPC22/07].

**MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING**

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| <b>1.</b> | <p><b><u>Introduction</u></b><br/><b><u>Vice-Chancellor’s Horizon Scanning</u></b> [Oral Report]<br/>The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive presented on sector wide matters and the implications of these for the University. Confirmation and clearing had been successful, the University had been shortlisted for the Time Higher Education (THE) award for University of the Year, and had risen 13 places to 49<sup>th</sup> in the Times League Table and proposals for helping staff and students with the cost of living issue were in development. <b>The Committee noted the update that the University’s energy costs would not be significantly impacted by recent price rises or the Government’s response because energy had been bought ahead as part of a sector consortium.</b></p>   |
| <b>2.</b> | <p><b><u>Strategic Discussion Items</u></b><br/><b><u>NSS 2022 Results</u></b> [SPC22/01 and Presentation]<br/>The Committee considered a summary of the NSS 2022 outcomes, including Northumbria’s performance relative to the sector and Office for Students benchmark. Northumbria’s Overall Satisfaction (OS) improved relative to Times providers and year on year, and the University improved in rank (and absolute score) on all NSS categories against the 130 Times Providers. Departmental responses to NSS, including action planning, would take place via the CPPR process during September-October, with plans to be signed off via Faculty Education Committees and endorsed by Education Committee; the focus would be on higher-volume Departments, and the process would include discussion of the 2022 results with 2022/23 finalists. <b>The Committee noted the report.</b></p> <p><b><u>Exploring Differences in Quality of Research Outcomes in REF2021</u></b> [SPC22/02]<br/>The Committee considered work being undertaken to reflect on the results and develop a plan for improving research quality within a group of Units of Assessment which were outliers in terms of quality. Detailed plans would be developed with each outlier department in line with the Research and KE Strategy and the ongoing work to develop an active research culture; an overall strategy for REF2028 would be developed including agreeing and embedding the ambition for the next REF. <b>The Committee welcomed the early move to the next stages of improvement of research at Northumbria and noted that plans were already in place for the required investments.</b></p> <p><b><u>University Strategy Development Plan</u></b> [SPC22/03]<br/>The Committee considered the process for developing the University Strategy 2024-2030 by January 2024. The timescale would bring forward the end of the current Strategy by six months, enabling earlier articulation of the next steps of being a research intensive, modern university and a review and redefinition of the vision for 2030. The Board and its members would play a key role: approving this plan; inputting into the development of the Strategy; reviewing the feedback from engagement sessions; commenting on</p> |

a full draft of the Strategy; approving the final version. A wide and broad degree of engagement to develop the Strategy was expected to improve the end-product and support buy-in to the Strategy, as it did with the University Strategy 2018-24. Planning and resource allocations in the 2023/24 would be aligned to enable implementation of the new Strategy from January 2024. **The Committee commended the focus on engagement and endorsed the proposed approach.**

**University Strategy 2018-24 Performance Report – End of Cycle 2021/22** [SPC22/04]

The Committee considered the performance of the University Strategy as at the end of 2021/22. Performance for KPIs was six at green, one at amber and four at red; 22 Business Outcomes were defined as 'on-track' or 'complete', 13 had some issues that were being managed and were 'off-track' and 8 had 'no current status' while they were under review. **The Committee noted the report.**

**3. Performance Monitoring**

**Student Experience and Learning Outcomes – Annual Summary 2021/22** [SPC22/05]

The Committee considered developments relating to Student Experience and Learning Outcomes; the summary included updates considered at the meetings in November 2021, March 2022 and June 2022, as well as updates from the last quarter of 2021/22. **The Committee noted the report.**

**Entrepreneurship Update** [Presentation]

The Committee considered an update on Innovation, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship including teaching those disciplines and on Incubation/Acceleration relating to the Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence Programme. The University was in a good position to continue progress and address opportunities for further development. **The Committee noted the update.**

**Graduate Outcomes Survey Results 2022** [SPC22/06]

The Committee considered an update on employability activity and graduate outcomes, details of the timing of the release of league tables informed by the latest data, and the actions proposed to improve Graduate Outcomes Survey results through the employability strand of the Education Strategy. The latest Graduate Outcomes Survey data showed positive performance for Northumbria graduates in terms of employment outcomes; the employability strand within the Education Strategy included specific actions designed to continue to improve outcomes and address the ongoing impact on the graduate labour market of Covid-19 and other economic effects. **The Committee noted the report.**

**Student Recruitment 2022/23** [SPC22/07 and Presentation]

The Committee received an update on student recruitment for 2022/23. **The Committee noted the update and extended its congratulations to the clearing team.**

Richard Elliott  
Assistant Secretary to Strategic Performance Committee  
September 2022