

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

5 June 2023 in room 026, Sutherland Building and via Microsoft Teams (including videolink)

CONFIRMED SUMMARY MINUTES

Contact Georgina Bailes, georgina.bailes@northumbria.ac.uk. Secretary to the Board of Governors, with any queries about these Summary Minutes.

Present: C Apsey (Chair), Dr B Bartoli, Dr R Blackman-Woods, E Collier, Dr S Fancey, K Fawcett, A Parker, Professor A Long [to Access and Participation Plan 2024-2028 Update]
 Apologies: S Haagensen
 Secretary: G Bailes, R Elliott (Assistant Secretary).
 In attendance: Professor T Lawson, D Monnery, S Newitt, P Thomas, Professor G Wynn [SPC22/35 - Access and Participation Plan 2024-2028 Update]

MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING

<p>1.</p>	<p><u>Introduction</u> The Chair of the Board noted that this was Craig Apsey’s final meeting as Chair of Strategic Performance Committee, and extended her thanks and those of the Board for his leadership of the Committee particularly during the challenges of the pandemic and during the development of the new University Strategy.</p> <p><u>Vice-Chancellor’s Horizon Scanning</u> [Oral Report] The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive presented on sector wide matters and the implications of these for the University. The removal of dependent visas for students on one-year PGT programmes had now been announced and would take effect from January 2024; the impact was being modelled and mitigations explored. The collaboration agreement with Newcastle University would be renewed this summer and a second joint executive meeting would take place in July continuing the close working relationship. Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan was expected to attend a round table discussion with North East Universities hosted by Northumbria. the Complete University Guide would be published on 7 June – Northumbria had risen seven places to 36th, its highest rank in this league table. The Committee noted the update and commended the improved ranking in the Complete University Guide.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Strategic Discussion Items</u> <u>University Strategy 2024-30 Update</u> [Presentation] The Committee considered the emerging structure of the new University Strategy, which would be discussed in depth by University Executive on 15 June and at Board of Governors on 26 June. Underlying principles were likely to focus on academic excellence, external impact and Northumbria’s people, with values and behaviours embedded into the entire Strategy, key outcomes were likely to cluster round research at scale, experiential learning and social mobility, and cross-cutting themes could include EDI, Northumbria as an employer of choice, local, national and global impact and sustainability. Metrics would be fewer in number and targeted on driving the desired behaviours. The Committee noted the update and emphasised the importance of communicating the Strategy in the right way with simplicity of message at the core of the approach, and of harnessing and sustaining the energy and ambition shown by staff at engagement events into the delivery of the Strategy. It would be important to ensure that organisational structure and culture were fully aligned to the Strategy, with capacity and capability to deliver robustly assessed.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Performance Monitoring</u> <u>University Strategy 2018-24 Performance Report</u> [SPC22/34] The Committee considered the performance of the University Strategy as at period 9 (30 April 2023). Performance for KPIs was six at green, two at amber and three at red; 19 Business Outcomes were defined as ‘complete’, 11 were ‘on track’ and 13 had some issues that were being managed and were</p>

'off-track'. **The Committee noted the report and that the longer-term desired level of international recruitment would be part of the “size and shape” work under the new Strategy.**

Student Experience and Learning Outcomes – Q3 2022/23 [SPC22/35]

The Committee considered developments relating to Student Experience and Learning Outcomes. Northumbria's graduate outcomes continued to show an upward trend, but sector ranking appeared to have fallen back slightly. NSS completion rates were consistent with 2022 – publication of the results was likely to be delayed from the usual early July slot. **The Committee noted the report and that subject areas that did not meet the threshold for publication generally reflected smaller programmes, but all were included in departmental-level reporting. There would be a push to encourage completion of MEQs once the NSS period and the impact of communications on industrial action were over.**

Access and Participation Plan 2024-2028 Update [Presentation]

The Committee considered OfS's new approach to Access and Participation Plans and emerging themes for Northumbria's submission. Northumbria had joined an early “Phase 1” pilot group of providers working with OfS to prepare APPs for approval in summer 2023; the new form of APP had a more holistic, risk-based, data-led approach to identification of key targets and priorities, with a “theory of change” approach to intervention design, implementation and evaluation and was aligned to TEF. The final draft APP would be reported to Board of Governors on 26 June, with final sign-off arrangements to be determined. **The Committee noted the presentation and noted that many of the risks identified by OfS were universal and long-term, and the APP approach could potentially mark a shift in Government expectations. APP data could help inform some elements of the new Strategy, particularly around social mobility, and the APP objectives would be fully aligned with the Strategy.**

Student Recruitment 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 [SPC22/36 and Presentation]

The Committee received an update on student recruitment for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. **The Committee noted the report.**

Richard Elliott
Assistant Secretary to Strategic Performance Committee
June 2023