



University Executive Board

Minutes of the meeting of 21 September 2021

Attending Professor Shearer West (Vice-Chancellor), Professor John Atherton (FPVC Medicine and Health Sciences), Professor Dame Jessica Corner (PVC RKE), Dr Paul Greatrix (Registrar), Professor Jeremy Gregory (FPVC Arts), David Hill (CDO), Jaspal Kaur (Director of Human Resources), Professor Sam Kingman (FPVC Engineering), Professor Todd Landman (FPVC Social Sciences), Professor Andrew Long (DVC), Professor Sarah Metcalfe (Interim Provost UNM), Professor Nick Miles (Provost UNNC), Professor Robert Mokaya (PVC GE), Margaret Monckton (CFO), Professor Sarah Speight (PVC ESE), Professor Zoe Wilson (FPVC Science)

Attending Rowena Hall (Secretary), Alison Reeves, (Associate Director of Education Excellence) for minute 21.119

21.118 Welcome, Apologies, Quoracy and Declarations of Interest

- .1 The Secretary confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- .2 There were no declarations of interest.

21.119 Response to the OfS Consultation on Quality and Standards

- .1 UEB RECEIVED and NOTED paper UEB/21/106 from the Registrar which set out the University's draft response to the Office for Students consultation on quality and standards.
- .2 UEB NOTED that the consultation specifically drew in areas of provision not previously within the OfS' conditions of registration, including degree apprenticeships and transnational education. It was further NOTED that the inclusion of rules within the OfS principles-based approach indicated clearly that the sector recognised QAA Quality Code was no longer the OfS' instrument of choice.
- .3 The Registrar observed that the change in approach to TNE, with oversight moving from the QAA to the OfS, was likely to impact on the University significantly.
- .4 UEB was of the view that the proposed response to the consultation was aligned to the general Russell Group position, albeit it was worded more strongly in parts. It was observed that Russell Group responses to the consultation would be likely outweighed by responses from other interest groups.
- .5 It was reported that the QAA was seeking nominations to join a TNE advisory board.
- .6 UEB AGREED that:
 - .1 the draft consultation response should be reviewed with the purpose of moderating its tone.
 - .2 the University should engage with institutions who delivered significant levels of TNE with a view to considering how best to respond to the OfS's plans for TNE.



- .3 the University should engage with the OfS as far as possible as it develops its approach to TNE to maximise the University’s opportunity of influencing its direction.
- .4 the University should make an expression of interest to the QAA, listing University staff who might be suitable for membership of its TNE Advisory Board.

	ACTION	OWNER	DUE
.7	To review the draft response to the OfS consultation on quality and standards	Registrar	26 September
.8	To provide an expression of interest to the QAA listing University staff who might be suitable for membership of its TNE advisory body.	PVC ESE	30 September

21.120 Roundtable Discussion

- .1 It was observed that despite engagement at a recent Senior Leaders briefing, some staff remained unclear about the registration steps required before a timetable could be issued to a student. Queries from students who did not have their timetable were being directed to Student Services without triage. It was AGREED that the Deputy Registrar would record his presentation on the registration process to be disseminated to all staff.
- .2 UEB considered challenges around the wearing of face-coverings. A small number of staff had expressed anxiety about the low levels of student wearing face-coverings. This presented difficulties given the Government’s position and the changing behaviours and approach of society to face-coverings. Communications encouraging staff and students to wear face-coverings would continue.
- .3 It was NOTED Senior Leaders had been briefed on how to obtain face-coverings which could be placed at the entrance of buildings or lecture rooms.
- .4 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the open meetings being held to provide further information about the professorial banding review. It was his view that some changes to messaging were required to clarify the required link between any move down the banding levels and formal performance management. The changes would also ensure that staff focus on the review was not dominated by what was considered to be a small change which would affect very few staff members over time.
- .5 The PVC ESE reminded members that the University would be subject to an OFSTED monitoring visit before April 2022. 48 hours’ notice of the visit would be provided. Preparations were underway. There would be significant reputational risks associated with not achieving a successful outcome. Work would be undertaken to ensure that colleagues were versed in their responsibilities in the context of OFSTED terminology.
- .6 The imminent easing of Covid-19 restrictions in Malaysia had been welcomed by staff and students at UNM, although it was NOTED that the lifting of restrictions would come too late to support international student recruitment for 21/22.
- .7 The University had responded to the short turnaround USS consultation, a copy of which would be circulated to UEB members for information.
- .8 The PVC RKE reminded members that the Research Strategy White Paper was currently open for consultation. Preparations for COP26 were underway.
- .9 The PVC GE confirmed that in response to changes to the regulations governing overseas travel, the University’s policy was under review.



	ACTION	OWNER	DUE
.10	To circulate the University's response to the USS consultation to members for information.	CFO	30 September