

Feedback from (tell us which meeting or event)

Thinking about the future of the University, tell us about one small change you would like to see.

Our Leadership Group came up with a number of small changes, which we have included below. From a Senior Management perspective, the one small change we would put forward is:

Introduce a University-wide, co-ordinated and well-resourced plan for student induction, which embraces the specific needs of different cohorts, including international students.

Leadership group discussions:

People, culture and organisation

- Introduce a model set of University wide behaviours and ways of working to enhance our culture and internal collaborations
- EDI – ensuring inclusivity and diversity and fully embed those principles within everything we do.
- Staff Workload and wellbeing – similar to Training and Development, our focus on staff workload and wellbeing should form a significant consideration throughout the academic year in a proactive fashion underlined by a planned approach rather than an add-on at specific periods of the year.
- Top down culture that unpaid overtime is not expected or desired for wellbeing
- Clear, quick links from Campus News to other key areas of activity, e.g. Research Exchange, creating a more rounded and accessible view of what is happening across the University
- Introduce sports clubs for staff
- Increase and target Office365 training and bring clarity around future use of systems – cloud-based vs local.
- Stop using workspace

Student life and experience

- Introduce a University-wide, co-ordinated and well-resourced plan for student induction, which taking into account the specific needs of different cohorts, including international students (similar to Open Days).
- Central coordination of activity to support wellbeing across the University.
- Undertake local refurbishment of Hallward Library – e.g. toilets
- Expand scope for our collections, providing access to datasets to encourage great engagement with our resources. Access to third party online video/digital training materials e.g. LinkedIn Learning

Our civic role

- In procurement, prioritise local companies where appropriate, perhaps in partnership with NTU.
- Links to local schools and widening participation efforts to include the possibility of working at UoN and not just promoting going to University to study.
- Introduce work placements for local students
- Encourage staff to volunteer in the local community
- Open up our Manuscripts and Special Collections through an Education Officer, who presents our collections to local schools
- Run community events in libraries during vacation

Teaching and learning

- Increase flexibility and versatility in contributing meaningfully to students undertaking part-time, distance learning degrees – including International students (considering the funding challenges and changing preferences of students (involving placements). Develop web platforms that can respond to this need and also Libraries explore how we can support remotely via these platforms. Develop knowledgebase.
- Provide online support within Libraries, investing in tools that can be used within libraries physical spaces and online that will inspire our students to learn e.g. 'digital anatomy tool', live and recorded web tutorials, live chat support.

Research and Knowledge Excellence

- Improve Nottingham repository front end to display useful metadata e.g. date of deposit, file type, date embargo will be lifted
- Move budget for Gold Open Access from Research and Innovation to UoN Libraries
- Put greater emphasis on research leading to local job creation
- Offer formal support for research from Professional Services.

Financial health

- Reward departments for good financial management by allowing them to keep at least some of any outstanding balance at end of year. This would allow us to react more efficiently to changing priorities during the year.

The consultation document explains that in these turbulent times we need to consider new and radical ideas. If you have a radical idea you would like to suggest, please tell us here.

Our Leadership Group came up with a number of radical ideas, which we have included below. From a Senior Management perspective, the one radical idea we would put forward is:

Prioritise Libraries within Estates Planning. Libraries are central to student experience across all Faculties, fields and disciplines. Our Libraries act as a neutral space that has the potential to foster creativity, promote collaboration, and support and inspire new thinking. We consistently deliver in the NSS and NSES. With the right investment we can provide more space for study, for dynamic and technology-driven thinking and research, and we can work with Faculties to combine our space with the teaching and learning needs of the University.

Leadership group discussions:

People, culture and organisation

- Promote respect and professional courtesy across all staff groups and hierarchies, and introduce challenge or consequences where this is ignored

Student life

- 'Students at the heart' needs to be more than a strapline. Delivering great customer service should be a commitment across the University in Professional services and Schools, and its value in building a great institution acknowledged. We could harness good practice and collaborate on projects across campus e.g. how do we make start of session genuinely student focused?
- Prioritise Libraries in terms of physical space in Estates planning. There is evidence of great demand for good quality library space from students – so we know that library space is well used. Library space requires a balance between quiet study space and social space
- Move away from traditional discovery tools, and introduce methods of locating and interacting with library material e.g. using AI to create concepts of personalised experiences e.g. Code Ocean, Yewno (see also Research and Knowledge Excellence)
- Make the best use of existing technologies so that we can effectively know where to push the boundaries and experiment with new technologies

Our civic role

- Join Nottingham City Council library in their service offer around support for local business
- Introduce a budget for community/public engagement work
- Create a transport hub on University Park – including bike routes – encouraging the public to travel through the University
- Develop apprenticeships for the local community in Conservation and Digital Preservation, using our community archives

Our international geography

- Offer the opportunity for our students to participate in collaborative learning opportunities and curriculums across different Universities and our three campuses

Teaching and learning

- Enable Libraries to contribute to the development of knowledge and skills to improve career employability – in collaboration with Careers and academic departments. Create a module – not only for induction.

Research and Knowledge Excellence

- Enable Libraries to support our University entrepreneurs by offering our spaces and resources methodically. Create a dedicated space/forum; offer support in terms of intellectual property, and spaces to showcase their work. Similarly, increase the opportunity for researchers to share their work in our physical spaces and enhance collaborations across different universities.
- Lead in open access publications – including making all research outputs immediately freely available without paying any fee
- Lead in the creation and use of open resources in the UK as an academic community.
- Move away from traditional discovery tools, and introduce methods of locating and interacting with library material e.g. using AI to create concepts of personalised experiences e.g. Code Ocean, Yewno (see also, Student Life)

Our infrastructure

- The balance of support for student facilities should be for those supporting learning rather than those supporting broader student life. The role of libraries as physical spaces that support not only teaching, learning and research but also University community and student wellbeing should be better recognised, supported and funded. Several libraries are in very poor repair with inadequate heating/cooling, lifts regularly out of order for long periods and toilets flooding. They need a realistic maintenance and refurbishment programme to reflect their increasing usage, often 24/7.
- A complete refurbishment of JCG and/or provision of additional study space to accommodate the expansion of the Vet school.
- A complete refurbishment of Hallward and provision of a fit for purpose remote Store so we can offer the learning environment and resources our Arts and Social Science students and researchers expect.
- Replacement of DLRC and Business Library with fit for purpose space as part of the next phase of the Jubilee Campus masterplan. Supportive of releasing space in Hallward for Faculty of Arts.
- A commitment to complete Campus Solutions in terms of the data we all need to enable us to improve our services: all students in scope including nurses and TUNIC, disability, placement and distance learner flags. How can we accurately review usage of services, improve and personalise services using new technologies if we don't have the basic data that underpins it?
- Relocate Manuscripts and Special Collections to University Park to enable it to better fulfil its role of supporting teaching, research and public engagement

University Strategy Consultation 2019
Discussion & Feedback Sheet
Mission, Purpose & Growth

Feedback from (tell us which meeting or event)

In a sentence, how would you describe the purpose of the University of Nottingham?

In one sentence, we would describe the University's purpose as:

To inspire, enrich and empower the lives of students, academics and the local and global community, nurturing tomorrow's workforce, investing in a sustainable infrastructure and contributing to economic growth and prosperity in the UK and beyond.

We used the following suggestions from our Leadership Group to create the above sentence:

- To inspire, enrich and empower the lives of individuals (staff and students)
- To further knowledge and its practical application to benefit UK GDP and global wellbeing
- To be a focus for learning and research for the city and the wider region, acting as a partner
- The creation and dissemination of knowledge for all – local, national and international – for the benefit/betterment and survival of humanity
- Sustainability is important, this allows us to deliver on our goals and grow if we choose to.
- To educate the workforce of the future, developing and sharing advanced knowledge and advanced skills, and to contribute to the local economy.

Could you give one example of something about the University of Nottingham you want to make sure we retain in the years to come.

There are many things that the University does well, and which we would like to retain. A number of examples are listed below. However, of that list, the Senior Management Team has agreed that the one particular attribute we would like to retain is:

Maintaining a balanced focus on teaching and research, which remains inclusive and collaborative.

From Leadership Group discussions:

- An appropriate balance between business efficiency and wider academic and social aspirations
- High quality research reputation and a broad, multi-disciplinary research agenda
- A broad range of subjects
- Developing our distance learning offer, introducing innovation to attract students and generating more income
- Continuing to embed lean principles within our activities to improve customer value
- Continuing to value diversity and promote equality in libraries by:
 1. Supporting the 'Inclusive' category and enhance our service offering based on closely monitoring impact.
 2. Civic contribution – opening our Libraries to local schools and continuing to inspire the local community
 3. Digital student experience –
 4. Open access support
 5. Promoting our physical spaces as collaborative areas for teaching and research
 6. Valuing all staff and supporting them to excel via our Training and Development and Values and Behaviours frameworks.

General comments

The Green Paper refers to what makes the University distinctive, but fails to recognise our Manuscripts and Special Collections, which are unique to the University. Our archives have potential, not only to enhance teaching and research, but to attract investment and generate local community interest.