



University Executive Board

Minutes of the meeting of 30 April 2021

Present Professor Shearer West (Vice-Chancellor), 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 Nick Miles (Provost UNNC), Professor Robert Mokaya (PVC GE), Margaret Monckton (CFO), Professor Sarah Sharples (PVC EDI and People), Sarah Speight (PVC ESE), Professor Zoe Wilson (FPVC Science)

Attending Rowena Hall (Secretary), Dr Zachary Hoskins (Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy) for minute 21.55, Kate Gallagher (General Counsel) for minute 21.55

Apologies Professor John Atherton (FPVC Medicine and Health Sciences)

21.53 Welcome, Apologies, Quoracy and Declarations of Interest

- .1 Apologies had been received from Professor John Atherton. The Secretary confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- .2 There were no declarations of interest.

21.54 Chair's Business

- .1 The Vice-Chancellor confirmed the appointment of Professor Sarah Metcalfe as Provost for the University of Nottingham in Malaysia with effect from 1 August 2021. Professor Sam Kingman would continue as interim Provost until 31 July 2021.

21.55 Draft Statement on Free Speech and Academic Freedom

- .1 UEB RECEIVED the paper (UEB/21/62) from the Registrar and was accompanied in its presentation by Dr Hoskins and the General Counsel.
- .2 The Registrar reminded members that UEB had directed that a group be established to consider the University's approach to and regulations governing free speech and academic freedom. The output of the group's work was the draft statement on free speech which formed part of the paper. If UEB was supportive of the draft statement, it would form part of a wide consultation before it was submitted to Senate for consideration, discussion and approval.
- .3 UEB NOTED that a lessons learned exercise had been carried out by the Students' Union with the support from the University in connection with an event planned by a Students' Union society as a result of which a large number of complaints had been received. Policies relating to meeting on University premises would be updated where appropriate.
- .3 UEB members were very supportive of the draft statement, the values espoused by which aligned with those set out in the University Strategy. The statement on the University being a bastion of free speech but not a 'public square' was particularly welcomed as was the recognition that a commitment to free speech had to exist within the scope of the law.
- .4 It was NOTED that the statement had been drafted in the context of the legal and regulatory frameworks of England and Wales, and it therefore did not apply in its current form to UNNC



and UNM. Further work and discussion would be undertaken by both campuses to consider the issues, taking account of the relevant legislation in Malaysia and China.

- .5 An overview of the breadth of the principle of academic freedom was provided by Dr Hoskins and considered in detail by UEB. There was some support for including additional wording in the statement to reference an individual's area of academic expertise. The Registrar confirmed that similar wording had been included in an earlier draft and the working group would reconsider the point before the consultation was launched.
- .6 The decision-making mechanisms underpinning the draft statement were set out in existing policies. These would need to be reviewed in the light of the refreshed freedom of speech policy and potential new government legislation on freedom of speech.
- .7 UEB ENDORSED the draft statement prior to its University wide-consultation.

	ACTION	OWNER	DUE
.8	To consider further whether the statement should include reference to an individual's area of academic expertise in connection with academic freedom.	Registrar, Working Group	28 May
.9	To update UEB on the progress of the consultation prior to the draft statement's consideration by Senate	Registrar	7 June
.10	To review decision-making mechanisms underpinning the Free Speech and Academic Freedom statement	Registrar	31 July

21.56 International Security Task and Finish Group Recommendations

- .1 UEB RECEIVED the paper (UEB/21/63) from the PVC GE.
- .2 UEB NOTED the priorities and recommended actions proposed by the University's Internationalisation: Security Related Issues Task & Finish Group in response to the recommendations contained in the Universities UK International report on Managing risks in Internationalisation: Security related issues published in October 2020.
- .3 It was suggested that in some cases, the concern of partners was of a perceived risk, resulting from a lack of awareness and clarity about the University's processes for compliance.
- .4 It was NOTED that recommended actions covered the main areas for development, many of which would be delivered through the Trusted Research Framework. UEB was keen that there was clear ownership and responsibility for the delivery of activities.
- .5 It was considered vital that there was good awareness and clear visibility of the implementation and operation of the recommended actions across the University. This would support the University in its communications with partners and provide the University with evidence of its compliance.
- .6 UEB AGREED the recommended actions subject to the comments made during the meeting and NOTED that there was a significant amount of work to do in implementing them. UEB further AGREED that it should receive periodic updates on the progress of implementation.

	ACTION	OWNER	DUE
.7	To deliver regular updates on the progress of implementation of the recommended actions to UEB.	PVC GE/Secretary	Ongoing
.8	To deliver an annual report on progress to the governing body.	PVC GE/Secretary	Ongoing



21.57 Any Other Business

A small student occupation in the Engineering Science Learning Centre had ended.