ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2015

Present: Janine Watson (Chair), Paddy Hackett, Claire Kilner (Secretary), Jayne Charnock, Katherine Leopold (via video link), Michael Taylor.

In attendance: Richard Screaton, Lamara Mcbride and Janice Cornish

1. Apologies

Colin Bailey (Deputy Chair), Andy Spinoza, Paul Sutherland, Joel Oxberry, Markus Karlsson-Jones, Shazia Chaudhry, Charlie Cook, Chris Cox.

2. Presentation from student intern (Lamara Mcbride)

NOTED: Lamara gave an excellent presentation on how she has benefitted from working in the Alumni Relations team on the Student Experience Internships (SEI) last summer. The internships aimed particularly at Widening Participation students gave work experience opportunities to Manchester students within the University.

ACTION: To look into making a direct approach to famous and outstanding alumni in order to increase authority scores. Ask them to follow us on Twitter and then also tweet at events to increase the reach of our audience and to influence social media interaction. (CK to co-ordinate)

ACTION: A copy of the presentation to be circulated to members of the Advisory Board. (JC)

ACTION: To look into sending the cardboard cut outs used at graduation to London and other events to increase social media activity. (JC)

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2014 / matters arising

RECEIVED: Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2014.

ACTION: The minutes were approved by members of the Board and will be posted online. (JC)

ACTION: Submitted biographies of board members to be put on the website. (JC)

4. Chair’s verbal update (JW)

NOTED: JW welcomed Janice Cornish in her capacity as the new Assistant Alumni Officer. Janice will be responsible for minuting future Open meetings of the Alumni Association and Advisory Board meetings.

JW represented the alumni association at the grand opening night of the Whitworth Art Gallery which she recommended as worth visiting.

JW congratulated the university on being in the top 50 universities of The World Reputation Rankings - 7th in Britain and 4th in research power. The scores indicated there is still some work to be done in some areas but we are moving forward.
JW advised she was attending the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) final on 23 March. 12 UoM students who were successful in their heats will present a compelling spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance in just three minutes.

PH advised that examples of these can be seen online on the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences where ‘elevator pitches’ are used.

JW advised ‘The Alumni Volunteer Thank You’ event is to take place 16 April in the Fossil Gallery in the Manchester Museum at 6.30pm.

5. DDAR verbal update - Philanthropy Day which is to be held 26 March

NOTED: CK advised there will be a full day of activities for donors who have given since 1 August 2013 and others who are going to be inaugurated into the President’s Circles of philanthropy. CK extended the invitation to this event to the board as it will be an opportunity to see how the stewardship and events teams work alongside our development colleagues.

ACTION: To send a formal invitation to Board Members (CK)

6. Appointment of new internationally focussed members of the Advisory Board

NOTED: Following discussions at Board meetings and with the Chair about new Board membership, CK recommended and introduced two new members of the Board Hian Seng Tang and Rajkaran Singh Kharbanda who have both agreed to join the board.

Hian Seng is based in Singapore and has been active with the University for a number of years. He is President of the Singapore Alumni Association and has been active with the Beijing Alumni association.

Raj is originally from India and has also lived in Singapore. He is now based in the UK. He has an international outlook, travels extensively and works for Rolls Royce (shortly to become Siemens). He is also an active member of the General Assembly.

AGREED: The Board unanimously agreed to the appointment of the two new members.

ACTION: Advise Hian Seng and Raj that they have been welcomed by the Board. (CK)

ACTION: A copy of the two profiles (tabled at the meeting) to be sent to Katherine. (JC)

7. Verbal update on the Chancellor’s election 2015

NOTED: The University is keen to have a strong field of candidates for the position of Chancellor. Nominations will remain open until midday on 13 April 2015. Details of how to nominate are available online. KL advised she is attending an MBS event and asked if she should be highlighting the election to the London audience to reach more nominees / potential candidates.

ACTION: Send the link for the election to KL so she can share with attendees of event (CK)

8. The postponement of the election of the three elected board members (CK).

NOTED: CK advised that the election of the three board members has been postponed due to the database merger ‘snagging issues’ being dealt with in January and also so as not to negatively affect arrangements for the Chancellor’s election. It is intended that the board members’ election should
run alongside elections for alumni representation on the General Assembly, due to happen later in the year (dates to be confirmed).

ACTION: Board members to advise CK of anyone with interesting experience who should be considered for board membership nomination (Board members).


NOTED: The Global Impact Awards are awarded to students making overseas trips during vacation time to engage in socially responsible activity that will benefit the communities they work in and enhance their own experience. Each award is worth £250 towards expenses. This year 27 applications have been received of which 11 have been shortlisted and passed to Paul Sutherland for review on behalf of the board.

ACTION: Review of the shortlisted applications (PS and DH)
ACTION: Circulate Global Impact Award 2014 reports with minutes (JC)

10. Verbal update on The Outstanding Alumni Awards (RS)

NOTED: RS advised there are five awards and that the board are to vote for one nominee per faculty.

ACTION: Circulate link to the online voting facility (RS)
ACTION: Vote (Board members)

11. The next Open Meeting of Alumni

NOTED: CK advised the date of the next Open Meeting of Alumni is 8 April 2015. CK and Lesley Dowdall (DDAR) will deliver a presentation at the meeting on the work of the Division. CK advised all alumni have received a 'Save the date' email which was sent in February and the formal invitation will be sent via email this week.

12. Any other business

NOTED: RS advised that the Division have been shortlisted for a Guardian University award for the 'Meet the Professionals' events. CK advised William Lam, the President of Hong Kong Alumni association visited the University that day including the National Graphene Institute and met with the President.

13. Date of next meeting

AGREED: CK to set the next three meetings of the Board (JC)