

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2013

Present: Rod Coombs (Deputy Chair), Paddy Hackett, Claire Kilner (Secretary), Katherine Leopold, Andrew Spinoza, Michael Taylor.

In attendance: Chris Cox, James Cumbers, Helen Foote, Rosie Haynes, Richard Screamton.

1. Apologies

Jayne Charnock, Shazia Chaudry, Simon Morrison, Joel Oxberry, Grace Skelton, Paul Sutherland, Janine Watson (Chair).

2. New Board member introduction

RECEIVED: Katherine Leopold was introduced and welcomed as a new Board member.

NOTED: Ian Rankin has stood down as a Board member.

ACTION: Thank Ian on behalf of the University. (CK/HF)

3. A presentation from students who completed the 2013 Global Graduates programme

RECEIVED: A presentation on the Global Graduates programme delivered by two Global Graduate students who had been placed in Hong Kong. The presentation focussed on how the experience helps to improve employability and gives an insight into international business.

NOTED: The Global Graduate students said the experience exceeded their expectations.

4. A report by the Chairman

RECEIVED: Chairman's report delivered by Rob Coombs.

NOTED: Foundation Day on 16 October had the biggest attendance on record yet. The Foundation Lecture was delivered by Professor Mario Molina who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 for his work demonstrating that chlorofluorocarbons were contributing to the breakdown in the earth's ozone layer. Honorary doctorates were awarded to Mario Molina; Sir Bobby Charlton; Frances O'Grady and Professor Peter Higgs.

5. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2013

RECEIVED: Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July.

ACTION: The minutes were approved by members of the Board.

6. Any matters arising from the minutes

NOTED: CK has communicated via LinkedIn the decision that no formal groups carrying the UMIST name can be supported, but that the heritage of UMIST would be supported and celebrated actively. There have been a small number of responses stating that alumni would still like to go ahead with a separate UMIST group although it has not been confirmed as to whether or not they will take this forward. It was noted by CC that, when looking at donations to the University, UMIST alumni were as likely as VUM alumni to donate, suggesting that they felt equally connected to the post-2004 University of Manchester.

Tim Westlake has been confirmed as the speaker for the next meeting. The meeting will begin with a tour of the Atrium in University Place. It was suggested that a tour of the Learning Commons takes place during a future meeting. (PH)

A list of business contacts and recent graduates in relation to the London network events was requested. (KL)

ACTION: Investigate the possibility of a tour of the Learning Commons for a future meeting. (CK/HF)

ACTION: Prepare the London contacts data as requested. (HF)

7. A report by the Director of Development

RECEIVED: Report by the Head of Alumni and the Director of Development.

NOTED:

266,000 magazines were sent out in total to alumni and friends of the University. Approximately 900 magazines were returned due to a data issue and then resent. Feedback from alumni was very positive (see examples on handout). Feedback from the AAAB members regarding content, variety and style was encouraging. It was reported that to date 166 donations totalling £18,500 have been received using the donation form accompanying the magazine.

There are now 4,100 individual alumni donors. There has been a primary focus on scholarships. Donations have been very high for the MAP scholarship and Equity and Merit programmes to the extent that the demand of donors currently outweighs the number of students which is positive. The University is striving to build on major gifts and expand the Global Graduates programme as it has been recognised as a national problem that Widening Participation students are less likely to secure graduate jobs despite academic achievements.

The Global Graduates programme is successful in many respects. It enhances student employability; strengthens alumni engagement; encourages activity within the alumni association; increases the number of donors and achieves the objectives of the Widening Participation agenda.

Dominic Boyd has been appointed as Head of Philanthropy (Campus Masterplan and Research Institutes). It was noted that he has done an excellent job in his current role as Head of MBS Development.

8. The draft minutes of the 2013 AGM (to be confirmed at AGM 2014)

RECEIVED: The minutes had been circulated in advance.

ACTION: Bring copies of all documents mentioned in the agenda to future meetings. (HF)

9. An update on the new Alumni Association Constitution and next general meeting

NOTED: The Constitution document has been seen and slightly amended by the Deputy Registrar and a member of the University's legal team. The document will then be passed to Rod Coombs and Will Spinks before being presented to the AAABoard and taken to the next General Meeting.

10. A report on the Global Travel Awards

RECEIVED: A report on the Global Travel Awards. (JC)

NOTED: Feedback and images from the 2013 awards will be used to raise the profile of the programme. It has been flagged to Tanya Luff and the Careers Service to promote to students. It was suggested that internal communications, The Mancunian newspaper and the London network should be used to raise awareness of the programme and its gift opportunities.

ACTION: Add a link to the full Global Travel Awards report online. (JC)

11. A proposed communications and engagement task and finish group

PROPOSED: A working group to review of all aspects of the alumni communications strategy using the expertise of volunteer AAAB members.

NOTED: It was noted that the Division of Development and Alumni Relations are working with the Change Management Division to ensure students and graduates are kept informed of alumni developments and activity.

ACTION: It was agreed that clear objectives for the review should be agreed before volunteers commit to the working group. (CK)

12. An update on the event function in the Division and staffing

NOTED: The events function has now moved outside the alumni team as most events are multi-stakeholder. Kate Bradbury now works alongside Alex Murray under the management of Jo Keown. This will strengthen the events function in the Division.

There are now 43 members of staff across the Division and the number will have increased to 50 by the end of the financial year.

ACTION: Circulate a list of the Division staff members to the AAAB members. (HF)

13. Any other business

NOTED: The London network will be launched at the London Dinner which will take place on 5 December at HMS Belfast. Rod Coombs will attend a London network event on the evening of 13 February, venue to be confirmed. The Alumni London Network Twitter feed and is now live. The LinkedIn University of Manchester London Network, which is a subgroup of The University of

Manchester Alumni Association is also active.

NOTED: Paul Sutherland will lay the poppy wreath on behalf the Alumni Association on Remembrance Sunday.

PROPOSED: AAAB Christmas meal.

ACTION: Date and venue for the Christmas meal to be confirmed. (HF)

14. Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 26 February 2013 at 16:15.

NOTED: The meeting will begin with a tour of the Atrium in University Place, Oxford Road, then resume in Committee Room A, Whitworth Building. The venue will include video conferencing facilities to accommodate Katherine, should she be in London for the meeting (HF).