



The University of Manchester

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2014

Present: Janine Watson (Chair) Joel Oxberry, Paddy Hackett, Claire Kilner (Secretary), Katherine Leopold (via videolink), Michael Taylor, Andy Spinoza, Charlie Cook, Chris Cox.

In attendance: Markus Karlsson-Jones, Helen Foote, Rosie Haynes, Marie-Rose Delauzun, Richard Screaton.

1. Apologies

Jayne Charnock

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2014 / matters arising

RECEIVED: Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2014.

ACTIONS: The minutes were approved by members of the Board and will be posted online.

Additional actions:

- The online biography template would be sent around to Board members by **CK**
- Succession planning – it was confirmed that this was still an open question being discussed by JW and CK

NOTED:

Events - It was confirmed that the broadcasting of large-scale University events (such as the Cockcroft Rutherford Lecture) should continue to be broadcast in London. KL indicated that the enthusiasm for events to be repeated/broadcast in London had been confirmed at the recent Fracking event. All big-ticketed events to be shown in London going forward.

Alumni submitting discussion topics – CK confirmed that this item would be on hold until the new Online Communications Officer had been appointed.

Graduation – there would be a report on this at a future meeting. Members of the Board were shown a bookmark calendar that graduands were receiving in the December ceremonies.

3. New Deputy Chair

NOTED: Colin Bailey was welcomed by JW to the Alumni Advisory Board in his new post as Deputy-Chair and highlighted how excited the board were to have him as a new member.

4. AMENDED ITEM – Presentation by students replaced by two matters arising

- **Chancellor Elections (item 5 in minutes of July meeting)**

NOTED: JW explained to the Board that though the process for the election to Chancellor is not run by the AAB, there was a shared responsibility to put forward suggestions for suitable candidates. CC highlighted the importance of the international element of the role and indicated that a name known globally would be incredibly beneficial to the University. It was confirmed that the nominations open on **6th February 2015**.

ACTION: CK requested that any Board members with thoughts on potential candidates should approach her in the first instance.

- **Paper from PH 'University Challenged' (item 12 in minutes of July meeting)**

NOTED: See attached document prepared by KL and PH along five research themes. PH highlighted particularly that online and off-site activities would be an ideal way to involve non-local alumni and that any new strategy of events provide an excuse to interact with alumni.

ACTIONS:

- PH to sit down with one of CK's team to discuss further.
- CK to get back in touch with original enquiry and update them.

5. Appointment of Chair

NOTED: It was explained by CK to the Board that it was necessary to reappoint the Chair of the Board and pointed members to review the attached documentation. It was proposed by CK that JW should be reappointed if the Board was in agreement, which they confirmed they were. CK identified the recent change in the Deputy Chair position as a reason to keep the Chair's post consistent for a second term and as JW had provided great leadership it was formally agreed by all. The motion was unanimously carried.

6. Re-appointment of the University Board of Governors Representative

NOTED: It was proposed by JW that AS should serve a second term on the University Board as Governors Representative. The motion was approved by the Board and CC congratulated AS on a good term.

7. The need to recruit more International Alumni on to the AAB

NOTED: It was suggested by JW that the need for more input from international alumni on the AAB was less about having skype presence at meetings and primarily about involvement in activity and in the work that goes on between meetings and members. CK highlighted that the new constitution requested that more international alumni are involved, and welcome ideas from the Board on areas to represent. RH reported on the EPS trip to India and stressed the importance of utilising and establishing networks among alumni to build business links.

ACTION: It was agreed that a new standing item would be considered from MKJ as a way to update on international activity – which would be discussed and agreed between CC and CK. General ideas about involving alumni internationally with the Board's activities to be directed to CK.

8. The upcoming election for three elected Board members

RECEIVED: Documents attached from CK

NOTED: CK reported that she attended training for the online election software and suggested that the election for new board members would be a suitable test-run ahead of the Chancellor elections. Dates were circulated to board members – feedback to CK on timeframe.

It was agreed that new members would be introduced to the Board all together once elected. CBr enquired as to whether self-nomination had been considered but it was agreed that the existing setup was sufficient.

9. Biographies of board members to appear on website

AGREED: See matters arising. Biographies of Board members to appear online had been agreed in principle.

ACTION: CK to circulate template again, AS, CB and CCook were advised to pull content from their existing profiles elsewhere on University pages and use it for DDAR.

10. Suggestions around DDAR activity that members of the Board may wish to bring their own experience to

NOTED: JW requested for clarification on ways that board members could be involved in DDAR. RS briefly updated on a rundown of faculty activity such as:

- 400 alumni involved in Manchester Gold
- 100 alumni who've returned to campus to speak to students
- 'Meet the Professionals' – series of events in each faculty giving students the chance to speak to multiple alumni
- Over 600 students have benefitted in this semester so far

It was also noted that MKJ had launched the LinkedIn Alumni initiative designed to get students using the platform as a way to contact and network with alumni in roles and sectors of interest.

ACTIONS:

- CC clarified that a UoM / LinkedIn partnership can happen but that a single portal would be the possible future goal.
- AS proposed that members of the AAB should complete a skillset so that it would be clear which events or sessions they could be invited to contribute to.
- MKJ to meet with CCook regarding SU promotion of LinkedIn campaign.

11. Feedback from events

NOTED: JW reported that the London and Manchester Alumni Dinners both received incredibly positive feedback. The recent Insights Lectures on dementia and fracking were also reportedly

well attended and well-received. CCook requested whether there could be more involvement of students in presentations or talks at these events, and it was agreed that going forward the involvement of students would be regularly reviewed to ensure the balance was maintained. It was agreed that at present the format worked well for the alumni attending.

12. Any other business

NOTED: MT was congratulated on his recent appointment as a Parliamentary Candidate in Hazel Grove.

ACTION: JW to circulate updated contact details since departure from Stockport Council.

13. Dates of future meetings

CK proposed that the next meeting take place on 19th February 2015.