

UET Meeting

02 June 2020, 10:00 to 12:00

MS Teams

Attendees

UET members

John Vinney, Tim McIntyre-Bhatty, Jim Andrews, David Reeve

In attendance

Jane Forster, Angelos Stefanidis, Alastair Morrison (Present at: 2), Sarah Hutchings (Present at: 3.1), Deborah Wakely (Present at: 4), Christina Pizot (Minute taking)

Meeting minutes

1. Minutes and Matters Arising from the Previous Meetings held 26 May 2020


Approval
Chair

Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no further comments or redactions.

Matters arising

None noted.

 Minutes_UET meeting_260520.pdf

2. Tianjin University of Technology (TUT)- Briefing Proposal

Approval
Angelos Stefanidis, Alastair Morrison

Angelos Stefanidis & Alastair Morrison joined the meeting to brief UET on the latest Tianjin University of Technology (TUT) partnership proposal.

UET were asked to review & consider a proposal to establish a joint institute with TUT. In summary the joint institute would:

- offer a 4 year full time undergraduate programmes, designed with expertise from BU, leading to a TUT academic award
- support opportunities for students to transfer to BU to complete their final year
- serve as a hub for the development of other joint activities, such as summer school and placement opportunities

Following the visit at the Ministry of Education in Beijing, in October 2019, where BU's initial proposal was presented alongside other universities, Angelos Stefanidis noted that the main point of the feedback received a couple of months later from the Ministry was around the delivery of the proposed programmes and the required condition of delivering a 'double degree' which had been put forward.

Angelos Stefanidis noted that they had been granted an deadline extension from the Ministry in order to study the revised proposal, especially around the double degree condition. Angelos commented that in terms of timeline, we needed to make a decision in the next week in order to take this forward and meet the deadline.

Alastair Morrison added that academics on both side had worked hard to build a strong relationship and it would be a great opportunity for BU to have TUT as a partner.

UET agreed that there were some conditions which needed to be reviewed & clarified before the proposal could progress any further:

- quality of the partner and quality assurance on delivery of the right standard of programmes
- finances
- people risk
- termination clauses

Angelos Stefanidis agreed to do some further work around these clarifications and would update the proposal in order for it to be submitted to UET next week for further consideration.

TMB added that if we wanted to progress with the proposal, we should also get input from Legal & our Academic Registrar in order to meet the July Board conditions.

 Briefing paper TUT- May 2020.pdf

Present: Angelos Stefanidis, Alastair Morrison

3. Standing item: Financial Update

Discussion
David Reeve

DR reviewed with UET the latest quarterly budget figures.

DR added that the 3 year cash flow figures were being finalised and would be discussed at next week's UET.

3.1. Cash flow update

Information
Sarah Hutchings

Sarah Hutchings joined the meeting to give UET an update on the latest cash flow position. Sarah Hutchings noted that the figures did not yet include any changes to the year-end cash balance for severance payments, or to August and September cash as we had not agreed on the budget phasing.

Present: Sarah Hutchings

3.2. Finance Regulations

Approval
David Reeve

DR reviewed the latest updated Finance Regulations document. UET approved the updated version and this would be circulated at the EULT meeting tomorrow before submission at FRC committee for the 19 June meeting.

 Financial Regulations - Review May 2020 SH edits (2).pdf


3.3. Schedule of Insurance Cover

Approval
David Reeve

DR reviewed the summary of the proposed insurance covers for next year which we currently had in place. UET approved the attached document.

This would be submitted to the FRC committee on the 19 June and the Board on the 17 July.

DR added that for the future, we could look into getting a specific cover for instances such as Covid-19.

 FRC insurance paper June20.pdf

4. Standing item: Board and sub-committee preparation

Discussion
Deborah Wakely

- ARG Agenda - 3 July 2020

Deborah Wakely joined the meeting to review the latest draft of the ARG agenda - 3 July meeting:

-item 8 '*Draft degree outcomes statement*'

TMB noted that the current draft would go to the next Senate meeting but would not be ready for this ARG meeting. TMB suggested that this item be rescheduled for the next ARG meeting this October.

-item 9 '*Finance Regulations*'

JFo noted that this would be reviewed at EULT meeting tomorrow

-item 12 '*Review of Risk Register*'

TMB commented that this would be submitted at the FRC meeting in June so could come off this agenda.

Deborah Wakely would make the necessary changes as per discussions and would re-circulate to the Chair for final approval.

 ARG-1920-3-000 3 July 2020 agenda.pdf

Present: Deborah Wakely

5. Standing item: OfS and Government Reporting

Information
Jane Forster

- Regulatory Reporting Tracker

JFo noted that the deadline for the bidding for the extra students was live and would be added to the tracker.

The response for the consultation on the new licence condition should be coming out soon.

- Reportable events update

No new updates noted.

6. Future Meetings and Items:

Review
Chair

- ULT forward agendas

JFo noted that she had updated the pack for the EULT meeting tomorrow with the papers discussed including the *Transformation Team* papers received by Brian Kaliczynskyj.

7. AOB

-TMB advised UET that Kaplan had decided on a flexible approach of a mixture of an online start with an optional phased progression to physical onsite learning. Students had also been offered the option of starting and completing the course online.

-JA noted that he had received a number of student emails regarding 'black lives matter' and the current situation in America. JV would make an online statement reinforcing BU's values of inclusivity and our stand against racism and inequality.

-DR advised UET of a backlog of sponsors' studentship contracts which were still outstanding. TMB would check with Julie Northam on the current status and advise DR.

