

JUNE 2016

1. COREMUNICATE TOPICS ON VIDEO

June's CoreMunicate video briefing has two items: feedback from the discussion topic on sustainable travel; and an overview of the Government's White Paper on higher education in England called: 'Success as a Knowledge Economy' which was published in mid-May. You can see the video at: www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/pss/coremunicate/

2. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL FEEDBACK

When PSS colleagues were asked to give their views on sustainable travel in relation to their journey to and from work, this led to some passionate debate within teams resulting in a large amount of valuable feedback. All of your feedback has been put together in a report which will inform the University's future approach to sustainable travel. The Environmental Sustainability Team has provided an initial response to your feedback which can be found at www.manchester.ac.uk/travelresponse or a copy can be provided by emailing es@manchester.ac.uk or calling x57686.

3. GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER – SUCCESS AS A KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

A Government White Paper which sets out proposals for major changes to the higher education sector in England has just been unveiled, with the key aim of increasing competition and quality. There are three main themes of the paper 'Success as a Knowledge Economy' which are:

- to increase the number of universities and 'challenger institutions' in England and the levels of competition between these and existing institutions;
- to improve the quality of teaching through the introduction of a new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) assessing teaching quality via student satisfaction and graduate employability and link TEF performance to the ability of universities to increase fee levels in line with inflation;
- to address the number of different organisations which currently regulate higher education by creating the Office for Students - a new regulatory body to replace HEFCE and OFFA and bringing together Research Councils and Innovate UK into a new organisation called UK Research and Innovation.

It's important to stress that these are proposals at this stage and a Government Bill now needs to go through the Houses of Parliament before becoming legislation. While it's likely that the proposals will be amended during this process, what is certain is that the higher education sector will go through a number of radical changes over the next two to three years and we need to be ready not just to adapt to new ways of working, but to embrace the opportunities these changes present to ensure that we deliver on our ambitions laid out in Manchester 2020.

4. UNIVERSITY MAKES PROGRESS IN WORLD REPUTATION RANKINGS

The University is now ranked 49th in the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2016 – a move upwards of one place. These rankings are based on responses to questionnaires sent to the world's leading academics asking their opinions on research and teaching. Manchester was also the only UK university in the top 50 to move upwards, all others lost ranking places.

5. MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS

The work of a large number of PSS colleagues was recognised at this year's Making a Difference Awards which highlight the commitment of staff, students and alumni in support of our social responsibility goal. PSS winners included the CPR World Record Attempt Team (Inspiring Communities category); Michelle Kipling from the Alliance Manchester Business School (Outstanding PSS support); the Careers Service Widening Participation Team (Widening Participation); the Manchester Leadership Programme Team from the Directorate for the Student Experience (Special Award for sustained contribution to social responsibility); and Joanne Jacobs also from the Directorate for the Student Experience (Special Award for sustained contribution to social responsibility for the Equity and Merit Scholarship Programme). To see the full list of winners visit: www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/get-involved/awards/award-winners-and-highly-commended-2016/

6. PURPLE WAVE MAKES A SPLASH AT THE GREAT MANCHESTER RUN

Congratulations to the 1,114 staff and students who took part in the Great Manchester Run on 22 May. Dressed in purple University branded T-shirts, they formed the 'Purple Wave' and have so far raised more than £59,000 for charity. Special thanks go to Head of Sport and Active Lifestyles Vicky Foster-Lloyd whose SPORT Manchester team led the initiative, working in partnership with the Students' Union. You can still make a donation by visiting www.justgiving.com/teams/UoM10k and keep an eye on StaffNet to find out how you can get involved in the Purple Wave 2017 - which promises to be even bigger.

7. PLANNED CHANGES TO THE PROCESS OF ETHICAL REVIEW OF RESEARCH

Staff who work on research involving human participants need to obtain ethical review approval – PSS staff involved in this kind of work include University Research Ethics Committee Secretaries; Insurance Officers; Research Office Administrators; School Research Ethics Administrators and Super Administrators. A project is under way to introduce a new online Ethical Review Manager (ERM) for processing applications for approval and this will go live on Friday, 9 September. There will be a 60 day crossover period in which ethics applications will still be accepted via designated Ethics Signatories but after this period applications should be submitted through the new online ERM. Training guides will be available closer to the launch date, but if you have any questions at this stage contact IT Project Manager vera.sokolovski@manchester.ac.uk

8. CROWDFUNDING

The Division of Development and Alumni Relations (DDAR) has launched the University's own crowdfunding platform. 'Crowdfunding at Manchester' is a resource for students and staff to fundraise for anything from research project or study trip to a public engagement initiative. Staff in DDAR are asking PSS colleagues to recommend the platform to anyone they think may have a suitable project idea. Thanks also go to colleagues in the Directorate of Finance and the Division of Marketing and Communications for their help in working towards the launch of the project. The site can be found at www.manchester.ac.uk/crowdfunding

Will Spinks
Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer

