

NOVEMBER 2016

## 1. COREMUNICATE TOPICS ON VIDEO

This month's video features the launch of the largest and most ambitious environmental sustainability programme ever undertaken in UK higher education – 10,000 Actions. You'll hear about how you can contribute towards helping us meet our environmental sustainability targets. There's also a message from Simon Merrywest, Director of Faculty Operations in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, who gives an overview of the key strengths and benefits of the newly-formed Faculty. You can watch the video at: [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/pss/coremunicate/](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/pss/coremunicate/)

## 2. APR UPDATE

A few days ago (Monday 7 November 2016), we had the Annual Performance Review (APR) for the PSS, where the PSS Leadership Team meet with Nancy and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to review our performance over the past year and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that are likely to be presented in the year ahead. I will give you a full report on the APR in next month's CoreMunicate, but I can tell you that I reported to the meeting that PSS colleagues have continued to make a significant contribution to the University's overall success and progress towards meeting its Manchester 2020 goals. In the past year, the PSS has also delivered some significant change projects, including our critical role in the creation and support of the new Faculty of Medicine, Biology and Health. Whilst delivering change is not without its challenges, we have made a significant contribution to both improving the effectiveness and increasing the efficiency of the University.

Looking ahead, we discussed the need to generate additional income and realise greater efficiencies across the University in order to provide financial headroom to invest in the University's strategic priorities. It was recognised that the PSS would make a major contribution to University-wide changes such as the Student Lifecycle Project and by identifying opportunities for greater efficiency contained in the Cubane Benchmarking data. Such an ambitious agenda can, however, only be successfully delivered with the engagement, sponsorship and support of a wide range of academic colleagues. Nancy concluded the meeting by thanking all PSS staff for their contribution and commenting that: "We are fortunate in having within the PSS some acknowledged leaders in the sector and a team that works really well together."

## 3. CHANGES TO PSS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pauline Morgan has taken on the role of Interim Director of Planning following the departure of Helen Barton who has taken up a new role at Manchester Metropolitan University. Russell Ashworth (Director of Faculty Operations in Humanities) has been appointed to the new position of Director of the Programme Management Office working on the delivery of Manchester 2020. Dr Andrew Walsh will take on the role of Interim Director of Faculty Operations in Humanities until a permanent replacement for Russell is in place. Andrew will continue with oversight of his current responsibilities as Director of Research and Business Engagement Support Services during this period. Finally, Alan Ferns has been appointed Associate Vice-President for External Relations and Reputation and will take up his new role on 2 January 2017, when he will step down as Director of Communications and Marketing. Recruitment of a new Director of Communications and Marketing will commence shortly and Terry Hudghton, Head of University Marketing, will serve as Interim Director until the permanent Director takes up the post.

## 4. 10,000 ACTIONS

On Thursday, 10 November the University launches the biggest environmental sustainability initiative in higher education – 10,000 Actions. On this date, every member of staff will receive an email with a link to access an online programme encouraging every one of us to take action that will contribute to environmental sustainability. Because of the significant environmental and financial impacts, all staff are expected to complete the programme, which will take around an hour.

For staff in Residences and Estates and Facilities without access to a PC, facilitated group sessions will take place in December and January. A Guide for Managers and Champions is being produced and distributed. Find out more at:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability/staff/10000actions](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability/staff/10000actions)

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## 5. UNIFORM BENCHMARKING EXERCISE – SERVICE EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY

The University is currently taking part in a Service Effectiveness Survey to collect feedback on a number of PSS services to help provide a clearer picture of their effectiveness. This will be benchmarked with other Russell Group institutions which are part of the UniForum programme. If you have received an email from 'noreply@surveys.cubane.co' or 'noreply@qemailserver.com' with the subject line: UniForum Service Effectiveness Survey, please take the time to respond.

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## 6. INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF

In recognition that the referendum decision for the UK to leave the European Union (EU) has caused considerable anxiety and uncertainty for many of our staff, the University has commissioned an immigration law expert from Eversheds Solicitors to provide support and advice to our international staff on issues associated with UK residency and citizenship. A number of information sessions will run during November and relevant colleagues have been contacted and given more details about these sessions. Work is being undertaken to build capacity in the Directorate of Human Resources to provide on-going support and guidance on immigration matters to current, new and prospective international staff. The University remains committed to being a global university that embraces staff and students from across the world. If you have any comments or queries email: [EU@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:EU@manchester.ac.uk) or visit <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/eu/>

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## 7. WE BELONG

On Tuesday, 18 October we celebrated our Foundation Day and awarded honorary degrees to the Executive Director of Oxfam International, Winnie Byanyima; Lord David Alliance; Professor Dame Sue Bailey; Anil Ruia and Sir Norman Stoller. Winnie, who is also an alumna of the University, gave the Foundation Lecture in which she outlined some of the experiences of her unique career in politics and international development. During the ceremony, a short film on the theme of diversity was shown which you can see at: [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/news/display/?id=17299](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/news/display/?id=17299)

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## 8. ROYAL VISIT

Thank you to everyone involved in the very successful visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to our University last month. A huge amount of detailed organisation went into this significant event which saw the Royal couple visit our National Graphene Institute and bury a time capsule at the Manchester Engineering Campus Development (MECD) site. You can see a film of the visit at: [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/news/university-news/display/?id=17258](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/news/university-news/display/?id=17258)

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## 9. WELLBEING WEEK

Wellbeing Week takes place from 14 to 18 November offering a wide range of activities to support staff wellbeing. This year's focus is on the 'Manchester Ways to Wellbeing' – building simple but effective actions into our day-to-day activities. You can find out more at: [www.manchester.ac.uk/wellbeingweek](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/wellbeingweek)

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## 10. AWARDS UPDATE

Congratulations to colleagues in the Division of Communications and Marketing which has been named the best in-house team at the Northern Marketing Awards and also picked up a Silver award at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards. The Division has led a step-change in the University's communications and marketing activities including the delivery of our three-year Communications and Marketing Plan. Congratulations also go to the team at Jodrell Bank Observatory which hosted the bluedot festival this summer. This inaugural event has won both Best New Festival and Mind Blowing Spectacle (for the Brian Eno installation on the Lovell Telescope) at this year's UK Festival Congress. Finally, the THE Awards take place towards the end of November so good luck to colleagues in the Alliance Manchester Business School, which is shortlisted for Business School of the Year. Other University nominees include Alys Young from the School of Health Sciences (Outstanding Research Supervisor) and Patrick O Malley from the School of Chemistry (Outstanding Digital Innovation in Teaching or Research).

**Will Spinks, Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer**