

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 010

Minutes of the School of Environment, Education and Development Board Meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 12.30pm in Room 1.009, Roscoe Building

Present: Mark Baker, Armando Barrientos, Stephanie Barrientos, Caroline Bond, Sarah Brown, Eira Capelan, Steve Courtney, Louisa Dawes, Iain Deas (Chair), Suzi Edwards, James Evans, Tomas Frederiksen, Terry Hanley, Robert Hindle, Rory Horner, Neil Humphrey, Charlotte Jackson, Steve Jones, Jonathan Lillie, Kirsty Mackie, Sarah MacQuarrie, Narinder Mann, Susie Miles, Leandro Minuchin, Lisa Murtagh, Khalid Nadvi, Lorena Fernandez-Sanchez, Kunal Sen, David Spendlove, Gindo Tampubolon, Stephen Walker, Debra Whitehead (minutes), James Whitehouse, Drew Whitworth, Michael Wigelsworth, Jamie Woodward

1 Apologies: Alison Alborz, Tim Allott, Emma Carter-Brown, Ralitza Dimova, David Hall, Angela Harris, Richard Kingston, Miguel Lim, Diana Mitlin, Tanja Muller, Mark Shepherd, Alfredo Stein, Juup Stelma, James Walker

2 Minutes of SEED Board held on 9 November 2016

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. ID recorded the Board's thanks to TJ for his contribution as the previous Chair of the Board.

3 Athena Swan Update (SM)

SM provided an update on where the Athena Swan submission is currently. A draft will go to the University committee in the first week of March, with the final submission scheduled for the end of April. This initial submission is for the bronze award, and arising from it will be an action plan to take the School forward with a view to submitting for the silver award in due course. Everyone is encouraged to get involved in this initiative via their AS discipline coordinators.

4 Head of School Report (TA)

A written submission from TA reported that:

Senate Elections

Two members of SEED are standing for election this round– Jamie Woodward (Geography) and Tanja Muller (GDI), and eligible voters are encouraged to support them.

Manchester Urban Institute

Last week saw the very successful launch event of the MUI. Thanks to Kevin Ward, Matthew Harrison and all the rest of the MUI team for their hard work to date. There are further events planned for the week of 6th March.

Visit to SEED by the President and Vice Chancellor

The President and Vice Chancellor, Nancy Rothwell, will be making her annual visiting to the School on 8th March (10am to 11am) - full details to be circulated in due course.

HBS Disruption

There is currently very significant disruption in the HBS building associated with the second floor works, including repeated, massively disruptive fire alarms. SEED has made urgent representations to Estates to resolve this issue, but will report further as needed.

HASMAP Audit

SEED is being audited for Health and Safety by HASMAP this semester and will involve meetings (likely to be in March) between the HASMAP auditors and key staff in the School.

10,000 Actions

Many thanks from TA and Terry Hanley to all colleagues who have completed the 10,000 Actions survey and their own action plan as part of the University's environmental sustainability strategy. By

the end of January, 72 SEED staff had completed an action plan, the highest return rate of any School in the Faculty. The website is still open, and staff who have not yet participated are encouraged to take the time to complete their own action plan.

ID reported that:

Policy and Procedure on Contracts of Employment

In SEED, for the period February – May 2017, there are currently thirteen staff on fixed term or permanent contracts whose funding is of finite duration, and who are therefore at risk of redundancy at the conclusion of their contract of employment. Through collective consultation and individual consultation between the members of staff and their line managers, efforts are being made to seek further funding and or redeployment opportunities in order to avert the consequence of redundancy.

5 Theme for Discussion: Research Strategy and Performance (KN)

KN spoke to a powerpoint presentation (attached to these minutes) which covers all the current major issues in research in the School. Particular highlights include:

- SEED's good performance over the past year, with further development of the research strategy building on our strengths.
- Grant income capture exceeded target last year (but is very cyclical with peaks and troughs). This good performance was seen across all disciplines. The School should also meet target this year, but as targets keep rising, it is important to maintain the upward trajectory. The University as a whole is still below its direct comparators on research income and needs to improve. There will be a challenge around EU funding arising from Brexit over the next few years.
- On research outputs, the RRE data shows improvement in 2015-16.
- There are on-going initiatives by Research Committee to re-invigorate research groups in SEED and to secure funding from the School to support research group activity.
- Feedback on the Stern Review has informed the University's response, and preparation for REF 2021 is now beginning on the assumption that most of the Stern recommendations will be implemented.

The challenges for SEED going forward are around:

- Funding
- Output quality
- Staffing levels
- Strategic focus

If we can get very large, strategic bids together, especially around GCRF, we can use this to approach Faculty for increased support, including PSS support for post-award activities.

6 Health and Safety, Risk and Compliance (T/RW)

There was nothing to report.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17 May 2017, 12 noon to 2pm
Venue: Kanaris Lecture Theatre, Manchester Museum