

COU15D037



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Author: Professor David Richardson, Vice-Chancellor
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Admissions position (Confidentiality status: Strictly Confidential)

Redacted due to commercial sensitivity

Learning and Teaching (Confidentiality status: Open)

After all Semester 1 coursework marking was completed, 96% of items were marked and returned within the 20 day target and over 50% were returned within our aspiration of 15 days. The seven schools that have been worked with intensively on addressing turnaround times have generally performed very well. There is some early evidence from preliminary findings from our internal Student Experience Survey (which is still in process and covers all non-final year students) that improved coursework turnaround times is translating into higher levels of student satisfaction. The current emphasis is on striving to maintain this improved level of performance through Semester 2.

Research (Confidentiality status: Open)

- Across UEA, the number of journal articles and conference proceedings made open access have increased significantly. The UEA Open Access Policy requires deposit of accepted text for these types of outputs in the UEA repository and during 2015 the compliance rose to 85% by the end of the year. Further work continues in the start of 2016 to increase this compliance to be even higher in order to be able to optimise UEA's REF returns.
- A bid was submitted on 4 February for an ESRC-BBSRC funded Centre for Doctoral Training in biosocial research, *FoodChoice*, across 3 universities (UEA – lead; Newcastle, Reading) and 9 partners (including IFR, IAFRI, Public Health England). This would fund three cohorts of eight PhD students; only one award will be made nationally so it will face stiff competition; an outcome is expected in September.
- A bid was submitted on 18 February for an ESRC SeNSS (Economic and Social Research Council; Southeast Network for Social Science) Doctoral Training Partnership across 10 universities (Essex – lead; UEA, City, Goldsmiths, Kent, Reading, Roehampton, Royal Holloway, Surrey, Sussex) and including a broad range of high-profile non-HEI partners. Up to fifteen awards will be made nationally for Doctoral Training Partnerships, with each one funding at least thirty studentships per annum for five years. UEA is involved in twelve of the thirteen pathways, including all Schools in the Faculty of Social Sciences and social science groups from each of the other Faculties (environmental science, linguistics, politics and health).

- UEA has also been involved in a preliminary application made by the University of Cambridge to the Wellcome Trust call for clinical PhD studentships, and in nine Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Initial Training Network bids (of which UEA is leading five and a partner in four).
- Monthly online engagement monitoring has been introduced as of 1 February 2016 for all Tier 4 and AHRC CHASE DTP postgraduate research students, with students completing a short online task detailing meetings which is then forwarded to the supervisory team for sign-off.

Enterprise (Confidentiality status: Open)

- The University has begun fundraising to create a dedicated enterprise fund targeted in the first instance at students and recent graduates. The fund will offer a combination of mentoring, business support and early stage funding and will link with other University initiatives. The fund will tap into the experience of UEA alumni who wish to help support student ventures and will provide a key missing element within the current enterprise framework. UEA students and recent alumni who have started their own business and enterprises were showcased as part of an event on 21st January to officially launch the fund.
- At the last round of the NRP Translational Fund support was provided to a UEA team who are developing a concept around establishing a unique university backed publishing enterprise dedicated to publishing new creative writing and literary translation. This project was initially pump primed through the University Proof of Concept Fund and is already working on its first publications.
- At a recent meeting of the Icenii Fund advisory board the final funding available was allocated to projects subject to due diligence including two new university spin outs. When these investments are completed the fund will be fully invested and its infrastructure winds down until there are returns from exits from investee companies.
- The University continues to build links with industry having recently joined AgriTech East. In addition the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account has supported the continued development of the Marine Knowledge Exchange Network (MKEN) and is further developing its Cultural Tourism strategic theme.
- UEA CareerCentral ran Global Opportunities week for the second time, 1-5th February. Through the week there were 25 different events focusing on different parts of the world including China, Japan, Australia, America and Africa. Employers came onto campus and students connected via Skype with alumni around the world who shared their career stories. The events were attended by more than 361 students.
- An event was held on 2nd March to celebrate the first cohort of students completing the UEA award. 74 Bronze and 12 Silver Awards were presented to students many of which joined at the pilot stage and have helped to develop the current award framework.

Capital/Estate (Confidentiality status: Open)

Blackdale Residential development construction work is progressing well with 25 weeks remaining of this 62 week construction contract. Handover of the building is on target for the 26th August. The current budget is on target and the standard being produced by the contractor R G Carter remains good. The fixed Bedroom furniture is started to be fitted in the first of the 514 units.

The Consultant team for Project Zero, the first stage of the developing Estates Strategy have been appointed to start developing the initial stages of that project.

Improvements to accommodate the expansion of the School of Psychology has concluded in the Lawrence Stenhouse Building. Work started in mid-December and was completed early February.

Earlham Hall Court Yard development is progressing well after the first few weeks of construction activity. This is the second phase of investment to the Hall, being £2.2M to fully refurbish the existing Stable Building to provide additional Seminar Rooms and a provision for the Law Clinic.

As part of our planned improvements to the Estates Infrastructure we are developing the capacity to store heat during low demand periods to allow this to be drawn upon during high demand periods. As part of this capacity two cylinders have been installed at the rear of the Estates Building that are connected into the District Heating system. The project cost is £700,000 that is partly funded through Salix Finance Ltd and will provide a pay back on that investment within 5 years.

Good progress is being made in developing our contractor's framework. This will provide two groups of contractors that will be preselected for tendering for our construction work for the next three years. It will enable a more responsive approach for the appointment of a contractor having carried out the pre-requisite processes of the selection, in complying with the Public Procurement Regulations. This facility has also been offered to other contracting parties in the Research Park in helping to form stronger relationships across the Park.

Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Confidentiality status: Open)

The Faculty has developed its first MOOC in Screenwriting. With other 35,000 learners registered it is UEA's largest MOOC thus far. The course has been very well received and will run again in May. We have learners from 160 countries involved and the positive responses are impressive. The success of this MOOC points to the possibilities for online learning and demonstrates the excellent support in place via Alicia McConnell and her team of learning technologists.

Faculty of Science (Confidentiality status: Open)

New Head of School

The Faculty of Science is pleased to appoint a new Head of School for Mathematics. Prof Shaun Stevens. Prof Stevens has been Acting Head of School for the past six months and his appointment as Head of School is for a further period of five years.

Thomson Reuters 2015

Prof Phil Jones (ENV) has again been named a Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher. Thomson Reuters mission is to recognize and support excellence in the scholarly community. About 3,000 researchers earned this distinction by writing the greatest number of reports officially designated by Essential Science Indicators as Highly Cited Papers – ranking among the top 1% most cited for their subject field in year of publication, earning them the mark of exceptional impact.

Prestigious Medal from Challenger Society

Prof Karen Heywood (ENV) has been awarded this year's Challenger Medal from the Challenger Society for Marine Science, in recognition of her major contribution to physical oceanography in the UK.

Research

We are pleased to be able to congratulate Dr Johannes Laube in being awarded a prestigious 5-year, European Research Council Starting Grant "EXC3ITE - EXploring stratospheric, Composition, Chemistry and Circulation with Innovative TEchniques". This ERC award is valued at almost €1.5M.

In the first two month of 2016, we also were pleased to hear that the Faculty of Science has been successful in being awarded a number of grants from the EU and NERC.

- Dr Fraser MacMillan (CHE) was awarded £94k from EU COST for a project “Understanding Movement and Mechanism in Molecular Machines”, to run over 4 years where funds are allocated on an annual basis. This is a collaboration project involving the multiple countries including Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, Croatia, Slovenia.
- Prof Tamas Dalmay (BIO), Prof Andrea Munsterberg (BIO) and Dr Andrew Mayes (CHE) were all successful in being awarded a Marie Curie grant each, amounting to £360k in total. All will run over a two year period.
- Prof Claire Reeves (ENV) has been awarded £135k by NERC for a project titled “an Integrated Study of AIR pollution PROcesses in Beijing” which will run over 18 months
- Dr Trevor Tolhurst, Dr Martin Johnson and Dr Irene Lorenzoni with post doc Sophie Day (ENV) have been awarded £100k by NERC Innovation Fund for a project titled “Blue Opportunities from the future: knowledge and tools to inform sustainable growth for an integrated terrestrial, coastal and marine zone economy” which will run over two years.
- Professor Andrew Lovett (ENV) with Prof Corinne Le Quere (TYN) has been awarded £252k by NERC for a project titled “Knowledge Assessment Platform for the valuation of Energy and Nature together (KAPtEN)” which will run over three years.

Other awards include:

- Dr Sam Fountain (BIO) has been awarded £193k by the Afferent Pharmaceuticals for a project titled “Human P2X3 receptor biology” to assist him in his experimental pharmaceutical work, which will run over three years.
- Dr Mette Mogensen (BIO) has been awarded £96k by the Big C for a project titled “The role of sulforaphane in microtubule dynamics and organisation in health and cancer”, a project which will run over three years.
- Dr Richard Stephenson (CHE) has been awarded £134k by Innovate UK/ADAPT for a project titled “Towards fully-sustainable high-performance biocomposites for lightweight vehicles”, a project which will run over two years.
- Prof Bill Sturges (ENV) has been awarded £209k by the Department of Energy and Climate Change for a project titled “Atmospheric Observations and Interpretation of trace gases, for inventory verification”, to run over three years.

Faculty of Social Sciences (Confidentiality status: Open)

Two new laboratory suites for Developmental Dynamics have been built for the School of Psychology in Lawrence Stenhouse Building (LSB) for the use by Prof John Spencer and Prof Larissa Samuelson and their research team. The development includes administrative offices, meeting areas, testing labs and waiting areas.

The two labs have the majority of their required equipment in place, with one outstanding item (an NIRS machine) which will be arriving in the School in late May.

Participant testing began on the 11th February, and the School now has daily visitors to the labs from families bringing their children to be tested in Developmental Dynamics from all over Norfolk. A strategic plan of growth for the participant panel is being led by the Participant Co-ordinator.

Each suite is fully furnished, and has its own specific equipment, with security in place through monitored access to the main entrances. The waiting area for children and their parents has new toys and educational activities to engage in and each child receives a present and t-shirt with the DD logo as a thank you gift. New, state of the art toilets, are situated in between the two suites on 01 floor, including a baby change area.

Research activity is now taking place, in line with the requirements of Prof Samuelson's NIH grant and Prof Spencer's Gates Foundation grant.

Faculty of Medicine and Health (Confidentiality status: Open)

- The Faculty welcomes the arrival of the new Executive Dean, Prof Dylan Edwards. Dylan joins the Faculty following a successful period as Interim Director of TGAC and as former Head of School of Biological Sciences at UEA.

- At the same time, the Faculty waves goodbye to Prof Ian Harvey who ended his tenure as Executive Dean in January and will retire from the University at the end of March. He will continue as an Honorary Professor but it is a timely point to thank Ian for his service to UEA and particularly FMH.

- HSC continues to work closely with external contacts such as the Council of Deans of Health with regard to changes in the health education funding landscape from 2017. Recent conversations suggest there is still a lack of detail in the planning of how this will be managed but there is an expectation that students in nursing, midwifery and therapies will move to the same student-fee model currently applied to paramedic sciences and most other undergraduate disciplines. It may be several months before government plans materialise but FMH is considering development options and seeking to position itself for success in the longer-term.

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- Following on from the award of Times Higher Education "Research Project of the Year" in November 2015, Prof Changjiang Dong of the Norwich Medical School has published another world leading study in February in the journal "Nature" on the mechanisms by which bacteria insert proteins in their outer membranes, which is hoped may lead to new ways to develop drugs to overcome antibiotic resistance.