

COU16D001

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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)

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Panel has been announced. There are 23 members drawn from across the sector, and the Panel Chair is Professor Chris Husbands, Vice Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University and formerly of UEA's School of Education & Lifelong Learning. The Government's response to its Technical Consultation on the TEF's Year 2 is due to be published shortly.

HEFCE issued draft indicative 'core metrics' to institutions early in the summer. (Core metrics cover student satisfaction, employability and retention and are benchmarked for institution type and subject mix.) The draft set sent to UEA included the 2015 data for student satisfaction and employability and there were no benchmarked metrics that looked problematic. Preliminary work is underway to prepare our 15-page narrative statement which is likely to have to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Research (Confidentiality status: Open)

Schools and Faculties have been considering reports on a light touch reading of output exercise held over the summer where a selected number of outputs per individual member of ATR staff were read by other members of the School. A summary of the overall position of quality of outputs and any developmental needs will be considered at the October meeting of the UEA Research Executive along with any issues identified in Schools as a result of their annual review of research activity plans of individual ATR staff.

Following the publication of the Stern review in July, an initial analysis and comment on the potential impact for UEA if implemented will be discussed at the October Research Executive

The University Research Ethics Policy has been updated and UEA Research Executive is recommending the approval of a revised policy by the Senate.

Doctoral training successes announced over the summer include:

- An award from the ESRC to the SeNSS (South East Network for Social Sciences) Doctoral Training Partnership, for 28 studentships per annum for the next six years and an estimated value of £11m, led by Essex and with strong involvement and contributions from UEA. This is a huge boost for social sciences doctoral training at UEA.
- An award of £200K from NERC to the EnvEast Doctoral Training Partnership for added-value activities in innovation, including a conference event EnvEXPO 2017 and a variety of other activities administered across EnvEast and RED.

- A renewal of the award from the Wellcome Trust to a Cambridge-led bid for the PhD for Clinicians Programme, now including UEA as a new partner along with IFR and the Earlham Institute (formerly TGAC).
- UEA-Suffolk PGR activities were successfully re-validated in May, and work is ongoing to update the terms of the PGR partnership agreement following the establishment of the University of Suffolk and the University of Essex's decision not to take on new Suffolk-based PGR students.
- A split-site PhD agreement was signed by the Vice-Chancellor with SUSTech (South University of Science and Technology) in Shenzhen, China, as part of a visit from the President and other senior academic colleagues from SUSTech to the UK on 10 August. Further visits to China are planned.

Enterprise (Confidentiality status: Open)

UEA has incorporated a new spin out company IsoChemix to exploit the research of Dr Sean Bew of the School of Chemistry in the field of precise isotopic labelling of molecules. The company is currently negotiating its first commercial contracts. This project has received support from the University via its proof of concept fund and the NRP Translational Fund. The underlying technology is protected by a patent held by the University.

The IcenI fund (a seed corn fund initially established by the UEA, University of Essex and Norwich Biosciences Institutes with support from the DTI) is now fully invested having made it's final investment in IcenI Diagnostics Ltd, a company established by Professor David Russell (UEA Emeritus Professor) and Professor Rob Field (JIC). The company will develop novel diagnostic kits based on the founders' research.

This years Recruitment and Opportunities Fair will take place on 20th October 2016. The primary sponsor is PwC with supporting sponsors Aldi and UEA Engineering Hub (in collaboration with the East of England Energy Group). This year we have attracted over 86 exhibitors from a broad range of sectors including; IT, Finance, Health, Professional Services, Banking, Retail, Civil Service, Media, Armed forces, Charity and Voluntary. As with previous years the Careers Service will be running a series of preparatory events to help students understand the purpose of the fair and how to get the most out of it. If Council members would like to visit the fair please contact Julie Schofield, Head of the Careers Service at Julie.Schofield@uea.ac.uk

As part of UEA's support of the Future 50 programme, we hosted the first ever Future50 conference – F50 Live – at the Enterprise Centre on 22 September 2016 where Future 50 members had the chance to hear from business experts in sessions covering marketing, hiring and recruitment, and leadership and from keynote speaker Josephine Fairley, co-founder of Green & Black's. The Future50 programme recognises and rewards the most innovative small businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk, providing them with specialist advice, networking opportunities and access to funding. The 2016 business cohort includes IcenI Diagnostics, a second spinout company from Emeritus Prof David Russell.

UEA were in attendance at the Royal Norfolk Show on 29th-30th June 2016. In the year of the Vice-Chancellor's Presidency of the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, UEA co-hosted the Innovation Hub with Agritech East. Organisers estimated that around 85,000 visitors attended the Show over the two days. UEA researchers spoke to the general public and business/agricultural attendees about their work, and we displayed a range of printed literature promoting UEA's different business, cultural and educational offerings. We have started planning UEA's involvement in next year's Show, and intend to have a wider presence across the Showground.

Capital/Estate (Confidentiality status: open)

Completed Projects 2015/16

The Blackdale Residential development has now completed. All 514 rooms were fully occupied as of the week commencing the 26/09 and so far there has been very positive feedback regarding the standard of the facilities provided. The design and construction teams remain on hand to monitor the building now that it is occupied.

The Summer Moves Programme was successfully completed to meet the projected staff number increases from HUM and SSF for the period 2016-17 within the allocated timescales, and saw circa 260

staff moved into their newly appointed spaces following a number of building works and refurbishment projects managed by the Space Team.

The first phase of works to improve the main Lecture Theatre (LT2, 3, 4) has been completed and now provides updated learning spaces. LT1 will be completed in 2017. Our new bus stop installation on University Drive, complete with a swing, has been completed fully too.

In all cases, the projects will be reviewed to enable a continual improvement of Estates processes and approaches to forthcoming capital projects.

Ongoing Projects

Works to the Music Centre have largely been completed and the property is operational despite there being some unexpected ongoing structural works. These are in hand to complete at the beginning of November 2016.

Earlham Hall Stable Block and Courtyard Development is due for completion in February 2017 (a revision of the previously advised completion date due to an infestation of bats and additional structural works). Such a delay is not unexpected in a property of this age and complexity, and the overall impact on teaching and learning has been mitigated.

The Projects team achieved planning permission for additional car parking at the SCVA site and works have now begun on site. We continue to await planning permission for the Sports Field Development which will provide a number of outdoor sports areas and a new club house.

A number of improvement projects are ongoing including works to Union House, the Central Heat and Power (CHP) works to replace boilers plus improving mechanical and electrical strategies; reroofing works to both Building 5 (Sciences) and Building 6 (Biology); and general cyclical and planned maintenance projects. Such projects will follow an integrated programme in conjunction with our Maintenance Team to reduce the impact of disruption, costs and abortive, and ensure that teaching and research will not be disrupted.

The design of the new Science Teaching Laboratory Building (ISSL) is now picking up pace with a number of workshops including academic and teaching staff to help develop the design brief. This information is now under review and will be enveloped into the Design Brief for the architectural teams to work through.

The review of the impact of parking on the campus and the possible future strategy for transportation has been completed by AECOM, our Transport and Highways Consultants. This information will be presented to the ET in due course in order to determine an appropriate way forward.

Continual Improvement

The development of the Contractors Framework has been concluded, and will allow the University to have a more responsive approach to planned building projects whilst complying with Public Procurement Rules. Mini-competitions will be used to tender projects from a pool of pre-approved companies and suppliers.

The team will be reviewing a number of internal processes in order to improve efficiency. In addition to typical administrative procedures for projects, ideas include areas where money can be saved. Our teams are looking at a number of opportunities to improve efficiencies across our projects and ensuring improvements in cross departmental communications with colleagues in maintenance and cleaning, for example.

The Space Management Team are also working with Faculties and Central Department to develop the proposals for planned growth in summer 2017/18 This will include the testing of strategic scenarios against practical options whilst being aligned to the upcoming Estate Strategy.

Work on the Quadrum Building on the Research Park continues, and all UEA staff have been invited to book to view the construction site via information distributed on the UEA internal communications networks. Our involvement in this project allows us to continue to develop and strengthen those mutually beneficial partnerships.

Future Projects

The Estate Strategy continues to be developed with an expected target date to present findings and masterplan level action plans by December 2016. A vast amount of work has been undertaken to identify the needs of the future learning and teaching strategy, and to reflect this in the development of the long term expansion and refurbishment of the estate and all supporting facilities on the campus.

A long term view is being formulated to not only consider the implications of the approach to the Lasdun teaching wall, but to also include a residencies strategy, a backlog maintenance programme of works, lifecycle review programme, and a review of the estate transport strategy - all within the context of wider affordability. These headline aspects have a number of individual work streams and critical path issues with interdependencies. With the appointment of the new Deputy Director of Estate Strategy and Development, Rose Jenkins, this will now be further developed to pull together an overarching approach to support the delivery of the University of East Anglia's 2030 Vision expansion plans.

Student Services and Sport (Confidentiality status: open)

The new Student Support Service was launched in time for the start of the academic year. This replaces the former Dean of Students' Office. There have been new appointments to the roles of Director of Student Services and Head of Wellbeing. There has been a significant strengthening of staffing and administrative procedures around student mental health. There have also been some physical refurbishments and changes to the layout of the Student Support Centre and an improved pooling of the administrative and clerical support staff in order to enhance delivery of services. All administrative processes are under review and IT development work has commenced to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Service. All staff of the former Dean of Students' Office and the Students' Union were closely involved in the changes, which have been well-received. There is now a strong positive working relationship and partnership forming between the Service and the Students' Union which will enable us to work together more closely and collaboratively to better support students.

The funding for student sport has been moved from the Students' Union to the UEA Sport Department, run from the Sportspark. A new Student Sport office has been put in place, just off the foyer of the Sportspark. The changes were in response to representations made by the presidents of student sports clubs at UEA about the need for improved co-ordination of student sport activities. The changes were agreed with the Students' Union and involve the transfer of a small number of staff from the Union to the University Sport Department. Students themselves will continue to play a key role in the management and administration of student sport through their sports clubs, a Student Sports Executive and a Student Sport Committee, but with the support of UEA Sport staff in the Sportspark.

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International (Confidentiality status: strictly confidential)

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Faculty of Science (Confidentiality status: open)

IOP Recognition

The Institute of Physics has granted recognition status to our BSc Physics and MPhys Physics degrees starting 2017. Recognition status can be awarded by the Institute to degrees which are too new to meet all the criteria for accreditation, but which satisfy the majority of criteria and contain at least 120 credits of core physics content. Students graduating from a recognised physics degree are eligible to become members of the Institute later in their careers.

Dr Martin Loftus, the Physics Course Director, said "It is great to get such recognition of our new Physics degrees in place just as we embark on this new and exciting venture. We are looking forward to our first cohort of physics students in 2017".

Integrated Science Student Laboratories (ISSL)

Following council approval to progress the new Integrated Science Student Laboratory building on the former site of Chancellors Drive annex, working with the consultants, a strategic project brief has now been finalised and agreed in principle by the Science Faculty Executive to move forward to the next stage of implementation. The project now will be handed to the Design Team on behalf of the University.

Research

Since we last reported in June, the Faculty of Science has been awarded a total of £8.1M in new awards.

The last few months' four new NERC grants have been awarded in Science. Dr Martin Johnson (ENV) lead a cross-Faculty NERC bid, with an award value of £3.2M, titled "Blue-Green Economy East which will last a total of 5 years. The award involves staff from ENV, DEV, NBS and TYN. Dr Lynn Dicks (BIO) was awarded £554k towards a project titled "Towards 'crop-pollinating' landscapes", to run over 5 years. Prof Jenny Gill (BIO) was awarded £583k for a project titled "Using phonological drivers of demography in conservation", to run over 3 years and finally, Dr Aldina Franco (ENV) was awarded £141k for a proof of concept project titled "Long range wireless devices for high-resolution monitoring of animal movement", to run over one year.

Other grants include:

- Dr P Dolman (ENV) has been awarded £1.1M from Birdlife International, for a project titled "Houbara Research and Conservation Programme". This is an award for a 5 year extension and supplement for ongoing Houbara project.
- Dr Charlie Wilson (TYN) has been awarded an EU grant valued at £868k, under Horizon 2020 lasting 4 years
- Dr David Aspero (MTH) has been awarded £297k from EPSRC, for a project titled "Iterated Forcing with Side Conditions and High Forcing Axioms".
- Prof Steve Meech (CHE) has been awarded £353k from EPSRC, for a project titled "Structural Dynamics in LOV Domain Photosensor Proteins".
- Prof Ian Clark (BIO) has been awarded £499k from the Dunhill Medical Trust, for a project titled "MicroRNAs are key mediators of cartilage destruction in osteoarthritis".

Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Confidentiality status: open)

After two years of work the Media Suite is now fully operational in time to receive students from the 2016 entry. The facility, housed in the Music Building, incorporates resources including six edit suites, recording studio, sound booth, PGR space and digital humanities research room, supports both teaching and research initiatives in the Faculty. An academic director, Dr Dan Foster (LDC) has been appointed to champion the space to ensure its use by colleagues across the Faculty.

September sees the launch of the Humanities Transitions project which is designed to support the student journey from pre-arrival to post-graduation. The programme of activities will foster peer to peer interactions and encourage students to take advantage of the full range of activities on offer. Following a pilot in PPL, for the first time this year the opportunity to study a language free of charge is on offer across the Faculty and we will be promoting this via the transitions materials.

In research the Faculty has achieved successes in collaborative research funding. Professor Rachel Potter (LDC) is PI on 'The impact of non-governmental writers' organizations on freedom of expression' involving national and international collaborations with other HEIs and with PEN. Our first success with the Global Challenges Research Fund comes via Prof Lyndsey Stonebridge (HIS), CI on 'Local Community Experiences of and Responses to Conflict-Induced Displacement from Syria: Views from Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey'. Council members can view the project website here: <https://refugeehosts.org/> In AMA Dr Keith Johnson is CI on 'The Eastmancolour Revolution and British Cinema 1955-85'.

Council members may also wish to know that an exhibition, Fiji: Life & Art in the Pacific, based on Professor Steve Hooper's (SRU) AHRC funded work will open at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts on October 14th.

Faculty of Medicine and Health (Confidentiality status: open)

This has been a very positive period for both the Medical School (MED) and Health Sciences School (HSC), with strong performances in the NSS and national league tables. In particular MED made a substantial improvement in NSS, ranking 2nd nationally for teaching, 4th for overall satisfaction and 3rd for academic support. This was mirrored in a 10 place rise to 15th in the Times/Sunday Times League Table.

There has been substantial recruitment to new academic positions in both schools. There will be 9 new ATR staff members arriving by Jan 2017, who have been complemented by appointments of 8 ATS staff across a range of disciplines including mental health and adult nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and paramedical sciences. With the move from bursaries to student loans across nursing and the allied health professions, the goal is to keep HSC firmly in the top 10 schools in the country, to continue to attract the best students. In that regard it was pleasing that entry tariff for incoming undergraduate students rose this year to one of its highest levels, and the school could have taken more students if it had not been capped by NHS commission numbers, so we are optimistic in facing the recruiting challenges for the 2017/18 entry.

In MED, 5 new ATR staff joined us in the past 3 months, including Narelle Barry as a Lecturer in vascular physiology, Ben Evans working on microbial antibiotic resistance, Paul Crichton on biometabolism and mitochondrial function, Mizanur Khondoker in medical statistics, and Inez Schoenmakers on vitamin D and bone metabolism. Peter Beazley joined as an ATS Senior Clinical Lecturer.

The FMH Faculty Executive Team has also seen change. Prof Aedin Cassidy will shortly step down as Associate Dean-Research, with Prof Colin Cooper taking over. Her deputy Prof Nick Steele will also step down in October. They have done an excellent job in preparing FMH for the next REF. We will also see Katrina Emerson take over as Associate Dean-Admissions, since Senior Faculty Manager Mark Hitchcock had been covering that area for the past year. Laura Bowater, newly promoted to ATS Professor this year, will take on the vacant role of Associate Dean Enterprise & Engagement.

The Executive Dean continues to be heavily involved in work to develop the Quadram Institute (QI), jointly leading its Science Strategy Group with Prof Richard Mithen from Institute of Food Research. The discussions have been very fruitful in bringing UEA, IFR and NNUH together to develop strategy around food, gut health and the microbiome, and how these factors can help promote health, prevent disease, and reduce the future burden on our increasingly over-committed NHS.

Faculty of Social Sciences (Confidentiality status: Open)

Heads of School

We have welcomed two new Heads of School in SSF. Professor Richard Andrews has joined the School of Education and Lifelong Learning. He succeeds Professor Nalini Boodhoo. His previous posts include professorships in English and Education at the universities of York, Hull, Middlesex and, most recently, UCL Institute of Education in London, where he was Dean of the Faculty of Children and Learning. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences; a member of the All Souls Group, Oxford on education policy; and a network member of the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge. His research interests include argumentation at school and university levels; writing development; rhetoric, poetry and poetics; learning theory; and research methodologies and methods for the digital age.

Professor Jonathan Dickens is now Head of the School of Social Work, succeeding Professor Gill Schofield. Prof Dickens was previously Director of Research in the School. Jonathan Dickens joined the School in 1998. Before coming to UEA, Jonathan worked in London as a local authority Social Worker and then as a Legal Officer, advising and acting on behalf of the local authority in court proceedings relating to children. From 1994 to 1997 he lived and worked in Romania, as a trainer and consultant to teams of Romanian social workers. His special interests include child care law and the social policy contexts of social work, particularly the international dimensions of these issues. Professor Peter Kunzlik has announced his resignation as Head of the School of Law. He will leave at the end of December and interim arrangements will be put in place while his successor can be appointed.

South East Network for Social Sciences ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership (SeNSS ESRC DTP)

It was confirmed in August that along with our partner institutions, we had been successful in being awarded a DTP by the ESRC. This is great news for UEA, particularly given that we have not been part of the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre network over the past five years. This has additional benefits (e.g. staff applying for ESRC funding can add studentships to grant applications; reputational gain etc.). This primarily affects SSF but also runs into all other Faculties via PPL, ENV and MED (and maybe other Schools as well).

PGR recruitment

We are very pleased to report a very successful year for recruitment of new PGR students to Schools in the Faculty. 46.5 fte full and part time students are expected to start in the next few weeks. This is of course very welcome, and supports the UEA 2030 vision, but does place considerable pressure on our existing resources, particularly in providing suitable work spaces for students.

Student recruitment

Following another successful year of student recruitment in SSF, we are exploring the challenges and benefits that are presented by the increased student recruitment opportunities ahead, particularly around space