

COU14D014

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**SUMMARY**

This document provides a bullet point high-level view across a range of the VC's activities and UEA issues since the October 2014 meeting of Council. It is based largely (but not exclusively) on the main strategic priorities as set out in UEA's Corporate Plan. During the VC's oral report to Council he will use this report as a basis to flag selected highlights or issues for Council's attention. However, Council Members should feel free to pick-up on anything in the paper and ask further questions if they wish to do so.

**ACTION**

Council is invited to:

**NOTE** the report from the VC, raising further questions and discussion points as appropriate

Admissions position (Confidentiality status: Confidential for two years (commercially sensitive))

**REDACTED DUE TO COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY**

League Tables (Confidentiality status: Open)

The new research league table will be published in the THES on Thursday December 18th

Learning and Teaching (Confidentiality status: Open)

- The UCU is in dispute with universities whose staff are members of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. They have a mandate for strike action and action short of a strike which originally extended to a boycott of assessment.
- The University is taking all action possible to mitigate the impact on students and has confirmed to appropriate staff groups that partial performance of contracts is not accepted and, as a consequence, colleagues taking action will be subject to 100% salary deduction.
- Following submission of UCU's pensions proposals to the employers action has been suspended until mid-January to allow both parties to continue to meet. On condition that any assessment backlog is dealt with promptly employers have agreed to make no deduction to salary from those who took part in the boycott.

#### Research (Confidentiality status: Open)

- The Research Excellence Framework (REF) results will be released to institutions in December. The timetable is currently:
  - Institution only data will be released under strict embargo on Tuesday 16 December
  - All institutions' data will be released under strict embargo on Wednesday 17 December
  - All information will be published on Thursday 18 December.
- We have plans in place to communicate the University's high level results to Council on 18 December (as soon after midnight as possible)
- Faculties and REN are currently auditing prospective impact case studies as part of preparations for the next REF. Once the audit is completed specific plans will be put in place to develop the impact and monitor progress.

#### Enterprise (Confidentiality status: Open)

- UEA was represented at the inaugural New Anglia LEP by staff from Research and Enterprise Services and the Adapt Group. 460 people were scheduled to attend.
- A UEA invention, Prof Val Pomeroy's stroke bike, has been accepted onto the Design Council's prestigious Design Leadership Programme. This will develop the design of the bike to prototype stage and increase its chances of successful launch to market.
- 9 applications have been successful in the first round of applications to the NRP Translation Fund. Over 300k of funding has been awarded.

#### Graduate Prospects:

- The flagship careers event, the Recruitment and Opportunities Fair, was held in the Sportspark recently with visitor numbers of ~1700. First time exhibitors included Apple and Crown Procurement Service. The Civil Service Faststream also brought their 'roadshow' to UEA for the first time. Footfall in CareerCentral shows significant usage increase over the same period last year, with an average of 435 unique visits per week. An average of 30 events and 122 individual advice appointments are being delivered per week. The week ending 21st November has seen a range of events for Global Entrepreneurship Week delivered across campus culminating in Sync the City, a 3-day hackathon, delivered in partnership with local and national creative/digital companies.

#### Capital/Estate (Confidentiality status: Open)

- The University's bid to HEFCE to establish an Institute for Big Data and Societal Change, in partnership with HP, Vodafone, Microsoft and Aviva has been unsuccessful. Formal feedback is awaited but early indications are that the level of matched funding in our proposal (£20m to secure £10m from HEFCE) was considered uncompetitive.
- The outcome of the STEM teaching building bid is expected in mid-December
- The Norwich Medical Research Building is now open and will be named the 'Bob Champion Research and Education Building'

#### Finance (Confidentiality status: Confidential for two years (commercially sensitive))

**REDACTED DUE TO COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY**

#### Student experience (Confidentiality status: Confidential for two years (commercially sensitive))

**REDACTED DUE TO COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY**

#### International (Confidentiality status: Open)

- VC addressed the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi. Hundreds of Indian University and business leaders had gathered to discuss Vision 2030 the Future of Indian Higher Education. India will be one of the world economic powerhouses

over the next 50 years and it has the challenge of need to educate an additional 45 million students.

- Minister Greg Clarke announced Generation UK India at the FICCI conference. This initiative seeks to place 25,000 UK students on short term internships or teaching assistantships in India. VC will be encouraging our students to take advantage of this and in doing so be great ambassadors for UEA, just as the 500 or so our Indian alumni that we current have are great ambassadors for us. VC met some of these at an alumni dinner hosted by the Director of the British Council, Richard Everitt, in India at his residence in New Delhi. Richard is from Norwich.
- VC hosted an Alumni event in Shanghai with around 80 of our Chinese alumni. Here we were joined by Professor Zhu, former president of Peking University, former Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Science and Honorary Graduate of UEA (2008). Many of our alumni holding leading positions in academia, business or government in China and this is a testament to all of us, staff and students, who work together to create such a strong and supportive learning environment on our campus.
- VC also met with Directors of Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Urban Environment and Institute of Zoology and with the current VP of the Chinese Academy of Sciences who encouraged UEA to use its CAS links more to help increase research reputation.
- New Dialogue groups have been set up in UEA for India, China, Malaysia, USA and Japan to help strengthen our reputation and reach in these regions

#### Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Confidentiality status: Open)

- New School Structures are bedding down as HUM has moved from 8 to four Schools of study.

#### Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (Confidentiality status: open except final bullet point)

- The new Dean of the Medical School (Professor Michael Frenneaux) takes up post Jan 1 2015. He is currently Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Aberdeen
- Confidence shown by the NHS in our School of Health Sciences has been underlined by proposed further increase in commissions (by about 10%) for the 2015 intake
- MED students have reported themselves as the best prepared for their first medical post in the UK in a survey undertaken and published by the General Medical Council
- The new Norwich Medical Research Building opened on November 17
- **Final bullet point REDACTED**

#### Faculty of Science (Confidentiality status: Open)

- Professor Bob Watson from the School of Environmental Sciences recently received a United Nations award for services to Science, the prestigious Champions of the Earth Award. Professor Watson is also the Director for Strategic Developments for the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.
- Science has had notable success in achievement within the Athena Swan framework to Bronze standard within the schools of Pharmacy, Biology and most recently Environmental Sciences. The School of Biological Sciences is looking to advance to the Silver standard in the November round, with the School of Chemistry submitting at the same time for the Bronze Award.
- NERC and BBSRC success rates, by value, over the last year in science were 27% for NERC (against an average of less than 20%) and for BBSRC 39% (against a 27% average). The School of Biological Sciences in particular was given a special commendation by BBSRC for its very high 46% success rate.
- Two new Heads of School have recently been appointed. Professor Mark Searcey takes up the role as Head of School for Chemistry from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 for a period of one year, whilst continuing in his role as Head of School for Pharmacy. Professor Kevin Hiscock has recently taken up the role of Acting Head of School for Environmental Sciences whilst a permanent post is recruited to.
- The Faculty is looking to launch a number of new degrees over the next two years. The first, ready for 2015 entry, will be a new Foundation Year degree in Mathematics to complement and act as a feeder to their existing degree programmes. Three more are planned for 2016, including two new degrees running out of the School of Pharmacy and a one new degree in Engineering.

- We are awaiting the outcome of the HEFCE bid for £5M in capital funding to contribute towards the new STEM teaching building, the decision of which is due in December. However, plans for the new building are still progressing to enable the building to be ready by January 2017.

Faculty of Social Sciences (Confidentiality status: open)

- Recruitment was not as successful as predicted for 2014-15 but applicant data suggest that 2015-16 is much more buoyant than previous years, with applications up across all areas by more than 20% -43% (home/international, UG/PG).
- PTES results were very positive for SSF overall with the majority of Schools performing well, showing improvements on the previous year and often placing ahead of the UEA average. UEA's scores in the related subject areas were also frequently ahead of the sector and Russell group. Whilst DEV, EDU and NBS in particular achieved very positive results, the exception was LAW which scored less well highlighting several areas with room for improvement which are being addressed.
- NSS results overall show performance in SSF is positive and many Schools have consistently increased or maintained scores across the themes. This year we ranked in the top sixth of institutions on all or most main themes for the Business Studies, Economics, Law and Psychology subject areas. However, the results also indicate some particular areas for attention including DEV (Human and Social Geography) and SWK which experienced some considerable decline in scores albeit from a low number of students surveyed. We ranked outside of the top sixth of the table for a numbers of themes for Teacher Training, Sports Science, Others in Social Studies, Management Studies, Human and Social Geography and Accounting.
- A financially challenging year for the Faculty but we are on schedule to meet our financial obligations to the bottom line.

Norwich Research Park (Confidentiality Status: final bullet point is confidential):

- PVC-RE is leading in discussions with the Sainsbury Laboratory. A roadmap has now been put in place for formalising our partnership. Details of the proposed agreement will be brought to Council in due course.
- First Leaders meeting has taken place (24<sup>th</sup> Nov), chaired by VC
- **Final bullet point REDACTED**

VC Events and Communications (Confidentiality Status: Open)

- VC has now held 'conversation' events with: all staff and students (available on line); ARM; REN; PLN; HRD; FMH New Staff; and hosted a Student Lunch. Further events are planned with other divisions and Faculties and our students.