

COU14D035

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Admissions position (Confidentiality status: confidential until 31 October 2015)

Redacted

Consultation on Strategic Vision and next UEA Plan (Confidentiality status: open)

On February 16th, the University launched its consultation exercise on the University's strategic vision and UEA Plan for 2016-2020. Stands were erected and staffed at several locations around the campus, including the Library, Students' Union, INTO, Julian Study Centre Café etc. Approximately 1,500 individual comments were made by students and staff as part of the exercise. See Appendix B.

Learning and Teaching (Confidentiality status: open)

ET discussed the 'Student Success' chapter of the new UEA plan at its Strategy Day on 4th February. A particular focus for discussion was the possible implications of digital technologies for the delivery of teaching and the enhancement of learning.

ET has committed to improve our commitment on the return of assessed coursework from 20 working days to 15 working days.

PVC-Academic is chairing a review of the Academic Advisor System which is due to report to LTC in March.

The Government has announced a PGT grant scheme to run in 2015/16 ahead of the planned introduction of a new loan scheme for future years. UEA has been allocated 107 awards to co-fund PGT grants, but is expected to match fund with £5,000 per student from our own funds.

Research (Confidentiality status: open)

- The University's first strategy specifically for postgraduate research students, the *Research Degree Education Strategy*, was considered and agreed by Senate in February 2015. This strategy has been developed in consultation with all Faculties and with students through the involvement of UUEAS' new Postgraduate Education Officer.
- PGR process and quality improvements have been made in a wide variety of areas, including admissions and lifecycle processing and updating of the research student regulatory framework. Management information is now available more easily to Schools and Faculties, and data quality has substantially improved.
- A direction of travel for postgraduate research student recruitment was approved by the Postgraduate Research Executive and detailed operational planning is being developed.
- Dissemination of REF2014 results continues. REN are working with Faculties to promote the open access and HEFCE requirements for next REF and to undertake reviews by Faculty of impact readiness.
- Over £3M has been awarded to UEA from NIHR for two UEA led clinical trials both led by Dr Andrew Wilson, EME-TIPAC (The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation of Treating Idiopathic Pulmonary

fibrosis with the Addition of Co-trimoxazole, £1,372,865) and ARISSA-UK (The At-Risk Registers Integrated into primary care to Stop Asthma crises in the UK study, £1,819,764)

Enterprise (Confidentiality status: open)

- £50k HEIF Strategic funds have been allocated to support Naturemetrics, a team combining molecular biology and environmental monitoring skills. If the project continues to progress this could be the university's first spin-out from the school of Biological Sciences.
- The ESRC awarded the University £730k over 3.8 years to help create impact from economic and social science research at UEA. The delivery board, chaired by Prof Jacqueline Collier, has been established, one new relationships manager post has been created and filled and a call for projects has been launched with academics.
- UEA spin-out Spectral Edge have announced their Eyeteq image enhancement technology has been made available for integration into consumer set top boxes which can dramatically improve the TV viewing experience of the estimated 4% of the world's population that suffers from colour blindness.
- The Careers Service hosted the first ever 'Global Opportunities Week', designed to raise the global aspirations of students. The week included 17 events offering opportunities for students to hear from and network with multi-national employers. Over 400 students were involved. The Virtual Global Careers Fair continues for two weeks, finishing on 27th February, featuring 13 exhibitors.
- Julie Schofield, Joint Head of Careers – Business Engagement recently met with senior representatives from IBM to explore how the UEA Careers Service could help in the recruitment of UEA graduates. IBM has agreed to participate in a range of events in 2015 and we are exploring the possibility of creating an IBM mentoring cluster to assist UEA students.

Capital/Estate (Confidentiality status: Open)

Following on from the Council Strategy Conference on 1st December 2014 several initiatives are taking place to provide the University with built assets that will reflect its hopes and aspirations.

- A campus-wide contract for preventative maintenance which will maximise asset life is being tendered. A full and comprehensive tender will require careful financial investment planning. A full roll out of this tender will maximise operation and ensure legal compliance and effective risk management.
- An Estate Plan to enable the UEA Plan is being developed. It is planned that this Estate Plan will work in collaboration with the academic plan and a financial investment plan to make the physical assets fit the long term vision of the University.
- The Asset Condition Survey is due for completion end of March. This is the Survey which will provide the University with the knowledge of how much investment will be needed to maintain the University in a 'nearly new' condition (condition B standard as per Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Industry Standard). The outcome of the Survey will have to be considered in conjunction with the Estate plan as described above to ensure the most effective strategic use of necessary financial investment.
- The tender for the Residential development on the Blackdale Site has been concluded with the development of circa 500 bedspaces planned for September 2016 commencing on site this summer.

Finance (Confidentiality status: Open)

Finance: Latest forecast outturn for 2014/15

- The original budget for 2014/15 (approved in June 2014) showed a deficit of £0.6m. The updated forecast approved by Council on 1 December 2014 and reported to HEFCE, revised this to a deficit of £3.5m, including £3m in respect of a grant to the Students Union to fund refurbishment of Union House. The £3m had previously been included as capital expenditure within the original plan, so the change in approach represented an accounting technicality rather than any change in the cash position.

- The latest updated forecast, reported to ET in February shows little overall change from the position I reported to Council in January. The forecast deficit has changed marginally from £2.6m to £2.7m; which is £2.1m adverse to the original budget. Taking into account the £3m adjustment for change in approach to Union House refurbishment costs, the latest forecast represents a £0.9m favourable variance against the original budget position.

Student experience (Confidentiality status: open)

The National Student Survey is currently live and we are working to ensure as a good a response rate as possible.

The Students' Union submitted their annual Student Experience survey with 16 recommendations and the University has been able to respond positively and commit to the majority of the recommendations.

PVC Academic held an Open Forum in the Students' Union on 17th February where students could ask questions and raise issues around assessment and feedback policy, which was well received.

Partnerships (Confidentiality status: Confidential: commercially sensitive)

Redacted due to commercial sensitivity

Higher Education Landscape/the National Picture (Confidentiality status: open)

All political parties will be involved in hustings on campus on Friday 6 March. In the meantime the Labour Party have proposed £6,000 fees from September 2016 with government filling the funding gap this generates. They have also proposed an above inflation boost to the maintenance grant for students from low income households.

HEFCE has announced the funding algorithm for research funding which will be a 4:1 ratio for 4* and 3* research. There will be a real terms decrease in the funding for teaching and some additional capital funding has been announced (both formula based Teaching/Research Capital Infrastructure and competitive funds).

The Diamond Review on Efficiency and Effectiveness published a report on 26th February and there was a review of OFFA launched on the same date. Both are currently being considered by the University.

Faculty of Medicine and Health (Confidentiality status: open)

The Bob Champion Research and Education building, located adjacent to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital on UEA's developing west campus, was officially opened by Bob Champion (founder of the Bob Champion Cancer Trust) on February 23. Other major funders have included the Wolfson Foundation, BBSRC, the Norfolk Bone and Joint Appeal and NNUH

Faculty of Science (Confidentiality status: open)

Impact Accelerator

The ESRC Impact Accelerator Award account was launched on Feb 2nd. The internal (<https://intranet.uea.ac.uk/ren/impact/esrc-iaa>) and external (<https://www.uea.ac.uk/research/our-research/esrc-iaa>) webpages have gone live. All UEA staff have been informed of the launch via the weekly staff@UEA bulletin and ARM will be using the screens around the campus to stimulate additional interest.

Leverhulme Research Centre bid

Prof Andy Jordan from ENV will lead a bid with Thomas Sikor from DEV and colleagues in Sheffield for a 'Leverhulme Centre for More Open Governance'. The bid follows a two stage selection process, and is for £10M in funding over 10 years. Competition will be tough with possibly only two or three centres funded which propose world class science that is interdisciplinary and most importantly game-changing.

Research Awards

This last month see's Science winning two new NERC Research Grants. This first valued at £1 million is joint with the JIC, but the collaboration is lead by Dr Matt Hutchings (BIO), with co PI's Dr Doug Yu (BIO), Professor Colin Murrell (ELSA) and Barrie Wilkinson (JIC), funding Scientists looking to ants for the key to new antibiotic discoveries. The second valued at £0.5 million is led by Dr Jenny Gill (BIO), in collaboration with the University of Iceland and the University of Aveiro based upon **Environmental and demographic drivers of migratory strategies in birds.**

Careers Fairs

February sees the culmination of a set of school-specific careers fairs across SCI, highlighting career path options and providing students with many networking opportunities.

APPENDIX B TO VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
COU14D035 / DIVIDER A

