

Minutes of Syndicate meeting 23rd February 2015 1.00pm Furness TV Room

Apologies: Wlodek Tych, Ruth Alcock, Dermot O'Reilly, Clare Riding, Harry Latham

Attending: Bev Whitaker, Olga Gomez-Cash (Chair), Jonny Huck, Lorna Harrison (guest), Jane Silvester, Josh Sendall, Jing Lu, Bev Evans, Lucas Gent

Matters arising

Colleges Review

Much discussion took place on the two most contentious parts of the Reviews recommendations, i.e. the changes to the Assistant Dean Position, and the extra resources for the College and the proposed changes to the Administrator position.

The proposal to include more welfare in the Assistant Dean position was discussed, with both Lucas and Josh (Furness Assistant Deans) voicing their concerns about this. BW reported that at this terms CSEC meeting concerns were put forward that this would be a conflict of interest with the role.

LG advised that he had done a similar role at his previous University where welfare was a large part and the pressures and conflicts were difficult to deal with.

The view of the meeting was that this would be a conflict of interest and would need more definition before any agreement could be made.

The increase in College Resources was approved, as the Colleges do require more resources to keep meeting the University strategy, and to be more pro-active rather than re-active. However, the models suggested by the Review were rejected at a meeting of Principals and Administrators. The proposal for the current Administrators to continue doing the work they do, but with more responsibility for the Strategic aims of the University, and with a part time/shared Assistant was to be taken forward to the Review committee. The models currently in the Senate papers are not acceptable to the Colleges.

A discussion ensued on the welfare recommendations in the Review. BW reported that there was a general feeling that the students now had too many people to 'go to'. It was also thought that the College Advisor system as it is currently does not work. Pendle College believe their model is working where they have 5/6 advisors who are paid an honorarium and hold drop in sessions which are advertised to the students. This may be a model worth considering. JH advised that he agreed the Advisor system is not as effective as it used to be. He did state that the First Year College Reps were a great idea, and had

made contact with an advisee he had been trying to contact much easier that it would have been without them.

College Day. 20th June.

BW gave a quick overview of what is being planned for this event. We anticipate having a 'fun' day with stalls (coconut shy, splat the rat type of things) maybe and inflatable and BBQ/ice-cream/candy floss. This would be open to both Furness staff and students, with families being welcome. The evening event we see as being the Summer Term Jam in Furness.

Open Day

Open Days – College participation.

It has been requested that Colleges get more involved with Open Days, and a general proposal was circulated by Dan Barcroft. Colleges will be asked to choose one of the Open Days to participate in. They anticipate JCR/Staff getting involved, and are asking the Colleges to put on an event for the visitors, who will be made honorary members of that College for a day. This is to 'showcase' the Colleges. BW has suggested that Furness be involved in the Open Day on 20th June, which would coincide with the College Day. We await a response from Dan Barcroft.

Senate

Olga went through the Agenda items for Senate.

The items on the Agenda requiring a decision are:

College Review – Panel Report

- (i) **comment** on and **endorse** the College Review report and recommendations and;
- (ii) **note** both the consultation arrangements for developing the action plan for approval by Council and the means by which the plan will be implemented and reviewed.

BW asked about the revision to the models. If the new model proposed by the Colleges is not a recommendation, can this be voted against, or can approval for the extra resources be approved with a caveat that a workable model is still required?

Research Institutes

- (1) **approve** the direction of travel for the development of the multidisciplinary Research Institutes at Lancaster, including the two examples as detailed in the papers

(2) **note** that operating budgets and other planning matters will be determined through UPRG and the planning process.

OPEN ACCESS POLICY

PROPOSAL (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)): the Senate is invited to **approve** the Open Access policy for implementation from 1 May 2015.

OG-C reported that a lot of the Senate items appear to be mainly from new 'D' floor members of staff.

The meeting closed.

Next meeting Monday 27th April 2015 at 1.00pm