

**Graduate College
Syndicate Meeting
12.00 noon Monday 7th November 2016
Graduate College Social Hub**

Notes

Present:

Claire Povah (College Principal), Jane Hulland (College Admin/Manager), Paul Dolby (College Vice-Principal), Leif Isaksen (College Court Representative), Nathan O'Connor (Assistant Dean), Muren Zhang (Assistant Dean), Naji Bakhti (Assistant Dean), Pavel Bogolyubov (College Dean), Anna Lewis (College Wellbeing Officer), Hilary Simmons (Head of Colleges & Student Life), Joy Payne (Accommodation Manager), Lucyann Featherstone (Senior Accommodation Manager), Rob Larson (Assistant Dean), Luke Davis (Student Communications Manager), Priya Thomas (PGBoard Welfare), Mike Pelz (PGBoard Sports), Yanisa Thanomrod (PGBoard Events), Josh Kingston (PGBoard Chair)

1. Apologies

- Helena Weith (PGBoard)

2. Introductions

- The Principal welcomed new members to the College and Syndicate.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

- Agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

- Representative on University Court - Leif Isaksen was confirmed as the College's new court representative, joining Jess Walmsley who would continue for a second term. It was noted that the next meeting of University Court was scheduled for the end of January 2017.

5. Graduate College Review

- Copies of the College Review report and implementation plan were circulated.
- The Principal reported that work on implementing the recommendations would take place over the course of the next academic year.
- At this point, Syndicate members divided into two groups, each group considered the implementation plan and were tasked with considering (i) how to take forward the recommendations and (ii) who should lead on each recommendation.

- In discussing the recommendations a number of opinions were expressed. Firstly around the college brand. The LUGrad brand was not popular with staff or students. The Principal reported that historically colleges had been named after local areas, and this was something Syndicate was asked to consider. (See item 8 below for more on College Branding).
- Secondly, the recommendation to split the college along PGR/PGT lines was questioned by the students present. A number of opinions were expressed as follows: *College enables Masters Students to meet others and socialise, PhDs are in a minority in residence, so would deliberately splitting them from the Masters community be useful or more isolating? Personally, I would be more favourable toward a disciplinary split rather than PGR/PGT, but the interdisciplinary nature of Graduate is also very academically beneficial.* During discussions the Principal explained that college members included both on-campus and off-campus students. PB wondered if this would be an opportunity for the college itself to offer funding and specific training. The Principal explained that this could be considered though in partnership with other areas of the University.
- Welcome Week for continuers - this year we opened up many of the events to continuing students, which was well received by both new and continuing students.
- College Size - optimum size is said to be 400-500 and the college has over 900 residents. Syndicate questioned how the optimum size figure had been arrived at? HS informed the meeting that this figure came from The Collegiate Way conference held in Durham in 2014 and had been pitched as the optimum size for student engagement. JK suggested that the challenge was not around the number of students in the college, it was the fact that they were not receiving college communications. Further discussions took place on this (see below).
- Reorganisation of Deanery system in Graduate College. Disciplinary demands on the Deanery had declined. Assistant Deans will still have their 'duty weeks' where they are responsible for drop ins, checking the deanery system, and managing communication between the college officers and the deanery, however their time will also be filled with taking the lead on various college projects aimed at building and fostering the Graduate College community.
- Review of the role and remit of the PGBoard – the Principal explained that the new PG Board Chair would take forward this recommendation.

Senate Papers

- The Principal reported on the refresh of the University Strategy. It was noted that the current strategy does not mention the colleges. Discussion took place around whether specific reference to the colleges should be proposed as part of the refresh. It was noted that the colleges were referenced in the Education Strategy and it was suggested that the all nine colleges should consider feeding this into the strategy refresh if they agreed on the need for inclusion. The Principal agreed to raise this with the other colleges. **ACTION CP.**

6. Student Consultancy Projects

- The Dean provided Syndicate members with an overview of the student projects which were due to commence. Two undergraduate student teams from the Management School, facilitated by two of the ADs had been tasked with addressing college challenges around student engagement and student communications. The project teams would be consulting with all college stakeholders.

7. College Branding

- Members of the Syndicate suggested that a graphic symbol would be good, either as an addition to the LUGrad brand, or as a replacement. It was suggested that the graphic symbol would help to align the college with the eight undergraduate colleges. The Dean suggested that it would be good if the logo reflected something 'typically British'. The Principal reported on advice taken regarding the college name, any new name would have to align with a place rather than a person. Westmorland had been suggested in preliminary discussions – there already exists a shield for Westmorland which incorporates an apple tree and a Herdwick sheep, it was noted that this links in well with the college's own bar, the Herdwick.

8. Any Other Business

- The Vice-Principal informed Syndicate that the 2017 Post Graduate Research Conference 2017 would take place on 6th May 2017. He asked for volunteers to work with the college on the conference, JK put himself forward and it was noted that other volunteers were welcome to join the planning group. It was noted that the conference would take place on the same day as the Communities Activities Day and we would be linking in through the 3Minute Thesis section of the conference.

9. Date and time of next Syndicate

The next meeting of the College Syndicate will take place on Monday 8th May 2017 at midday (12pm).

Jane Hulland
Syndicate Secretary

2nd December 2016