

Summary of 2018 January Alumni Board Meeting

Alumni Board Chairman Nick Segal hosted the January Board meeting at Freshfields in London. Dr Robert Easton, the recently arrived Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs, provided the Board with an overview of his career trajectory along with his perceptions of the University and the Portfolio he oversees (Development, Alumni Relations, Public Affairs and International Strategy). Dr Easton was forthcoming about both the challenges and opportunities currently facing the University and the unique role that alumni can play in supporting the wider University.

Board member Jackie Ranawake (St Peter's 1988) reported on the outcomes of a Board Working Group to look at the alumni lifecycle through the lens of some archetypal alumni profiles. The next step with the project is to expand on the exercise and in particular, identify the milestones in the lifecycle to better understand where the University might offer relevant resources, programmes and communications.

Christine Fairchild, Director of Alumni Relations reported on findings from a qualitative survey comparing Alumni Relations programmes across competitor institutions. This provided insights into how other universities (especially those in the US) structure their activities and measure their alumni engagement.

With the pending retirement of 4 Board members, the Board discussed the current mix of alumni and internals on the Board and agreed to increase the number of alumni seats. The nominations process for gathering applications went live in early April and closes in late May. Decisions will be communicated in early August.

Before adjourning, the Board discussed two applications for new alumni groups, approving the application from Syria but declining the one from Malawi as there weren't enough alumni in the region to warrant a formal group.

For more information on the Board and its meetings, please contact Christine Fairchild, Director of Alumni Relations, christine.fairchild@alumni.ox.ac.uk.