

Summary of the Alumni Board Meeting on 14 September 2018

Board Chair Nick Segal welcomed Board members to the meeting and invited the 5 new Board members in attendance to introduce themselves and provide a brief overview of their backgrounds. Nick Segal expressed the Board's thanks for the new members' commitment to alumni relations and excitement at their joining the Board.

The newly appointed Treasurer, James Dancer, provided an update on the OUS Funds and Christine Fairchild, Director of Alumni Relations, further explained that the distribution of student awards would be discussed at the next meeting to explore how the funds might have greater impact.

Dr Mike Glover, Director of Planning and Council Secretariat made a presentation to the Board on the University's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and its specific priorities. Dr Glover explained the process for preparing and gathering input on the Plan through internal consultation. The Board requested and highlighted the need for earlier consultation with the Board in future so that proper consideration could be given to the alumni perspective.. Dr Glover reviewed each of the Plan's priorities and the Board noted that a number of them could be enhanced by alumni support (in particular the sourcing of paid internships for students). It was agreed that a matrix detailing each of the priorities mapped to potential alumni input would be developed and circulated so that Board members might comment and volunteer to contribute via working groups where possible. Overall, the Board felt there should be clearer calls to action for alumni to contribute to the University's long-term health and development.

Richard Sheahan, Principal Consultant at Forrester Research was then invited to update the Board on the Alumni Journey Mapping project currently underway. Forrester has been working with the Alumni Office to train alumni volunteers to conduct phone interviews with a random selection of alumni to understand better how they perceive their relationship with the University in all its different aspects. The results of this exercise will lead to a more comprehensive understanding of how alumni relate to the wider University throughout their lives: the strengths and weaknesses and opportunities for enhancements. The Board discussed concerns around the size of the sample (will it be representative), the length of time it is taking to move the project along and how the findings will be operationalised.

The Board discussed its overall remit, its current projects and how best to structure its work going forward. Members agreed that defining the alumni journey and contributing to the University's strategic priorities would remain its main focus for now and that Board members would be given the opportunity to further contribute through defined Working Groups.

The Board's next meeting will be on 29 January 2019.