

Summary of the September 2020 Alumni Board meeting

The Board convened via Zoom and welcomed 4 new members, Christian Brodie, Luis Gomes, Marco Janezic and Chantal Sathi, along with the new leadership team: James Dancer (Chair), Judith Tew (Deputy Chair) and Maureen O'Neill (Treasurer). Robert Easton joined the meeting and provided an update on the impact of COVID on the University. As Dr Easton will be stepping down from his role in November, the Board offered their sincere thanks for his support and leadership. After an update from Prof Nick Brown in his capacity as member of Conference of Colleges, the Board moved into a presentation from the incoming leadership team on the proposed new strategy for the Board. The Chair offered an outline of a new mission statement, suggestions around making the Board more effective and raising its visibility as a strategic partner across the collegiate university. In particular, the leadership team identified 5 areas where the Board might focus their attention: alumni groups, alumni engagement, support for other entities across the University, and infrastructure (systems, data, etc). These were then prioritised into 2 Working Groups, Alumni Engagement and Alumni Networks. In addition, the Board agreed that the following measures would be taken to enhance its work; more frequent communication and informal meetings in-between Board meetings, clear objectives and metrics aligned both with the strategic objectives of the Alumni Office and ultimately the University. Finally, the Board reviewed two applications for official group status, one from alumni in Shenzhen and one from Guangzhou. Both were approved.