

## DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT THE COMMITTEE'S SPRING TERM MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

JCCN/17/05

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION, 9 November 2017

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 November 2017

PRESENT Ms Sarah Buck (Chair)

#### University Representatives

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Steve Smith

Registrar and Secretary, Mr M Shore-Nye

Deputy Registrar and Director of People Services & Global Partnerships, Ms J Marshall

Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs, Ms J Chafer

Director Campus Services, Mr P Attwell

#### Trade Union Representatives

Dr B Cooper (UCU)

Mr A Holcombe (Unison)

Mr Chris Forest (Unite)

#### Also in attendance

Assistant Director of Human Resources, Mr A Johnson

HR Policy Adviser, Emma Hilton

#### Apologies

Provost, Professor Janice Kay

Chief Financial Officer, Mr A Connolly

Dr E Lygo (UCU)

#### 17.07 Minutes

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 (JCCN/17/03).

#### 17.08 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 17.09 Trade Union Engagement Report

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of People Services (JCCN/17/04), covering engagement since the last meeting of the Committee in February 2017.

The UCU representative advised the Committee that the current consultation arrangements were working effectively and that productive, informal, dialogue was taking place at the monthly trade union meetings with People Services.

The Committee formally noted the report as a true and accurate record of trade union engagement during the period February 17 to November 2017.

#### 17.10 Vice-Chancellor's Update

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee on the following issues of importance to the University.

- (a) General Election outcome: The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee of the important University and the Trade Unions continue to work closely together. The Vice-Chancellor thanked all three Unions for their spirit in working together and acknowledged that although there will be areas of significant differences in the future that there needs to be continued open dialogue.

- (b) Speak out on harassment. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee that the University wanted to assure anyone who is being harassed or is experiencing inappropriate behaviour that there is somewhere else to turn rather than their line manager. The University welcomed the support of Trade Unions in promoting this message.
- (c) NSS results. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee that the University was responding to the disappointing NSS results.
- (d) Differentiation. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee of the challenges and opportunities presented by the differentiation developing within the HE sector.
- (e) University Finances. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee of the uncertainty created by the current national debate on student fees and the need for the University to consider a range of future outcomes. The University needed to be able to continue its investment in the student experience and facilities. It was also essential that the University continues to grow international student numbers.
- (f) USS. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee of the financial challenges which the current valuation of USS was seeking to address. The Pension Regulator had written to USS advising it that its proposed assumptions should be more prudent. The University offered to work with Trade Unions to communicate these challenges to USS members. The University hoped that an agreement could be reached with UCU on changes to stabilize the scheme.

In response, trade union representatives expressed their concern about USS.

The Trade Union representatives asked about the University's international strategy. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Committee that the University of Exeter currently has 19% international students whereas the Russell Group average is 26%. The Vice-Chancellor also discussed the possibilities of teaching students overseas with Partner institutions and the Deputy Registrar and Director of People Services & Global Partnerships summarised that opportunities for overseas partnerships and joint degrees.

#### 17.11 Any other business

The Chair formally thanked Mr Richard Atkins for his work as former Chair of the Committee.

The Chair ensured there were no other items to raise under Any Other Business before closing the meeting.