



REGENT'S
UNIVERSITY LONDON

Board of Trustees Bulletin

July 2019



Board Bulletin – July 2019

The Board of Trustees met on 17th July 2019 for what proved to be a fascinating meeting.

Unconscious Bias Training

Before the meeting, the Board and Directorate had a training session led by a consultant, Irfaan Arif, on the effect of unconscious bias in relation to equality and diversity. As part of this we looked at how and why stereotypes can influence our unintentional preferences and so, if left unchecked, affect our decisions, judgements and behaviours. This was a slightly shortened version of training that the selection panel had participated in before interviewing for our new Vice Chancellor, and the Board found it as useful and thought-provoking as the selection panel had done.

Budget and Five Year Forecast

In advance of the new accounting year, which runs from August to July, the Board approved the budget for 2019/20. Although we have approved a budget deficit for next year of £975k, this can be contained within our financial reserves. Looking forward, by a combination of growing student numbers, increased fee levels and cost reduction, we are planning to return to surplus in 2020/21.

Strategic Plan 2019-2024

We have now approved the final version of the Strategic Plan, which will be published very shortly. The last few pieces of the jigsaw were the five-year financial forecast, which formed part of the budget, and a list of key performance indicators. The Board will be monitoring these closely to make sure that the University stays on target to meet its goals.

Printer/Copier/Scanner Contract

Although office printers may not normally be the most fascinating of subjects, the Board was pleased to see that the new contract will offer substantial savings for Regent's of around £80,000 a year.

Welcomes and Farewells

The Board welcomed Prof Kevin Bonnett to the meeting as Consulting Provost on an interim basis. Kevin is no stranger to Regent's, having held two previous interim positions here. He will be supporting Prof Geoff Smith as he settles in as our new Vice Chancellor.

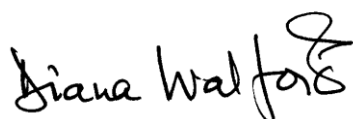
Many of the Trustees joined staff at the recent Staff Conference to say farewell to Prof Aldwyn Cooper on his retirement as Vice Chancellor. It was wonderful that the Chancellor was able to award Aldwyn an Honorary Senior Fellowship at this event, marking his huge contribution to Regent's, including his key role in turning Regent's College into a university able to award its own degrees.

At this meeting we took the opportunity, at what was his last Board meeting, to wish Prof Simon Jarvis a happy retirement and to thank him for all he has done for Regent's ahead of his official retirement at the end of August.

We also wished Prof Michael Luger well for the future, as he leaves us at the end of July.

We hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to seeing you at events in the autumn.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Walford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

Dr Diana Walford

Chair of the Board of Trustees