



Board Bulletin – December 2019

The Board of Trustees met on 11th December with a packed agenda.

Moving out of Marylebone to Park Campus

Staff and students will already have had an email from the Vice-Chancellor about the closure of the Marylebone Campus. This was an important decision for the Board, and not one that was taken lightly. We know there will be some unavoidable disruption for staff and students in the short-term (though we hope the move can be made as smooth as possible) but we are confident the longer-term gains will be well worth it.

We have taken this decision, so we can:

- Bring our staff and students together more effectively;
- Fully support collaboration across all our disciplines;
- Invest in our student experience in an efficient way, where the benefits can be realised by our entire community; and
- Significantly reduce our operating expenses, allowing those funds to be better spent on both our staff and students.

For those staff affected, we would encourage you to engage in the relocation process, which is being led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of HASS, Professor Paul Ryan, and Head of School, Gill Stark, with support from the Estates & Facilities Team.

Annual report from the Audit & Risk Committee and approval of Financial Statements

The Board received an overview of the items discussed at the Audit and Risk Committee over the last year and the assurances provided to the Board on these items. The Board then

approved the Financial Statements for 2018/19. These will be available on the website shortly.

Overview of Projects

The Vice-Chancellor gave us an overview of where we are on the three main projects in our strategy – shaping the portfolio; developing a Hallmark Pedagogy; and ‘People’, including culture change and the single academic structure. We were particularly pleased to see the progress that has been made on developing a new Hallmark Pedagogy – what makes learning and teaching at Regent’s different from at other universities. I should like to thank Professor Mark Allinson for leading on this, and the many staff from across Regent’s who are contributing to its development. We are looking forward to seeing the final version at our next meeting in March.

Internationalisation Strategy and Partnerships

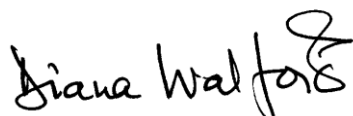
The Board noted the new Internationalisation Strategy and we have asked for an update on partnerships for our next meeting.

Student Retention

We also discussed the latest figures on student retention. Although the headline figures appear to have improved slightly, with fewer students dropping out of higher education altogether without a qualification, the Board is concerned at the number of students who do not complete their studies at Regent’s but transfer to other Universities or leave with exit awards. We know that action is being taken to address the issue, but we are really determined to see improvements in this area.

Following the Board meeting, we joined staff and students for the excellent Christmas Carol Celebration. Our thanks to Rachel Azzopardi, Head of Catering and Events, for organising this.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to wish all staff a very happy festive season and a Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Walford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the name.

Dr Diana Walford

Chair of the Board of Trustees