

# Northeastern London Board Meeting

## 19th October 2022

### Minutes

1. Welcome & Apologies (incl. Declaration of conflicts)
  - 1.1. In Attendance:
    - 1.1.1. Thomas Nedell (TN, Chair)
    - 1.1.2. Dr Deanna Raineri (DR, Vice Chair)
    - 1.1.3. Rob Farquharson (CEO, Secretary)
    - 1.1.4. Martin Smith (MS)
    - 1.1.5. Dr Gregory Abowd (GA)
    - 1.1.6. Diane MacGillivray (DM)
    - 1.1.7. Patricia Wood (PW)
    - 1.1.8. Darren Campili (DC, independent/non-executive member)
    - 1.1.9. Julietta Dexter (JD, independent/non-executive member )
    - 1.1.10. Jonnie Goodwin (JG, independent/non-executive member)
    - 1.1.11. *Saxony Anders (SA, SU President, invited to attend)*
    - 1.1.12. *Professor Scott Wildman (SW, Interim Academic Dean, invited to attend)*
    - 1.1.13. *Prof A C Grayling (ACG, Founder and Principal, invited to attend)*
    - 1.1.14. *Camille Klutz-Leach (CKL, invited to attend)*
    - 1.1.15. *Surgil Khan (SK, invited to attend and take notes)*
  - 1.2. All the Governors present confirmed that they had no personal interests to disclose matters to be transacted in the meeting in

accordance with sections 177 or 182 of the 2006 Act and the Company's articles of association.

2. Minutes of the Last meeting - 21st June 2022
  - 2.1. APPROVED and seconded with no objections.
3. Matters Arising
  - 3.1. Both completed
  - 3.2. Thanks and appreciation to Saxony for her contribution as SU President
4. Chair's Actions
  - 4.1. All completed
5. Update from the Academic Dean
  - 5.1. Priority areas have been on launching a series of UK/US double validated programs + additional year in Boston (Project 23) and we are in a good position compared to other institutions in the UK who offer the same due to the lack of marketing/promotion of such programs at other institutions and they don't have a physical campus in the UK.
  - 5.2. The annual National Student Survey (standardized survey to government) came back very successful compared to previous years with a couple of minor improvements required before the next survey such as library services and regular communication with the student union which is already underway.
  - 5.3. Full semesterisation launch for Fall 23 which will allow students to study on a similar timeline across the US/UK.
  - 5.4. New focus on entrepreneurship initiatives and working with Chris Wolfel on this area.
  - 5.5. Redacted - restricted information
  - 5.6. We have a diverse range of employer partners across wider England that link to our learner programs which will open us to lots of opportunities.
  - 5.7. We are ramping up research activities and structures and we need to be involved in a couple of national exercises we need to be involved in such as RDAP (Research Degree Awarding Power) and submission to REF (Research Excellence Framework) which will unlock UK research funding.
  - 5.8. Timeline for planning research future at London campus starting with the launch of 6 priority research areas this year followed by recruitment of PhD students all the way to

completion for the next 3-3.5years (ending in late 2026). Once the first cohort completed their PhD, we can then apply for RDAP.

- 5.9. Redacted - restricted information
- 5.10. AG recommended Swansea Uni for research collaboration and validating partner.
- 5.11. Despite lack of funding, our outputs have been relatively high with 39 papers published with faculty in authoring 10 book chapters & 7 books.
- 5.12. AG suggested we should include conferences we have hosted.
- 5.13. We are launching 6 interdisciplinary research priority areas which includes Human Dimension of AI, Cities: Past, present & future, Globalization, Network Science, Experiential Education & Digital Humanities.
- 5.14. TW questioned the timeline for our own awarding powers and SW explained the plan on the slide.
- 5.15. SW has been reviewing benefits and salary structure that will help with staff recruitment and retention moving forward. The academic structure is also being reviewed to have better communication/efficiency introduced along with cross disciplinary activities which will be beneficial.
- 5.16. Redacted - restricted information

## 6. Update from the Chief Executive Officer

### 6.1. Operational update

- 6.1.1. Good start to the term with lots of activities within staff recruitment, opening of new floor in time and focusing on the next steps on space expansion.
- 6.1.2. Critical Incident Report - it was dealt with a very professional approach by both UK/US teams involved and we have learnt to work across the board very efficiently/collaboratively.
- 6.1.3. Redacted - restricted information.

### 6.2. Governance/Regulatory update

- 6.2.1. Access & Participation Plan - Noted & Approved
- 6.2.2. Prevent report - Noted & CEO authorized to sign for submission

- 6.2.3. Division of Responsibility - Noted & Approved for retirement
- 6.2.4. Student Protection Plan (yearly review regulated document) - Noted & Approved
- 6.2.5. Statement Value for Money - Noted & Approved
- 6.2.6. Research Integrity Update - Noted & Approved
- 6.3. New name for Board
  - 6.3.1. Change from NCHNL Board to Northeastern London Board has been voted on and APPROVED.
- 6.4. Risk Register
  - 6.4.1. Noted & Approved
  - 6.4.2. JD had a question about the risk identified around the loss of key personnel and what can be done to mitigate it?
  - 6.4.3. RF explained this is due to a fluid job market in the UK currently and that recruitment is challenging especially when it comes to offering lucrative benefits for staff such as advancing career opportunities, gaining new skills etc. (example of mental Health Advisor recruitment is a challenge currently).
  - 6.4.4. JG mentioned about offering the possibility of teaching abroad across the global network and offering support on sourcing rental properties while they are in London taking in consideration the current cost of living issue.
  - 6.4.5. RF answered that as we integrate into the Global system there would be opportunities to do more of that.
- 7. Update from the Assistant Vice President for Recruitment and Marketing for Global Campuses
  - 7.1. Marketing / Recruitment / Admissions update
    - 7.1.1. Redacted - restricted information.
    - 7.1.2. EDGE/Online learning supports a quarter of the intake which looks very robust and we are growing significantly with our collaboration with employers.

- 7.1.3. Redacted - restricted information.
  - 7.1.4. Domestic market across in the UK and the US from PG programs is very challenging due to high employment and possibly getting promoted in jobs which is suppressing the demand for PG applications.
  - 7.1.5. Redacted - restricted information.
  - 7.1.6. Recruiters across the network are being trained to promote all programs across the network and not just particular campus offerings.
  - 7.1.7. With the new university title, marketing materials, domain names, emails, social media, campus signage and updating across governance regulators are in the process of change over.
8. Any other business
- 8.1. SA highlighted our Student Union has signed the National Union of Students letter to the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer's Office highlighting the effect of cost of living change.
  - 8.2. JG offered his support to give our students the opportunity to have exposure to wider UK corporations/companies and build our partnerships to help with the selling point for NU London brand.
  - 8.3. JD queried our plan for carbon reduction management systems for NU London and RF confirmed we have a member of faculty who specializes in the sustainability sector and will be leading a sustainability committee internally. We are also committed to 2050 net-zero plan and have a carbon reduction plan published online which the committee will be tracking the progress.
  - 8.4. Redacted - restricted information.
  - 8.5. SA is thanked by the Board and departs before the reserved agenda is discussed.

## Reserved Agenda

- 9. HR Update from CEO
  - 9.1. Redacted - restricted information.
- 10. Financial Update
  - 10.1. FY22 Audit

10.1.1. Tricia updates the Board on the audit process with Crowe

- There are some one-off issues highlighted in audit findings report related to disbursements related to capital projects resulting in duplicate payments and flagged refund payments as a high risk and around contracts management and direct debits around the premises move.
- For the January Board a plan will be presented a plan for some internal audits processes as part of the growth agenda for the institution
- The Board were told that there would be a different trustees report next year as the University will be on HE audit reporting requirements versus the current Charities one.

10.1.2. It was noted that Board is happy with Crowe and their re-appointment will be reviewed in the January 2023 Board but overall they understand us as an institution and they are a good partner.

10.1.3. Board authorizes RF & PW on behalf of Trustees to sign off the final audit accounts and the draft representations letter.

11. FY23 Reforecast

11.1. No further questions on this - noted and approved by the Board