NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC BOARD

10 May 2017

Present: The Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair) and approximately 145 members of the Academic Board.

NOTES

1. NOTES OF THE 25 MAY 2016 MEETING

The notes of the meeting of Academic Board held on 25 May 2016 are available at:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/executive/governance/academic/minutes.htm

2. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS 2017

2.1 Honorary Degrees

The Honorary Degrees Committee invites nominations in writing for next year’s Congregations. Any member of Academic Board, Court, Council and the alumni present at meetings of Convocation at which the request for nominations is tabled, may make a nomination and support for nominees for honorary degrees should be sought only from members of these bodies. Where several members make a joint nomination, one should be shown as the nominator and the others as supporters. The grounds on which the nomination is made should be clearly stated.

Principles for the award of Honorary Degrees can be found at:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/congregations/ceremonies/honorary/

Proposals should be sent by email marked ‘Confidential – Honorary Degrees’ to Dr John Hogan, Registrar (Email: John.Hogan@ncl.ac.uk) by Monday 26 June, 2017.

2.2 Honorary Fellowships of the University

Court invites nominations in writing for the award of next year’s Honorary Fellowships of the University. Any lay member of Academic Board, Court, Council, and the alumni present at meetings of Convocation at which the request for nominations is tabled may make a nomination. Where several members make a joint nomination, one should be shown as the nominator and the others as supporters. The grounds on which the nomination is made should be clearly stated.

Principles for the award of Honorary Fellowships and Nomination Forms can be found at:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/congregations/ceremonies/honorary/nom_honfell/

Proposals should be sent by email marked ‘Confidential – Honorary Fellowships’ to Dr John Hogan, Registrar (Email: John.Hogan@ncl.ac.uk) by Tuesday, 28 February 2018.

Please make it clear whether the nomination is for an Honorary Degree or an Honorary Fellowship.

When making a nomination for an honorary degree or honorary fellowship, this should be done in the strictest confidence and must not be discussed with the potential recipient. Successful nominations will be publicised following approval by the awarding body (i.e. Senate or Court respectively) in advance of the relevant honorary ceremony.
3. **MEMBERS OF COURT APPOINTED BY ACADEMIC BOARD**

Reported that:

a) The term of appointment of the following members of Court appointed by Academic Board will terminate on 31 July 2017:

   Professor Rob Edwards  
   Professor Eileen Kaner  
   Ms Abi Kelly  
   Professor William Maloney

   All except Professor Kaner have served one term and are eligible for re-appointment. Professor Kaner has served two terms and is eligible for re-appointment.

(b) Members of Academic Board are invited to submit nominations in writing by not later than Friday, 16 June 2017 to Dr J V Hogan, Registrar, (Email: John.Hogan@ncl.ac.uk) together with confirmation that the nominee is willing to be nominated. Nominees should be members of Academic Board.

4. **REPORT BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT**

Received an oral report by the Vice-Chancellor and President on current business. The session was recorded and is available from http://www.ncl.ac.uk/executive/governance/academic/minutes.htm

Noted that:

1. The process for updating the vision and strategy had commenced in April at the joint meeting of Senate and Council. Feedback from the meeting had been used in the subsequent presentations given at Town Hall meetings. The presentation to Academic Board is based on the presentations given at the Town Hall events.

2. The next stage in developing the vision and strategy would include a series of focus groups and world cafe style events that will be hosted by cross-cutting Pro-Vice-Chancellors between now and the end of September 2017. These events would give colleagues a chance to contribute towards the final vision and strategy.

3. The current position of the University was seen as:
   - highly rated in teaching and learning in current measures  
   - world leading research across the three Faculties  
   - financially sound  
   - providing significant economic impact.

4. The main challenges ahead focused on two critical issues which are the research performance and the external profile and reputation of the University. A number of solutions to these issues were presented to the Board.

5. The term ‘civic university’ had been discussed during the Town Hall events and it was felt that the word ‘civic’ should be dropped and be accept that being a civic university is now one of the three core functions along with research and learning and teaching.

6. It was suggested that the Global Societal Challenges should be based on the UNs Sustainable Development Goals. This area would be discussed at a forthcoming Professorial forum.
7. The core principles of the University should focus on talent management of both students and staff. That there should be parity of esteem between academic staff and the Professional Support Services staff and that it had been agreed that the ‘Support’ would no longer be used.

8. An update was provided on the gender pay gap and a number of actions had been taken and proposed to address this issue.

5. QUESTIONS

The following questions were taken from members of Academic Board during the meeting.

1. Is the name academy marginally tainted by the use of educational academies in secondary education?

The terminology has not been fixed and the word ‘academy’ could be used either way, noting that colleagues aspire to be part of an academy ie Royal Academy. Across the sector there are similar academy arrangements and the aim would be to have an inclusive group of people working together with a similar focus.

2. The Strategy is important, how does the strategy translate to in what we do and what do you see that as the next stage?

The next stage of the strategy would be the implementation. There would be key measurement points which would determine overall if the University is improving.

3. To achieve the strategy it requires resources, do we have them?

There are resources but there is not an unlimited amount and decisions would need to be taken. Executive Board make decisions around resources and recently had discussed a number of projects which require funding from LED lightening, cricket pitches to small seed funding. A number of resources have been committed and these would need to be progressed.

4. Agree that global and regional focus is important. Can we improve our national reputation, have we deliberately missed it out, how do we build our national reputation?

By building on our regional reputation this will then translate to our global and national reputation. The policy academy which had been established was the vision that it will inform and influence national, regional and global policy. Working with city leaders and local businesses would also help to sell Newcastle overall.

5. You reflected on diversity issues. Is there parity of esteem for Research and T&S staff.

There has been much improvement in this area. The research profile is the biggest concern at the moment and that needs to be addressed whilst also paying attention to teaching.

6. If you assume achieved the new strategy and vision where do you see the University in 10 years?

The broader answer is the league tables. The University is measured by the position in the league tables and we do need to pay attention to these. The aim is that the University is in the top half of the Russell Group and within the top 100, which is achievable.