

UNIVERSITY GLOBAL COMMITTEE

18 January 2024

Present: Yaseen Ali, Mike Capaldi, Helen Challis, Justin Cole, Richard Davies (Chair), Sarah Devenport (Secretary), Stuart Edwards, Darren Evans, Lee Fawcett, Jonathan Galloway, Johanna Gascoigne-Owens, Elisa Miles, Naomi Oosman-Watts, Graeme Redshaw-Boxwell, Jonathan Sabarre, Müge Satar, Eleanor Shotton, Paul Tyack, Ruth Valentine, Joris Veltman, Laney Wang, Dennis Wong.

Apologies: Ian Biddle, Tim Cheek, Nick Collins, Neil Gardner, Jo Geary, Andrea Henderson, Mark Ireland, Chirag Kumar, Vishna Nadarajah, Premila Nair.

MINUTES

1. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 16 November 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

2. UPDATES FROM PVC GLOBAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

A joint meeting of University Research and Innovation Committee and University Global Committee will be held on 30th January 2024. This will provide an opportunity to explore the overlap between the University's Research and Global strategies.

Jarlath McKenna has been appointed as Senior Research Funding Development Manager for EU and International and will start on the 1 Feb, working with Head of Global Partnerships and Deputy Director to ascertain how best teams can work together on international research and collaboration opportunities.

Successful visits have recently happened in Malaysia, Singapore and India.

The ASEAN leadership team met in Singapore in January to develop their operational plan, and quarterly updates will be provided.

Going forward Stuart Edwards will deal any new business/ projects in SAgE, once they become business as usual they will be handed over to Sara Marsham.

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION/ ENDORSEMENT

3.1 Refreshed Global Strategy: Update

The Director of International Office presented the report for discussion.

It was noted that:

1. The refreshed strategy has now been discussed by University Executive Board, Faculty Executive Boards and Heads of Academic Unit Forum.
2. The four pledges have been renamed to four objectives.
3. Feedback was provided by the Faculty Global Deans
 - a. Overall feedback on the refreshed strategy was positive, it was considered to align closely with Faculty and School Plans.
 - b. It is important to find meaningful and genuine stories for the Storytelling objective, from all areas of the University and from partner organisations and from projects large and small.

- c. Support with applying for external funding and simplification of internal funding applications would help increase collaborations.
 - d. It will be important to ensure that partner organisations have values which align to the University's.
 - e. Diversification in the international student body and a move from overreliance on certain markets was welcomed.
 - f. Building links between University strategies to avoid multiple reporting would be welcomed.
 - g. Faculties would like to work to integrate all 3 campuses to increase benefits for all.
 - h. Investment is needed by the University to operationalise these plans.
4. The International Office Leadership Team will start to develop an action plan and work with Faculty colleagues to determine Faculty priority areas.

3.2 India Plan 23/24- 25/26

The Head of International Relations and Partnerships and Academic Lead for India presented the report for discussion

It was noted that:

1. Since the plan was presented at May 2023 UGC there have been several visits to India and progress has been made on revised objectives.
2. The following revised objectives are proposed:
 - a. To deepen and strengthen existing partnerships with key institutions
 - b. To continue our research impact and enhance our visibility by sustaining our existing partnerships in India with the two GCRF Hub partners and NEESAMA and maintain the legacy of these relationships.
 - c. To enhance academic and research collaborations and access further funding & grants by leveraging key collaboration opportunities arising from British-India PLCs (British High Commissions/British Council) that align with our strengths.
 - d. To expand our BDE connections with the new leadership fostering continued growth and success.
 - e. To develop innovative and sustainable recruitment pathways to support the University's international student recruitment objectives across all study levels.
3. A state-wide approach will be taken to allow for focus on key objectives, with the exception of student recruitment which will retain a nationwide approach.
4. The following priority areas are proposed: Data, Electrification, Renewable Energy, Healthy Ageing and Water.
5. Following changes to the law in India, UK Universities can now open campuses in India.
6. General elections will be held in both countries this year and the impact of potential changes in government should be considered.
7. Developing a USP for Newcastle will be key to continuing to attract students from India, who have more choices than previously. The importance of parents input the student choices must be considered in this.
8. Opportunities exist to develop dual degrees with Indian Universities (e.g. 2+2), including potentially PG medical courses and PhDs. It is proposed that a small number of institutions are selected to focus on to begin work with, OP Jindal and Shoolini universities would be potential candidates.
9. Opportunities exist for offering CPD courses, particularly around digital skills. There are potential VAT implications around offering these directly to individuals, rather than via organisations and so this should be considered when developing these courses.
10. An update was provided on the previously shared action plan
 - a. Discussion have begun with Durham University around ways to collaborate to promote the North-East in India.
 - b. Discussion between International Office and Business Development and Enterprise team have begun to explore business engagement with Electrification and renewable Energy.

- c. A successful delegation to India took place in October 2023, potential areas for collaboration are being followed up on and can be found in the appendix of Document B.
- 11. The importance of having accurate and information around existing links with India was discussed, work has begun to improve this, e.g. through India Network events.
- 12. Opportunity exists to develop an 8 week exchange internship programme with IIT Kanpur, this could be made open to students at NUIS as well as Newcastle campus.
- 13. NUMed and NUIS can also provide locations for exchange or dual degrees with Indian Universities.
- 14. Building relationships is particularly important to doing business in India, our existing team in India already have many good, existing relationships are available to advise regarding any new initiatives

Agreed Actions:

- 1. Further analysis of impact of change of government in UK & India (ACTION Alex Morgan)
- 2. Discuss 8 week intern exchange programme with NUIS colleagues (ACTION Lee Fawcett)

Resolution

- 1. The proposal was endorsed by the Committee.

3.3 Education Strategy Update

The Pro Vice Chancellor for Education presented the report for discussion

It was noted that:

- 1. The revised strategy, Education for Life 2030, has been under development since July 2023, with a planned launch at the Learning and Teaching conference in April 2024.
- 2. Three overarching objectives have been developed
 - a. Equity: Provide a core, universal offer to all students, including tailored provision where needed, to ensure equity of access, experience and in outcomes for all, regardless of background, identity, nationality, location or mode of study.
 - b. Encounters with the Leading Edge: To put at the heart of our curriculum and learning experiences, encounters with our world leading research and the leading edge of industry and practice.
 - c. Fit for the future
- 3. The objectives will be delivered through 4 delivery plan
 - a. Leading edge curriculum: A new universal curriculum framework for NCL which is fit for the future for students, employers, our planet, disciplines and modes of study.
 - b. Education accelerator: A step change in support of educational excellence, ending divides between research and teaching and academic and PS colleagues
 - c. Student launchpad: A transformed model of academic support allowing all students to explore and achieve their potential with 3 strands; Into NCL (pre-arrival, induction and first year), Through NCL (planning their student journey), From NCL (final year).
 - d. NCL beyond: A new articulation of our core offer beyond the curriculum, a coherent, inclusive and engaging co and extra-curricular offer
- 4. There are several areas where Education and Global strategies connect, for example ensuring our curriculum is attractive and relevant to students around the world, supporting colleagues to have the skills to teach, engage and support international students in the way they need to be able to thrive
- 5. There are a variety of ways that students can be offered global opportunities, short term, long term and virtual.
- 6. A more agile approach should be made explicit in the new strategy, it is important to have appropriate policies and procedures to support and agile approach.
- 7. Medical students are taught by both academic and clinical colleagues, introducing this approach to other subjects could be very beneficial for students, noting that industry experts may expect a higher level of pay than current academic pay scales.

Resolution:

1. The proposal was endorsed by the committee

4. ITEMS FOR REPORT

The following items were for report only and were not discussed:

4.1 Agreements and MOUs

There were no MoUs signed since the last UGC

5. AOB

There were no items to note.

6. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2023-24

The meetings for 2023-24 will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 30 January 2024 (a joint meeting of UGC & URIC)
- Thursday 14 March 2024
- Thursday 9 May 2024
- Thursday 18 July 2024