Alumni Association Open Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2015

1. Welcome by the Chairperson – Janine Watson

RECEIVED: An introduction by the Chair, Janine Watson

2. Minutes of the Open Meeting held on 17 June 2014

NOTED: The draft minutes of the meeting held 17 June 2014 should have stated that the minutes from the meeting held on 3 April 2014 had been approved.

ACTION: The draft minutes were approved by members.

It was suggested the number of attendees should be included in the minutes in future. There had been approximately 26 attendees at the last meeting.

ACTION: Future minutes should include the number of attendees.

3. Chairman’s Verbal Report

RECEIVED: A verbal report from Janine Watson

NOTED: Janine welcomed Colin Bailey as Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and also as Deputy Chair of the Alumni Association Advisory Board.

Janine commended the Whitworth Art Gallery. She discussed the Philanthropy Day event which was held on 26 March 2015, this event was held to say ‘Thank you’ to our individual donors.

4. Presentation on the work of the Division of Development and Alumni Relations by Deputy Director (Development) - Lesley Dowdall and Deputy Director (Alumni Relations) - Claire Kilner

RECEIVED: Lesley and Claire gave a presentation on the work of the division which included a video of Brian Cox talking about the impact of philanthropy.

NOTED: The University is doing well in terms of its Philanthropic income. The number of alumni donors is increasing and it is the donor who decides where their donation is allocated to. The number of staff has now increased to 55 in the Division. It was advised that there is Philanthropy blog which encourages alumni to contact us.

NOTED: A suggestion was made that the information from the presentation should be available on the website.

ACTION: CK to take forward.
NOTED: It was commented that there was a lack of photos of staff members. CK advised we were in the process of adding these to the website.

ACTION: CK to take forward with the web development team.

5. **Report on the Alumni Association’s Finances**

RECEIVED: Claire provided a report on the Association’s accounts.

NOTED: The University has appraised its endowments and one of these is the one attached to our Alumni Association fund. This provides £17,000 at our disposal to be spent by the end of the financial year (July 31st)

ACTION: CK to ask the Advisory Board to consider how we might spend this, possibly boost the travel awards.

NOTED: In the Alumni Reserve Fund, a cash balance of £6,702.99 is to be carried forward.

6. **Progress update on the Chancellor’s Election**

RECEIVED: CK provided an update on the Chancellor’s Election. Nominations close at noon Monday 13 April. Voting opens 26 May and closes noon 18 June. The results will be announced on 22 June.

7. **Questions from attendees**

QUESTION: The appointment of candidates to the General Assembly appeared in the minutes from the previous meeting but does not appear on the agenda.

NOTED: CK advised that the association were moving to online voting yet certain database issues had occurred which had prevented the process from taking place before the Chancellor’s election. It had been decided to carry out the process at a later date but still in time for term of office.

8. **Date and time of the next Open Meeting of the Alumni Association**

NOTED: 6 October 2015 (this can be changed if required as there is a Conservative Party Conference to be held at the same time). There are to be two meetings each year with the possibility to hold one in London.

9. **Any other business**

10. **Chairman’s closing remarks**

NOTED: JW thanked the attendees of the meeting for attending and for their suggestions. CK and LD were also thanked for their excellent and informative presentation.