MINUTES OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Held on Monday 20 November 2017, 16.00 – 17.30

Present: Katherine Leopold (KL), Bill Craig (BC), Hian Seng Tang (HST), Paddy Hackett (PH), Paul Sutherland (PS), Michael Taylor (MT), Claire Kilner (CK), Alex Tayler (AT), James Thompson (JT)

In attendance: Richard Screaton (RS), Donna Prince-Hu (DPH), Sue Hall-Smith (SHS) (notes)

Apologies: Mel McMahon (MM), Helen C Stevens (HS), Andy Spinoza (AS), Letty Newton (LN), Raj Singh Kharbanda (RSK)

1. Introductions:
   - CK introduced KL to the Board as the new Chair of the Alumni Association.
   - CK introduced JT to the Board as the new Deputy Chair of the Alumni Association.
   - KL introduced AT to the Board as the new representative of the Students’ Union.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 May 2017: The minutes were agreed and cleared for publication.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes, 10 May 2017:
   - **Global Impact Award**: circulation of criteria. **Item discharged.**
     RS showed a video of a report from one of the student recipients of the Award. The Board were impressed with the work being undertaken (a sanitation project in Tanzania). RS has asked all student award recipients to provide video updates on their projects so that they could be disseminated through the usual channels including the website, Comms and Marketing, Students’ Union and the Student Ambassadors programme. **ACTION: RS to promote and disseminate**
   - **Applications for election as alumni representative to the General Assembly**: candidate notification. **Item discharged.**
   - **London Network update**: circulation of slides; publication of event calendar. **Item discharged.** The next event, being held on 22 November 2017, will be broadcast on Facebook Live.
   - **Events Schedule**: circulation of URL to public events page. **Item discharged.**
   - Timetable for appointment of Chair of the Alumni Advisory Board and Nominations Committee arrangements: circulation of criteria. **Item discharged.**
   - **Achieving the University’s ambitions - implications for staff**: **Item discharged.**
   - **Slack Channel**: the Board discussed the uses and benefits of the communications facility. **ACTION: KL to circulate video content on the channel to the Board.**
   - **Local alumni volunteering with current students**: MM had been in conversation with the University of the Third Age; RS is liaising with a colleague from the Faculty of Science and Engineering who runs an apprenticeship scheme, which would benefit from alumni involvement. The Board discussed how to channel the enthusiasm generated as a result of alumni attending events.
   - **“Thank You” reception for Janine Watson**, 4 July 2017. **Item discharged.**

The New Chair formally thanked the outgoing Chair for her work in the role.
4. Chair’s verbal update: KL reported that her first official engagement as the new Chair of the Association was to attend Foundation Day on 11 October. It was an inspiring event. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend the Ig Nobel roadshow event on 29 November. MT suggested that other members of the Board register their interest so that there would be a representative if KL was unable to attend particular events.

5. Claire Kilner’s verbal update:
   - The alumni magazine, Your Manchester, had been sent out. CK asked that the members of the Board notify her if they had not received a copy. MT had not received a copy so SHS would investigate. **ACTION: SHS**
   - A substantial data cleanse project was in progress and had resulted in finding a number of lost alumni.
   - Privacy Policy: the new policy had been emailed to all alumni with an email address and 125k had been sent with the magazine. As a result, all alumni should be up-to-date with the new policy.
   - The Division had been awarded the Gold Green Impact Award, having progressed from Bronze to Gold over three consecutive years.
   - In the last month over 300 students had attended careers events where alumni were guest speakers. Furthermore, the first Women in Business event had been held.

6. Andy Spinoza’s reappointment to the Board of Governors: The Board agreed the reappointment. PH suggested that they start to plan for a successor as this was Andy’s final three-year term in office.

7. Events Schedule update: CK talked the Board through the latest events schedule (attached) and asked that they contact her if they had any questions or ideas for future events. In 2018 CK and HST would be holding an event bringing together alumni in Singapore, Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai. There would also be a pan-Asia alumni committee and CK and Markus Karlsson-Jones were planning the first event, to be held in Beijing.

8. M2020 Update: The recently published 2015/16 Stocktake Report had looked at the ambitions and problems facing the University and focused on the opportunities for growth and investment, including research income, distance learning and the pricing of postgraduate courses. JT explained to the Board that M2020 had been associated with the series of redundancies announced in the media. Four areas were facing redundancies: The School of Arts, Languages and Culture; Alliance Manchester Business School; Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health and the Professional Support Services. The low number of necessary voluntary redundancies had been achieved; there were no compulsory academic redundancies and one from PSS (although it was hoped that another position at the University would be found for them during the 12-month window in place). A question and answer session followed. In summary:
   - M2020 represented a series of strategic investments.
   - The quality of teaching still required attention.
   - World rankings: The University performs well in some rankings, but has plateaued in others. Nationally – we still struggle, but this is dependent on the nature of the ranking in question.
   - The placing of 100 new early-career researchers should be based on where they would have the most benefit.
   - MECD: reducing the spend vs saving jobs. The issue is that the old campus buildings are too expensive to run and the facilities not fit for purpose.
   - Industrial action: a small proportion of staff engaged in the two days of industrial action.
   - Brand management – the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) reorganisation: alumni had an affinity with the School they went to so the impact of any change in name or structure should be considered. AT was asked to provide an update on the student
perspective of the FSE reorganisation at the next meeting. **ACTION: AT.** AT also suggested that alumni could visit the refurbished Students’ Union building to see the changes.

It was agreed the communication was key and that alumni could play a role through informal messaging both in the UK and overseas. The Board would also consider practical ways in which to help with the impact of the FSE reorganisation (including the possibility of more campus tours for alumni) and ensure that they were abreast of any changes afoot.

9. **International Activities of DDAR:** CK talked through the report she had prepared for the meeting (attached) and invited questions from the Board. HST asked that an updated report be added to the agenda for future meetings. **ACTION: CK**  
   In addition: HST reported that from February 2018 there would be a Malaysian Association in place, and thanked CK and Bee-ing for their work in setting it up.

10. Any other business:
   - MT asked that the Board draft a letter to the fast-food outlet “Abdul’s” for the years of service offered to Manchester students!
   - KL encouraged the Board to email her directly whenever they wanted to.
   - PS would not be able to attend the next meeting on 1 February 2018.

11. Date/location of next meeting: 1 February 2018, location to be advised.