ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, 21 November, 16.00 – 18.00

MINUTES

Present: Katherine Leopold (KL), Richard Screaton (RS), Bill Craig (BC), Mel McMahon (MM), Jennifer Stark (JS), Paddy Hackett (PH), Raj Singh Kharbanda (RSK), Hian Seng Tang (HST), Paul Sutherland (PS)
Apologies: Andy Spinoza (AS), Michael Taylor (MT), James Thompson (JT), Kate White (KW), Fatima Abid
Non-attendees: Letty Newton (LN)
In attendance: Donna Prince-Hu (DPH) (notes), Helen Foote

1. “Thank you” and announcements:
   • KL thanked members for attending the meeting with particular thanks to RSJ and especially HST who had travelled from Singapore.
   • KL welcomed JS to her first formal meeting following her appointment in September 2018.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:
The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes, 26 June
   • The Assistant Alumni Officer for AMBS is now in post - Madonna Fyne-Maguire.
   • The new Assistant Alumni Officer, Adil Mohammed, will join the alumni team on Monday 7 January 2019.
   • The Senior Alumni Officer position will be advertised shortly.
   • Action: DPH to circulate the events schedule and annual review to AAAB members
   • Action: RS to share ambassador training with AAAB members.
   • DPH had contacted the Disability Advisory Support Services at the University together with the Communications and Marketing Office regarding the introduction of disabled toilet access symbols on hard copies of the campus map. Currently, all symbols are being removed from campus maps as it has become increasing difficult to present so much information in a meaningful, user-friendly way. The University has teamed up with recently re-branded AccessAble (formally known as Disabled Go). This facility provides a very useful way of examining complicated spaces in a meaningful way. The following was agreed:
     - Links to this site will be included on the physical and electronic version of the campus map.
     - DDAR will provide a link to this site and the relevant venue, when inviting alumni back to campus for meeting or events. Action: DPH to make this known to the events team.

4. Chair’s verbal update:
The 2018 Foundation Day Celebration took place on Wednesday 10 October 2018 and our AAAB representatives included KL, MM and PH. The lecture was delivered by Dr Gerald Chan, founder of Morningside, an international investment group strongly committed to social responsibility. Honorary Degrees were conferred upon Dr Gerald Chan, Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, Ms Rachel Haugh, Ms Sarah Lancashire and Professor Chintamani N R Rao. The event was also attended by our philanthropic alumni boards: NAFUM and the Global Leadership Board. KL spoke of the energy and commitment of the board members and the potential for the various boards to work more collaboratively in the future. KL praised The University of Manchester for its efforts in defending
universities as a whole from external criticism. KL also encouraged all AAAB members to attend events on campus.

5. **Richard Screaton’s verbal update:**
   - RS spoke about his recent trip to the University’s Middle East Centre, which is based in Dubai (other centres include Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Sao Paulo) where he attended a graduation ceremony for the University. The Centres are partnered with the Alliance Manchester Business School and offer distance and blended learning programmes for executives all over the world. RS highlighted their growing importance as demographics change. There are currently 5,000 alumni in the Middle East and some are offering employability advice etc. They are very enthusiastic and passionate about the University. They have their own alumni database and we are hoping to work more collaboratively in the future.
   - Your Manchester will be posted out shortly. Senior Communications Officer, Tom Fern, has led this project and has produced a fresh, high quality magazine. It was designed in-house and encompasses stories from all disciplines within the University. **Action: DPH to pass on the Board’s huge ‘congratulations’ to Tom Fern.**
   - December graduation will take place from 10 – 14 December 2018. Following the success of summer graduation 2018 we are once again partnering with Stage Clip. We will be giving every graduate a unique video clip of their moment receiving their degrees on stage ready for social media sharing. Accompanying this will be a welcome message from the Alumni Association and a link to the Manchester Network. This proved very popular in the summer and it is a huge incentive for recent graduates to stay in touch with us.
   - The Bank of England has announced that the new £50 note will feature a prominent British Scientist. The University is encouraging students, staff and alumni to nominate one of our own heritage heroes, including front-runner Alan Turing. **Action: DPH to send link to Board Members and to promote during graduation.**
   - RS thanked PS for laying the poppy wreath on behalf of alumni on Remembrance Sunday. This year was particularly momentous as it marked the centenary of the end of WW1. The event took place in the Old Quadrangle at the University. The Navy, Army RAF and the Police laid their wreaths followed by the Registrar of the University. The event was very majestic with a student playing a bugle. On 7 December a piece of theatre also took place in the Quadrangle demonstrating how staff and students from the University may well have found themselves fighting one another on opposite sides. It should also be noted that there is a tribute in Your Manchester 2018 to the staff, students and alumni who lost their lives in World War 1. **Acton: DPH to thank the student for her excellent bugle playing.**

6. **Update on Global Impact Awards, Helen Foote**
   - Global Impact Awards offer financial help to current students so that they can bring practical or social benefits to the wider community by volunteering in the UK or overseas.
   - In 2018 there were 28 applications and nine awards were issued:
     - Standard Awards (£250) were allocated to six individuals
     - Gold Awards (£500) were allocated to two individuals
     - Groups Award (£700) was allocated to nine medics and four dentists to share.
   - HF shared a Report Summary with the Board and the Board noted how fantastic the feedback was. **Action: HF to email MM with copy of feedback. HF to circulate short video to Board members regarding this.**
   - The Board discussed that given the quality of the feedback and the success of these awards the annual amount of money awarded (£3,000) is too low. This has not increased for the last ten years. The Board felt that £5,000 would be a more appropriate sum. **Action: RS to meet Annual Fund team to increase the amount and make sure it is index linked in the future.**
• It was agreed that Gold Awards should now be £1,000 and that Standard Awards should increase to £500.
• It was agreed that more could be done to publicise this too – although there were concerns that the selection team wouldn’t want to be inundated with applications. **Action: PH to help improve applications from FSE which was poorly represented, using his links with Coms and Marketing.**
• Concerns were raised by BC that there was a danger this platform could be used by some medics or dentists to fund part of their actual course rather than this being an extra activity.
• **Action HF and RS to continue conversations around this, explore further ideas and re-visit criteria.**

7. **Connect Asia Update, Hian Seng**
   • HS thanked RS and MKJ for their support with the Connect Asia Conference, designed to promote alumni activity from Asian Pacific countries (Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Korea and China).
   • HS provided details of the Start Up Challenge that took place in Singapore in November 2018. This was a two-day boot camp which allowed participants to consult and pitch their ideas to an esteemed and influential panel of judges. This challenge had also received much interest from alumni across the world (Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Myanmar, South Africa and more). HS felt that this kind of activity would be welcomed in regions beyond Singapore, especially wealthy countries such as Hong Kong and Shanghai where alumni would be well disposed to donate to the University.
   • KL thanked HS for all his ideas and activities in this area.

   **Additional information:**

8. **Governance update (DGP)**
   • The first meeting of the Task and Finish Group for the Alumni Constitution took place on Wednesday, 7 November. Suggested changes to the Constitution will be circulated to the wider Advisory Board members for comment once the Group has completed amendments to the full document.
   • Governance pages on the alumni website were looking very tired. This has been updated but further work is needed on individual member’s profiles. Work will be done over the next few months to update these. **Action - members to please send their head and should shots as jpegs to DPH.**
   • We will trial an Online Open Meeting Event on 1 May 2019 hosted in Manchester with livestreaming presentations from the Division on a relevant topic such as the impact of global graduates. Alumni will have the opportunity to ask questions. Slides can be posted to a platform such as Slideshare and following the session there will be a call to action in order to involve alumni directly.
   • Currently there are two co-opted vacancies which need replacing. Letty Newton’s term also expires on 15 March 2019 and will need to be filled by a member who graduated within the previous five years. **Action: RS to contact Letty to terminate her position on the Advisory Board.**

9. **Any other business:**
   • RSK shared his concerns (based on his experiences as a Manager at Siemens Plc), that current graduates do not have adequate employability skills and that more should be done to support students in this area. He felt academics in particular, who have contacts with Industry, should keep abreast of changes and re-develop their courses accordingly. Feedback should go to relevant careers officers who are relationship managers with big companies. **Actions: RS to pass on feedback to relationship manager with Siemens.**
The Board discussed whether or not board meetings should take place in London once a year. It was agreed that meetings would take place in Manchester unless there was a valid reason for them to be held off campus. If held in London KL suggested that we secure a venue via one of our alumni such as David Best from Morgan Stanley.

10. Date and time of next meeting(s)
   - Tuesday 12 February 2019 – Advisory Board (Manchester)
   - Wednesday 1 May 2019 – Online Open Meeting (Manchester)