

University Management Board
Summary of Items for Discussion/Decision
30 January 2024

Digital Lifelong Learning¹

- The Board received the Digital Lifelong Learning paper presented by the Associate Provost (Digital Lifelong Learning), Leila Guerra, which proposed the creation of Imperial's Lifelong Learning Institute to provides access to STEMB education across all life stages, expanding Imperial's educational mission.
- The Board discussed the proposed activities and suggested that the initial period should focus on efficient utilisation of resource with phased delivery that prioritises the Imperial Lifelong Learning Accelerator and Imperial Corporate Executive Education.
- The Board endorsed the principle of the Imperial Institute of Lifelong Learning, and it was confirmed that the business case, structure, financial plan and brand name would return to the February UMB meeting for approval.

Venture Fund²

- The Board received the Venture Fund paper led by the Provost, Ian Walmsley, which shared due diligence relevant to the governance and management of the fund and the next steps to establish the independent entity with a remit to invest in academic spinouts and student startups. Importantly, the relationship with the fund would not be exclusive.
- The Board confirmed that the Fund was previously endorsed at the November UMB meeting and that Associate Deans for Enterprise in the faculties were supportive of the entity and the proposed Chair and CEO.
- The Board approved the establishment of the Venture Fund, the appointment of the Chair and CEO and to fund the setup costs with a return expected.

Strategy Update³

- The Board received the Strategy Update paper led by the President, Hugh Brady, which shared the concept notes for the nine new strategic initiatives that will form the new Strategy.
- The Chief of Staff to the President and Director of Public Affairs, Amanda Wolthuizen, shared the approvals timeline in the lead up to the internal President's Address and external launch event on Tuesday 5 March.
- The Board endorsed the concept notes, and it was confirmed that the Strategy document would be shared at the February UMB meeting for approval.

Campaign Readiness Report

- The Board received the Campaign Readiness Report paper led by the President, Hugh Brady, which outlined recommendations on activities and best practices that would prepare Imperial and Advancement for a significant campaign.
- The President confirmed that the Vice President (Advancement), Michael Murphy, had been engaged to discuss next steps.

Net Zero Strategy⁴

- The Board received the Net Zero Strategy paper led by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Nigel Brandon, which sets out a programme and cost to meet the Net Zero target for the existing estate by 2040, with Phase 1 works to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 25% against baseline by 2028.
- The Board discussed the variance in the long-term cost, and it was confirmed that over the next six months more detailed design work would fine tune the estimate and reduce the variance.
- The Board endorsed the report and the phasing of the ambitious strategy and suggested that it should be shared at the March Council Away Day.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Action Plan

- The Board received the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy paper led by the Director of HR, Harbhajan Brar, and Director of Academic Services, Richard Martin, which presented an overview of actions completed since the strategy launch, actions that were in progress and actions proposed as new workstreams over the next 1-3 years.
- The Board approved the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan and the timeline to deliver the plan over the next three years.

Academic Freedom

- The Board received the Academic Freedom paper led by the Provost, Ian Walmsley, and the Vice Provost (Education and Student Experience), Peter Haynes, stimulated by a request for comment on a document submitted by an independent external group.
- The Board noted that Academic Freedom was core to Imperial's mission and that Imperial's robust internal policies were kept under regular review, most recently in light of recent legislative and regulatory changes.

Revised Freedom of Speech Code of Practice

- The Board received the Revised Freedom of Speech Code of Practice paper led by the Chief Operating Officer, Robert Kerse, which detailed the first stage of revisions to provide clarity on Imperial's Event Procedure and the second stage of revisions due to take place in Spring 2024, following publication of guidance from the Office for Students.
- The Board suggested a summary of the guidance should be shared for staff and students and that expectations for honorary positions should be considered in the second stage.
- The Board approved the revised Freedom of Speech Code of Practice for submission to the Chair of Council for approval by Chair's action.

Papers approved below the line:

- UMB Committee Reports
- Attraction and Retention Strategy, 2023 Benchmark Booklet, The Real Living Wage and Family Friendly Leave

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the University Management Board will be held on Tuesday 20 February 2024.

¹ Leila Guerra, Associate Provost (Digital Lifelong Learning) and Vice Dean (Education) for the Business School, in

attendance.

¹⁻³ Anna Shierson, Director of Strategic Planning, in attendance.

² Simon Hepworth, Director of Enterprise, in attendance.

⁴ Tim Green, Academic Lead for Sustainability, in attendance.

⁴ Harriet Wallace, Sustainability Strategy Director, in attendance.

⁴ Adam Srodzinski, Head of Projects, Estates, in attendance.