

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Senate

PARTNERSHIPS, ENTERPRISE AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Matters for note by Senate arising from the meeting of Partnerships, Enterprise and Engagement Committee on 5 June 2023

1. Minute of Written Approval for the Allocation of HEIF Funding

The Committee approved the minute summarising the approval of the allocation of HEIF funding. It was agreed that a full meeting would be allocated for the discussion of HEIF in future years.

2. Update on International Partnerships

The Committee received an oral report on international partnerships. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Strategy and the Director of the International Office attended for this item. The following was noted:

- (a) Although international partnerships had a positive effect regarding student recruitment, the purpose and benefits of such work went far beyond this. It was important to take a holistic approach, coordinating activity across the institution, and a Global Strategy would be developed in support of this.
- (b) The vision presented by the International Office was for a strategic, agile and multidimensional approach, capitalising on the research strengths of the institution and developing global 'hubs'. This would involve leveraging in-country contacts, offices and networks to build sustainable sources of support. Work was underway to link teaching and research partnerships, to streamline those in the teaching area and develop a useable model.
- (c) The examples of global hubs identified in the report (including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Malaysia) were noted for their potential in terms of research collaboration and student recruitment. The Committee considered the potential ethical and reputational risks associated with certain collaborations. It was noted that addressing challenges such as energy issues required working with key actors even where problematic, and that collaborations extended further beyond these controversial issues; engagement at these broad levels was enabled by keeping doors open as far as possible. Such partners brought a range of opportunities as well as questions, and each instance needed to be dealt with on a case by case basis without jeopardising broader relationships and conversation. It was clarified that conducting ethical work for the public good was a priority, and that a framework for such work would evolve with time.
- (d) Projects would be mapped out with workload and capacity in mind, and project leaders would be consulted to identify key priorities and potential. It was important to work in a measured and sustainable way.
- (e) The Committee emphasised the value of European collaboration, with a track record of successful partnerships helping with concerns about capacity.

3. Results of Public Engagement Consultation Survey

The Committee considered a paper outlining the results of the public engagement consultation survey, which took place in 2022, and noted the following:

- (a) The survey, which had been actioned following recommendations from the NCCPE in 2021, had covered the whole of the University and had received a good level of engagement. The findings focused on individual public engagement practices, rather than large-scale initiatives such as YorkTalks. Many of the responses spoke to the need for institutional support for public engagement work.

- (b) It was recognised that not all of the recommendations would come under the remit of UPEC, however a number could be taken forward by the Committee. The Committee could also advocate on those areas outside of its specific remit.
 - (c) It was clarified that the authors of the paper were seeking endorsement in principle, with a number of actions intended as future steps when circumstances allowed. Pragmatism was important to an extent but the value of proactive and innovative activity was emphasised.
 - (d) It was clarified that the report focused on the development of a collective strategy on the topic of public engagement, rather than redefining the governance mechanisms in this space.
- The Committee endorsed the report and recommendations in principle, subject to the above comments. Further conversation would take place to determine how the area would be taken forward by UPEC

4. Other Business

- (a) The Associate Director of RI&KE, Dr Rachel Curwen, would leave the University shortly for a post as Director of Research Development at the University of Leeds. The Committee thanked her for her hard work and contributions to the University.
- (b) Work continued on the University Research Strategy 2023-30; questions and comments were welcomed, however none were raised at this stage.

PROFESSOR KIRAN TREHAN
30/06/2023

MS ZOE CLARKE