

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
25 August 2020

DRAFT UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Luke Savage (Chair)
Professor Colin Bailey

Ade Adefulu
David Russell

Shamima Akter

In attendance:

Dr Nadine Lewycky
Louise Parr-Morley

Jonathan Morgan

Ian McManus

Apologies:

Isabelle Jenkins

Ben O'Neill

Welcome and Apologies

2019.065 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting via video conference and noted the apologies.

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2020 [FIC19/54]

2019.066 The Committee **confirmed** the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2020.

Matters arising [FIC19/55]

2019.067 The Committee **noted** the matters arising from the meeting held on 20 July 2020.

August financial gateway [FIC19/56]

2019.068 The Committee **discussed** the August financial gateway paper. The following points were noted in the discussion:

[a] *Minute 2019.068[a] is confidential.*

[b] Even though we continued to field a high number of calls from home UGs, limited resources meant that admissions staff were needed to deal with the backlog of applications from overseas postgraduate taught (PGT) students. Additional resource had been brought in for clearing but this could not be continued.

[c] There were risks associated with the number of overseas PGT students who would be able to attend in person. Constraints on international travel, delays in releasing exam grades in home countries, and the continued presence of Covid 19 in some countries would all impact on the number of students who

would be able to travel. Although some students had confirmed their arrival date, much could change before the start of the academic year.

[d] *Minute 2019.068[d] is confidential.*

[e] Since the change in policy, the government had announced extra resources for universities that were over-subscribed. Queen Mary had applied for support to increase our estates capacity. Further support was needed for those universities expected to lose significant numbers of students.

[f] We were confident that Schools would be able to provide a high-quality educational experience through the blended offering even with additional students. Additional resources would be made available to those schools who had attracted significant numbers. The Committee asked for a breakdown of student numbers by Faculty.

[g] The mitigations put in place to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19 went beyond the government's minimum guidelines. Teaching rooms had been made Covid-secure and there was a thorough cleaning regime. All staff and students would receive face coverings, hand sanitiser and thermometers. We had developed a Covid code to inform behaviours, and risk assessments would be completed.

[h] Our residences were prepared for students coming from non-exempt countries who would need to self-isolate for 14 days. In the event of an outbreak on campus, we would switch teaching to online only. There were plans to have a testing station on campus to reduce the need for people with suspected Covid 19 to travel.

[i] We had created a lockdown group that could move quickly in the event of an outbreak. We were liaising with Tower Hamlets in their preparations for a local lockdown. There were different levels of local lockdown that could be implemented depending on the severity of the outbreak.

[j] *Minute 2019.068[j] is confidential.*

[k] The research pipeline was strong and we were expecting 90% of projected research income this year. Costs associated with research were more flexible than teaching and could be reduced relative to demand.

[l] *Minute 2019.068[l] is confidential.*

[m] The Committee **agreed** that it was comfortable with the gateway.

Action: [f] Senior Executive

***Draft agenda for the next meeting [FIC19/57]**

2019.069 The Committee **received** the draft agenda for the next Committee meeting on 22 September 2020.

[a] At the meeting in March, the Committee had asked QMI to provide benchmarking measures. The Chair asked for this to be added to the

September meeting agenda so that the Committee could have sight of these before the next annual report.

Action: [a] Committee Secretary

Meetings in 2020–21

- Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 1530 hours in the Robert Tong Room, Mile End.
- Monday 02 November 2020 at 1530 hours in the Robert Tong Room, Mile End.
- Thursday 18 March 2021 at 1530 hours in the Robert Tong Room, Mile End.
- Monday 21 June 2021 at 1530 hours in the Robert Tong Room, Mile End.