

Staff News Bulletin

June 2016, Issue 3

Budget approved

First and foremost you'll be pleased to hear the budget for the three year planning period from 2016/17 to 2018/19 was approved at Council on Friday 6 May. The budget takes as its main drivers the achievement of the University Vision and associated sub-strategies for delivery.

At a group level the budget is proposing historic and operational costs surpluses over each year as follows:

2016/17 – Historic Cost: £12.69m; Operational: £9.25m

2017/18 – Historic Cost: £13.19m; Operational: £9.78m

2018/19 – Historic Cost: £13.73m; Operational: £10.26m

These figures continue to show the University on a continued path of improvement with regards to its financial performance as student numbers continue to grow and are projected to be just over 23,000 FTE's by 2018/19.

Student recruitment

(September 2016 entry)

Home UG: Applications, offers and firm acceptances remain in a positive position ahead of last year. We are currently ahead by four per cent in firm acceptances, with both the sector and our competitor set experiencing declines.

In order to achieve our increased student number targets it is likely that we will need to recruit a similar number of students in Clearing as last year. Meetings are currently being arranged by the Student Recruitment Teams with Deans during May and June to discuss the detailed position for each School. Like last year, there will be as much focus on quality as quantity. PG Home: courses continue to be buoyant showing an increase of 31 per cent.

International: PG applications remain ahead of last year, showing an increase of five per cent against plan. However, there is a continued challenge with UG applications – currently most acute in CSE, SBS and SoBE. Much of the decline is in countries where we received significant numbers of sponsored students and where there are currently some economic issues (Nigeria, Saudi Arabia in particular.)

The main focus for international recruitment is therefore around conversion and ensuring applications are dealt with efficiently as possible.

UoS ranked in UK's top 50

Nationwide survey carried out by Whatuni.com – Salford has been ranked in the UK's top 50 universities in a recent nationwide survey. Whatuni.com, a university and degree comparison website, asked more than 25,000 students across 125 universities to rate their higher education on 10 categories that impact them most during their time of study. Salford jumped 54 places to 47th in the main category "University of the Year".

Picnic in the park



Our next departmental meeting is scheduled for Friday 15th July. The meeting will be held at the later time of 2.00pm in the Council Chamber for a brief update from Julie, followed by team picnic and rounders. Let's hope we have some sunny weather! I'd like to suggest everyone brings along their own lunch and if we can all chip in on extra nibbles like cakes, crisps and drinks we can then make sure we're kept well hydrated and energised for the game!

Please email me at: s.logan@salford.ac.uk if you would like to be involved by contributing goods (baked or bought) or by volunteering to help in the arrangements for the day.

Library development project underway

Starting next month, the Clifford Whitworth Library will be completely transformed by a £5.8m refurbishment. In the meantime, a number of plans are being put in place to reduce disruption.

The number of books colleagues and students can borrow has increased by 10 as of 3 May. This means that a first or second year undergraduate will be able to take out 25 items. A final year undergraduate, postgraduate or employee will be able to take out 35 items

A pop-up study area has been created with group, silent study areas and PCs

There is also an ITS desk and a Library desk to make it easier for students to get support

As work progresses, further study places will be created across campus

During refurbishment, all the books will remain in Clifford Whitworth. Library users will be given as much access as possible – but there will be times when books are being transferred between floors and therefore temporarily unavailable. During the work, information will be posted daily on the Library web pages to let people know where the best places are to work – to accommodate noise levels.

Colleagues are advised to check first before coming in to the Library and also follow on twitter @TheLibraryUoS #LibraryinthePark for latest developments.



One of the points raised at the Best Companies feedback session was that colleagues weren't sure how to access Occupational Health services so just to remind you of the recent changes to the service, as of 1st April the University entered into partnership with an external provider. Health Management Limited (HML) for the delivery of our occupational health services. The service is available Monday to Friday and provides access to support for managers and staff.

Further information and instructions on how to make a referral can be found on the HR website.

Lean Six Sigma

Something that came out of the Best Companies feedback session was the need for process improvements within our department. It was recognised that if we could improve our processes we could reduce workload pressures and improve our service to the University overall. As a result of this Coreen Barker, Nicola Womack, Geoff Taylor and Linda Barlow were asked to attend the Lean Six Sigma training course.

Lean Six Sigma teaches a management approach to business performance improvement. The application of this allows quality and efficiency improvements to be effectively realised. The focus of Lean is about speed, efficiency and taking waste out of a process. Six Sigma focuses on effectiveness and removal of errors. When combined and implemented it creates a powerful management tool that can improve performance, by providing a structured approach to resolving problems.

As one of the course attendees Linda shared her experience of the course: "Although Lean Six Sigma training is based on manufacturing processes it does provide the skills needed to solve problems in a structured, strategic way to help facilitate major improvements and cultural change within any workplace. I found the training interesting and think it would be beneficial to anybody faced with solving problems, improving quality and enhancing efficiency."

University Day Highlights...



Well done to those who took part in this year's Tug of War challenge for Finance. Thanks to our volunteers we finished in 2nd place, losing out to Greater Manchester Police who won 1st prize. It was a very respectable effort against some particularly burly police officers and had it been a competition between University colleagues we would have won!

Special thanks to Nick Storey, Graeme Wilkinson, Jessica Simpson, Beckie Elliott, Lisa Fairclough, Quentin Albert, Noel Willis, Gareth Jones and Matt Blundell for lending their strength to the competition.

In addition to this, Andrew Crozier was presented with the 'Outstanding Project or Innovation of the Year' award for his role on the Student (Ask Us) Project Board along with the other project board members. Andrew said that being a member of the Project Board was the easy part. All the staff in AskUs who worked so hard to make it a success deserve most of the credit. So congratulations to the Income and Treasury Team for their part in this.

...and finally our staffing update

We have three new faces in the department:

- Olivia Ward has been appointed as Assistant Purchasing Officer to support the Procurement team and joined us on 7th June.
- Quentin Albert joined the Income & Treasury team on 1st June as Revenue Officer
- Mike Ferraby joins us as Assistant Director of Finance (Central Services) from Monday 13th June