

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHER EDUCATION CORPORATION

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 15 March 2023.

PRESENT: Professor Quintin McKellar (Chair)

Sharon Harrison-Barker
Dr Mairi Watson
Professor John Senior
Professor Jackie Kelly
Professor Damian Ward
Penny Carey

Gerri Ward
Aman Tripathi
Hamnah Baig
Lucy Bamwo
Pam Lambert
Dr Michael Callan

Associate Professor Martina Doolan
Amanda Yip
Dr Joel Carlton
Dr Funlade Sunmola
Dr Luke Wood

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr Susan Grey
Associate Professor Sarah Flynn
Sarah Dunk

Professor Frank Haddleton
Helen Davidson
Elizabeth Heath

Professor Helen Barefoot
Mel Golder

APOLOGIES:

Professor Julie Newlan
David Gillard
Alistair Moffat

Professor Rodney Day
Joanna Rawska
Jo Stuart

Julie Kelly
Dr Amy Wells

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Professor Rodney Day, David Gillard, Julie Kelly, Alistair Moffat, Professor Julie Newlan, Joanna Rawska, Jo Stuart, Dr Amy Wells. Bethan Adams attended the meeting on behalf of David Gillard.

2 **NEW DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY**

There were no new declarations of interest.

3 **MEMBERSHIP**

The Board noted its current membership and was further asked to note the following:

Nominations for membership of the Standing Working Party on UPRs

Four Academic Board members had volunteered to be nominated under membership Category 4: Two (2) members of the Academic Board nominated by the Academic board.

Membership

The Secretary and Registrar to the University, Sharon Harrison-Barker, advised the Board that amendments to the Membership List previously published were shown in italics on the revised document.

The Committee considered its current and future needs.

RESOLVED

Academic Board gave approval to expand Membership category 4 to include 3 Academic Board nominees instead of 2.

Academic Board gave approval to nominate Dr Amy Wells, Dr Funlade Sunmola and Lucy Bamwo for membership of the Standing Working Party on UPRs under category 4.

The Board noted that Joanna Rawska was to be kept in reserve for the next vacancy in membership.

(Agenda Paper 3, refers)

4 **MINUTES - 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

An attendance recording error was made in the drafting of the unconfirmed Minutes of 16 November 2022. Kathy Lee, Lisa Uttley and Clare Fitzgerald were recorded as being Officers in Attendance at the meeting. It was noted that Kathy Lee and Lisa Uttley were not members of the Academic Board. Clare Fitzgerald was not a member of the Board at the time the unconfirmed Minutes were drafted. The Board were advised that the Membership List would be reviewed and amended.

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting of the 16 November 2022 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the business conducted, subject to amendments regarding the Membership of the Board.

(Confidential Agenda Paper 4, refers)

5 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes not taken elsewhere on the agenda.

(Confidential Agenda Item 5, refers)

6 **MATTERS FOR REPORT BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

The Board received an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

Following a period of active strike action, and action short of a strike, by academic staff across the UK in early February, ACAS (the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) were called upon to mediate between the University and College Union (UCU) and the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA). This has had some positive outcomes, since the Unions agreed to pause strike action for the latter two weeks of the month, however they did continue with action short of a strike and intend to have another strike day on 25th March (in addition to other dates in March previously announced). There has also been some movement on behalf of UCEA with regard to the pay of those employees on the lowest spine points. The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) had reported a much stronger financial position than previously advised. For that reason, there may be the potential of a resolution being reached on the pension issue, however the pay issue was still ongoing.

There has been substantial progress in agreeing a Northern Ireland Protocol with the European Union, which should make trade possible between Great Britain and Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is also good news for universities beyond Northern Ireland, as it provides a possibility that the UK could reengage effectively in the Horizon Research Programmes of the EU. It is likely that the removal of £1.6 billion from the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) by the Treasury was carried out in anticipation of this outcome. The intention was that the £1.6 billion would have been used to fund research in the UK, should a deal with the EU have proved impossible. There is still some way to go on a Horizon deal, since an appropriate contribution will have to be agreed for the UK.

The most recent immigration statistics have been published and show a large increase in the number of Indian students coming to the UK, up by 307% since 2019 and now numbering about 140k. The data also shows that the number of dependents coming with people on student visas has also increased from 16k in 2019 to 136k now, and this will no doubt put pressure on government to consider ways of restricting their numbers. The most recent suggestion is that dependents could only come with students doing high value courses, although the definition of high value courses is unclear.

Universities UK has now responded to the Office for Students Consultation on Quality Assurance, following the de-designation of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) as the designated quality body in England. Universities UK accept that the quality process will have to be undertaken by the OfS themselves in the meantime but have indicated that they believe that it should be undertaken by an independent quality body in the fullness of time. This now puts England in a different position to each of the devolved nations in respect to Quality Assurance, and it remains to be seen how each country might evolve their processes in the future.

The Office for Students has also launched a consultation on harassment and sexual misconduct, which has been widely covered in the newspapers. In essence, the consultation recommends that universities should publish a document explaining their approach to harassment and sexual misconduct, ensure that they have the capacity to comply with their approach, ensure that their approach is consistent with freedom of speech, and prohibit disclosures of breaches. The consultation also makes recommendations regarding personal relationships between staff and students, which has been widely publicised as staff making disclosures of relationships. Most of the recommendations were considered to be sensible.

The University has agreed to enter into a partnership with Skilled Education to expand and diversify its online portfolio in order to deliver distance learning programmes. The University was being proactive in engaging a Partner to support the distance learning programmes to create the scale required to make the programmes economically viable in the future.

The Vice-Chancellor addressed the issue of the School of Humanities and Education (SHE). He advised the Board that as a consequence of a change in circumstances with regard to the likely future viability of SHE as it currently existed, and the fundamental belief that the University had to continue to support the teaching of Humanities and Education in the broad sense, the only way that would be possible would be by moving Humanities and Education into a bigger School. This would ensure future cross subsidy, otherwise it was not financially viable to continue delivering the programmes in isolation. The Consultation with impacted staff as to how the move would be enacted, would now begin. The Vice-Chancellor invited the Registrar and Secretary, Sharon Harrison-Barker to provide further details to the Board.

The Registrar and Secretary, Sharon Harrison-Barker discussed the Proposal paper which had been to the Chief Executive's Group for approval in advance of the announcement. On Monday 13 March 2023, the announcement on the proposals for the School of Humanities and Education (SHE) was communicated to the wider University. Members of the VCE met with impacted colleagues as a School and later in small groups to discuss the proposals and implications. The Board was advised that the Humanities programme would move to the School of Creative Arts. The public programmes, Political and International Politics, International Relations, Sociology and Languages would move to the Business School. The Education programme would move to the law School. Two members of staff who lectured in Educational Psychology would move to Life Sciences. The English programme would move to LTIC. All receiving Managers were aware of the moves. The Consultation process with impacted staff had commenced and would finish on 14 April 2023. There were 10 members of staff at risk of redundancy, however, some staff may be redeployed to other roles and areas.

On 14 March 2023, a staff Q&A session took place. Conversations would continue until the end of the process on 14 April 2023. A communications strategy had been put in place and all impacted staff and students had been written to. With regard to the students, they were assured that their programmes of study would continue. The transition of the programmes would take effect from 1 August 2023.

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the oral report.

7 ITEMS FOR REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board received and noted an oral report from Dr Joel Carlton, Associate Dean, International and Postgraduate Student Experience, on matters discussed by the Board of Governors of relevance to the Academic Board at the Board of Governors meetings on 22 November 2022 and 21 February 2023.

Confidential paragraphs have been removed

Officers reported that overall, they were positive about the University's trajectory with regard to the Apprenticeship provision. The University's performance in this provision was better than other similar institutions that provide Apprenticeships as part of a larger provision.

The University's Strategic Report and Financial Statements were received and approved.

Confidential paragraph has been removed

International recruitment remained buoyant. The University of Hertfordshire was ranked in the top 10 International Recruiters according to HESA and was competing with Universities ranked considerably higher. The University is also considering options of expanding International recruitment from Australia, Canada, and the United States of America.

Professor Julie Newlan reported on the successful bid to obtain external funding for the new SPECS Building.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report was received by the Board.

The Vice-Chancellor reported to the Board that as a consequence of the drop in undergraduate numbers, combined with inflation and the University Pay Award, an increase in Overseas Student recruitment would be necessary to maintain the University's financial position.

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the oral report.

(Confidential Agenda Item, 7 refers)

8 MATTERS OF REPORT BY THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE)

The Board received an oral report regarding updates on research and other matters from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), Professor John Senior.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the recruitment process had begun for the Chair Designate of the Board of Governors and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the position of the United Kingdom's association with the EU Horizon Europe was looking more positive. He advised there was now an agreed position between the Government and the President of the European Union on the Northern Ireland Protocol. After ratification of the Agreement, there would be a delay of potentially six months whilst negotiations took place on the future association and funding.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the Independent Report by Sir Paul Nurse, Director of the Francis Crick Institute on the 'Review of the UK Research, Development and Innovation' had been published. The Report contained 29 recommendations. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor highlighted two recommendations which were relevant to University Funding.

The first recommendation related to 'end to end' Research Council funding. The recommendation particularly in relation to competitive and responsive modes of funding was that it should be reformed under a revised infrastructure with improved mechanisms for funding allocation.

The second recommendation related to QR Funding. The Review recommended that transparent mechanisms be implemented to provide a more transparent level of assurance and accountability regarding the funding process. The Report also identified the differential between the UK and the European Union regarding the allocation of research funding between Universities and Public Supported Research Enterprises (PSRE). In the UK, the split was 80%/20%, the greater allocation of funding to the University Sector. In the European Union, the University funding allocation was between 40% to 60%. The Report was silent on the merits of particular funding percentages, however, suggested that a rebalance was required for UK funding allocations.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor further advised that Michelle Donelan, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology had indicated that she approved the testing of different models of scientific research funding. A letter to this effect can be found at the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology website.

A link to the website can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-science...>

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the University had been awarded £1.25m ESRC Impact Acceleration Account funding. He further advised that the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) had allocated £40 million in funding to 30 institutions, 13 of which were Universities. The University of Hertfordshire was one of 3 post - 1992 Universities to receive funding, along with Coventry and Huddersfield Universities. The funding was for a period of 5 years from 1 April 2024. All Schools of the University who undertake economic, social and behavioural research would be eligible to apply internally for funding. The Board noted the excellent outcome of the award.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that he was pleased to announce that the University had recently received an award in Computer Science. The award was for 'Soft Wearable Assistive Garments, (SWAG). The University award was for just under six hundred thousand euros. The project was being supported by Innovate UK and involved 13 Partners, three of which were Universities, the University of Hertfordshire, Imperial College London, and Brunel University. He commented that the success in winning the award was a signal to the research community to continue to apply for European funding. The Pro Vice-Chancellor was pleased to note that the University had now received six funding grants from a European source. The Board noted the excellent outcome of the funding awards for the University.

RESOLVED

The Board noted and received the oral presentation.

(Confidential Agenda Item 8, refers)

MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE)

The Board received a report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), Dr Mairi Watson on the TEF submission in addition to oral updates.

Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF)

The Pro Vice-Chancellor asked the Board to note that on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the University's Accountable Officer to the Office for Students (OfS) she had submitted the required evidence for the current round of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) in advance of the 24 January 2023 deadline. It was noted that the narrative submitted contained very positive data regarding student outcomes and experiences whilst studying at the University. She further advised that the submission was to remain confidential at this time. The submission could be shared with colleagues, but no quotes could be used from the submission until the Panel's provisional ratings and reasoning has been received.

The Board was advised as to the next steps in the process. From July to August 2023 the University will receive the Panel's provisional ratings and reasoning. An opportunity would be given for the University to make representations to the Panel before the final ratings were decided. From September 2023, the Office for Students (OfS) expect to be in a position to publish outcomes and submissions. At that time, the University will be permitted to promote our ratings in accordance with guidelines. The Pro Vice-Chancellor thanked Karen Barton and her Team for their work in drafting the bulk of the submission. She also thanked the Schools and professional colleagues for the contributions they made in providing information which was included in the submission.

University Position on the use of AI Tools such as Chat GPT

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that she had been working with a panel of experts drawn from academic colleagues at the University to decide what the University's position was going to be on the use of AI tools. A paper on the issue was considered at the Education Student Experience Committee on 7 March 2023. It was decided that the University would move forward in a critical and evaluative way. The expert group will continue to meet and will produce a report at the end of the year for wider consultation.

The Board noted that current information on assessments and the use of AI tools was being updated for staff and students and that the University was transforming assessment approaches. The University Academic Misconduct Policy was robust but would be further updated to make it explicit to students what was considered to be an appropriate use of AI tools in assessments. Further advice and guidance were awaited from the Office for Students (OfS) and professional bodies.

Lifelong Loan Entitlement

The Pro Vice-Chancellor gave an update of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement. The Government have now announced their response to the consultation on changes to the funding framework for Further and Higher Education. From 2025 there will be significant changes in the funding model. There will be a unified funding framework. Students or individuals will be entitled to four years of post – 18 education funding, £37,000 in today's fees. This sum will be on a pro rata basis for students or individuals part way through a programme of study.

The intention was to increase flexibility for students or individuals and increase access to funding for eligible modules in 30 credit chunks. The ability to spend the funding at module level will be phased in for Higher Technical Qualifications, first from 2026. For levels 4,5 and 6 funding will commence during 2027 – 2028. A Working Group would be formed to consider the implications of the change in the funding model, and how this would impact the University in terms of the next cycles of periodic review and course design and delivery.

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the report and oral updates.

(Confidential Agenda Paper 9, refers)

10 **DATA FOR LEARNING CODE OF PRACTICE**

The Board received a report from Helen Barefoot, Professor of Learning and Teaching, on behalf of the Data for Learning Working Group.

The report proposed amendments to the Code of Practice for the use of Data for Learning. Professor Barefoot advised the Board that the suggested amendments to the Code of Practice for the use of Data for Learning had been discussed by the Learning Environment Strategic Governance and approved by the Education and Student Experience Committee (ESEC). A recommendation was made to the Board to approve the revised Code of Practice.

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the recommendation and approved the revised Code of Practice.

(Confidential Agenda Paper, 10 refers)

11 **BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC STUDENTS: AWARDING GAP**

The Board received an Initial Annual Report from Helen Barefoot, Professor of Learning and Teaching and Amanda Yip on the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) student awarding gap for 2021/22.

Confidential paragraph has been removed

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the report and actions that follow for all involved in learning, teaching and assessment.

(Confidential Agenda Paper, 11 refers)

12 **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS**

The Board received a report from the Dean of Students, Geri Ward, on the work of the Dean of Students Office in Semester B, this included a summary of safeguarding and mental health support, prevent, harassment and sexual misconduct, non-academic misconduct and academic misconduct.

The Board noted that there had been a significant increase in demand for the therapeutic and mental health service.

The University's Annual Prevent Report was submitted in December 2022. A response is awaited from the Office for Students (OfS) regarding the outcome of the University's compliance with the Prevent Duty. The Office for Students (OfS) website has been updated with confirmation that for 2021 there were no issues with non-compliance.

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/counter-terrorism-the-prevent-duty/how-we-monitor>

The Board noted that Kate Rhodes had been appointed to the newly created 0.5 post, Student Support Officer (EDI) Harassment & Sexual Violence. The appointment has enabled the service to offer specialist advice and support on harassment and sexual violence to students.

The Office for Students (OfS) have published their consultation on a 'New Approach to Regulating Harassment and Sexual Misconduct in English Higher Education'. The Dean of Students Office will be responding to the consultation and will update the Academic Board on progress at the next meeting.

Confidential paragraphs have been removed.

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the report.

(Confidential Agenda Paper 12, refers)

13 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED ACADEMIC YEAR CALENDAR 2024/25**

Professor Frank Haddleton, Director of Academic Quality presented the proposed Academic Year Calendar 2024/25 for Board consideration and approval.

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the Academic Year Calendar 2024/25 and gave approval.

(Confidential Agenda Paper 13, refers)

14 **STANDING WORKING PARTY ON UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS (UPRS)**

Sharon Harrison-Barker, Secretary and Registrar advised the Board that Item 14 - Standing Working Party on University Policies and Regulations (UPRs) would be taken forward to the meeting of the Academic Board on 21 June 2023.

(Confidential Item 14, refers)

15 **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

The Board received the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report for 2020/21 from Mohammed Ilyas, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

The report provided an overview of the progress made against the Strategic EDI Objectives and priorities including the Charter Marks the University is committed to. The report set out provisional aspirational targets including a new disability KPI which was being finalised. The Board was advised that the report was approved by the EDI Board on 9 January and the Chief Executive's Group on 16 January 2023. The report was also presented to the Employment, Remuneration, Governance and Nominations Committee for noting on 24 January 2023. The Board received a recommendation to note the report, progress against the EDI Objectives and Priorities, the provisional aspirational targets and the new disability KPI.

RESOLVED

The Board received and noted the report.

(Confidential Agenda Paper, 15 refers)

16 **EMERGENCY BUSINESS**

There was no emergency business.

17 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Academic Board will be held on Wednesday, 21 June 2023 from 14.00 hours in the Central Committee Room, MacLaurin Building and via MS Teams.

Items for the Agenda should be notified to Governance Services (email: governanceservices@herts.ac.uk) by Wednesday 31 May 2023 and reports submitted by Wednesday 7 June 2023.

18 **CLERK'S REPORT**

Confidential Paper 17 and Minutes A1 to N.2

ACADEMIC QUALITY

A.1 **Boards of Examiners**

The Board noted the Titles of Programme, Module and Short Course Boards of Examiners and their Chairs for the Academic Year 2021-2022 – Confidential Appendix A.1, refers.

A.2 **Research Degrees awarded**

A list of research degrees awarded – Confidential Appendix A.2, refers.

B **ANNUAL REPORTS**

B.1 The Board noted the Ethics Committee for Studies Involving Human Participants Annual Report 2021-22 – Appendix B.1, refers.

B.2 The Board noted the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Annual Report 2021-22 – Appendix B.2, refers.

C **MEETING REPORTS/MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES**

C.1 **Academic Standards and Audit Committee**

Summary of the meetings of the Academic Standards and Audit Committee held on 11 October 2022, 6 December 2022 and 24 January 2023 – Appendix C.1.1, C.1.2, C.1.3 refer.

C.2 **Ethics Committee for Studies Involving Human Participants**

Minutes of the meeting of the Ethics Committee for Studies Involving Human Participants held on 2 November 2022 – Confidential Appendix C.2, refers.

C.3 **Research Degrees Board**

Minutes of the Research Degrees Board held on 5 October and 23 November 2022 – Appendix C.3.1, C.3.2 refer.

C.4 **Research Committee**

Minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 18 October 2022 have been – Appendix C.4, refers.

C.5 **Education and Student Experience Committee**

Minutes of the meetings of the Education and Student Experience Committee held on 4 October, 22 November 2022, and 17 January 2023 – Confidential Appendix C.5.1, C.5.2, C.5.3 refer.

C.6 **School Academic Committees**

The most recent Minutes in publication can be viewed via the following link:

[Academic Board structure | About us | Uni of Herts](#)

D **ACADEMIC BOARD STRUCTURE**

The Academic Board structure chart can be found in the University website at the following link:

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/governance/academic-board/academic-board-structure>

E **BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBERSHIP**

Current membership of the Board of Governors can be found in the University website at the following link:

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/governance/board-of-governors>

F **SCHOOL STRUCTURES**

Appendix F, refers.

G **GRADUATE OUTCOMES**

The latest information available on the results for University graduates is available at the following HertsHub link:

[Graduate Outcomes | Alumni | Uni of Herts](#)

H **ACADEMIC YEAR CALENDAR**

The Academic Year calendars for 2022-2023 have been published and are available from the following link:

[www.herts.ac.uk/ data/assets/pdf file/0018/334233/Academic-Calendar-2022-2023.pdf](http://www.herts.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/334233/Academic-Calendar-2022-2023.pdf)

(Note: I is not used as it may be confused with number 1)

J **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023-2024**

The calendar of meetings is available in the University website at the following link:

[https://www.herts.ac.uk/ data/assets/pdf file/0003/353856/Academic-Calendar-2023-2024.pdf](https://www.herts.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/353856/Academic-Calendar-2023-2024.pdf)

K **AWARD CEREMONIES**

The next University Graduation Ceremonies will take place at St Albans Abbey between 5 - 15th September 2023 when Research, Taught Postgraduate and Undergraduate qualifications will be presented.

[Graduation Ceremonies \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

L **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BRIEFINGS**

The Vice-Chancellor's monthly briefings for October 2022, November 2022, December 2022 and January 2023 can be found at:

[Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Briefing - October 2022 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
[Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Briefing - November 2022 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
[Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Briefing - December 2022 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
[Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Briefing - January 2023 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

M SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022-2023

Wednesday, 21 June 2023 to be held in the Central Committee Room and/or via MS Teams at 14.00 hours.

N OBITUARIES

N.1 Gloria Richards

It is with great sadness that I must report the in-service death from illness of Gloria Richards, of the University's Centre for Academic English. Since joining UH in 2002 as a teacher of English, Gloria taught, supported, and supervised students in academic language, study and research skills at undergraduate and postgraduate level, in every discipline across the university. She was also a vital support enabling some students to achieve successful completion of their doctorates. Gloria brought a unique warmth and commitment to her students, often devoting her personal time to help build their confidence and skills outside scheduled classes. Over the 20 years she worked at UH, thousands of current and alumni students will remember her with gratitude and affection.

N.2 Professor Fiona Brooks

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the death of Professor Fiona Brooks, who passed away on 14 January, following a short illness. Fiona was a much-valued colleague at the University, in the School of Health and Social Work, working in CRiPACC for over 20 years. Fiona continued to work with the School on a fractional basis until 2020, as she furthered her international career at the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, and more recently as PVC and Dean of Health and Environmental Science, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. Fiona was a medical sociologist and during her time at UH she made a significant contribution to the growth of research through her internationally renowned body of work. She developed wide ranging international collaborations and secured prestigious research funding, while building the research environment, capacity, and impact, publishing widely, and successfully supervising numerous postgraduate research students. Fiona led the research team in CRIPACC focusing on adolescent and child health; most notably from 2008 as PI for England, Fiona led the Health Behaviours in School Aged Children study, [HBSC], a WHO collaborative cross-national study of adolescent health and wellbeing, involving over 51 countries to date.