

**Annex 2d:** Minutes, Board meeting, 20 April 2021

**Action:** For adoption

### **Minutes, Board meeting of 20 April 2021**

**In attendance:** Andrée Sursock (Chair), Norman Sharp (Vice-Chair), Barbara Brittingham, Oisín Hassan, Ellen Hazelkorn, Riitta Pyykkö, and Sigurður Óli Sigurðsson (Minutes).

The meeting was held via video conference call and convened at 15:00, Icelandic time.

#### **(1) Agenda**

The agenda of this meeting was adopted.

#### **(2) Future structure and trajectory of the Board**

AS updated the Board on the latest draft of the document the Board is developing on the future structure and trajectory of the Board. AS and NS reported on a meeting with Jón Atli Benediktsson, UI Rector and Chair of the Rectors' Council (RC) on March 26.

#### **(3) Schedule and format of 2021 annual meetings**

- i. Two-hour annual meetings will be conducted online in early June for each university, with the exceptions of UI and AUI. UI and AUI's annual meetings will take place in September. SOS will alert all universities of these arrangements and schedule meetings. The Board will meet for two hours in the second half of June to discuss annual meetings held to date.
- ii. OH and Aldís Mjöll Geirsdóttir will be given a choice of annual meetings to join once all dates have been set.
- iii. SOS will prepare an annotated agenda for annual meetings, as was done for annual meetings in 2020. Universities will be encouraged strongly to ensure that student representatives attend annual meetings. Agendas for annual meetings will include as before an update from student representatives. OH will discuss with LÍS if there are other possible methods of gathering student input in addition to annual meetings.

#### **(4) Update on potential new Board member**

- i. BB and RP updated the Board on a meeting on April 13 with Prof. Crichton Lang, past VC of the University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland, to discuss Prof. Lang's possibly joining the Board as a member. Erna Sigurðardóttir also joined the subcommittee to represent student interests. The subcommittee noted that Prof. Lang had clear views on enhancement-led evaluations, has a good understanding of the Icelandic higher education sector and has leadership and management experience in a university that shares similarities with many

Icelandic universities. The subcommittee recommended that Prof. Lang join the Board, and the Board adopted their proposal.

- ii. Prof. Lang will join the Board formally for the November 2021 meeting. An offer to attend the September Board meeting as an observer will also be extended to Prof. Lang.
- iii. A letter will be sent to the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture asking for Prof. Lang's appointment to be confirmed formally with an appointment letter.
- iv. Erna Sigurðardóttir will be formally thanked for her contribution to this process.

**(5) Responding to forthcoming Action Plans from BU and UNAK**

- i. The QEF2 Institution-Wide Review of Bifröst University included a judgment of limited confidence on standards of degrees and awards, and the Commissioned Review of Police Studies at UNAK resulted in limited confidence judgements on student learning experience and on standards of degrees and awards. Both universities will submit Action Plans to the Board in response to these judgements outlining their proposed actions to alleviate the limited confidence. The deadline for submission of these Action Plans is 26 April 2021.
- ii. Both action plans will be circulated among Board members as soon as they are received by the Secretariat.
- iii. For the upcoming May meeting of the Board, NS will prepare a brief oral summary of UNAK's Action Plan and guide Board discussion of the Plan. EH will do the same for the Action Plan received from BU.

**(6) AOB**

Board agreed to include on the agenda of its upcoming May meeting a review of the Board budget to determine if a part-time employee can be added to the Secretariat because of the considerable increases in activity foreseen in the next academic year.

Meeting adjourned at 16:20.