

Minutes, Board meeting of 30 June 2021

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

The meeting was held via video conference call and convened at 13:00, Icelandic time.

(1) Agenda, Minutes and matters arising

The agenda of this meeting and the minutes of the previous Board meeting (May 17-18 2021, including minutes from annual meetings with Rectors' Conference and Ministry of Education, Science and Culture) were adopted.

(2) Accreditation review report of doctoral studies in Sport and Exercise Science at RU

- i. The Board noted that the review report was clearly written and contained relevant commendations and recommendations.
- ii. The report was accepted as is, with one exception. The review team recommended that RU establish an exit diploma for students who cannot finish the degree. However, such a diploma cannot be established in Iceland as it is not specified in the National Qualifications Framework for Iceland. The Board will therefore recommend to the review team that this specific recommendation be removed from the report.
- iii. The Board Secretariat will update the Guidelines for Chair and Team Members for doctoral accreditation reviews with instructions to Review Teams to include a report annex where the findings of the Teams are linked to the relevant articles of the Icelandic rules on doctoral accreditation (#37/2007).

(3) Reports from annual meetings 2021 at five universities

- i. Annual meeting with Bifröst University. In the annual meeting, BU and Board provided updates on their work since the last annual meeting. BU's action plan in response to limited confidence was also discussed in the annual meeting and an update was provided on how BU will progress with the plan. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture will be kept informed of the action plan's progress.
- ii. Annual meeting with University of Akureyri. In the annual meeting, UNAK and Board provided updates on their work since the last annual meeting. UNAK's action plan in response to limited confidence judgements in the commissioned report on Police Studies was also discussed in the annual meeting and an update was provided on how UNAK will progress with the plan. Following the submission, there would be a formal visit to review progress and achievements. The Board will provide full information regarding the format of this review. Following receipt

of the review report, the Board would then meet to agree the recommendation it will make to MESC regarding alleviation of limited confidence.

- iii. Annual meeting with Reykjavík University. In the annual meeting, RU and Board provided updates on their work since the last annual meeting and recently submitted SLRs were discussed. Looking to QEF3, RU wants the Board to focus on continuity in SLR and IWR processes so that they become a culmination of steady work over the span of 6-7 years, rather than a colossal effort every 6-7 years. At the same time, there needs to be an awareness of possible review fatigue. RU wants to see a continuation of the emphasis on research management. The focal points could be connections with society and industry, as well as impact through various types of collaborations.
- iv. Annual meeting with Icelandic University of the Arts. In the annual meeting, IUA and Board provided updates on their work since the last annual meeting. IUA installed three new deans of three schools and four new heads of departments in 2020. The big project next year will be the revision of rules of academic appointments – tenure, promotion, work allocations to research, teaching, societal engagement, etc. IUA is working on setting up PhD programmes, working with ELIA and looking to the Florence Principles for doctoral studies in arts. Housing remains IUA's most challenging issue. Looking to QEF3, IUA would support more of a focus on societal impact.
- v. Annual meeting with Hólar University. In the annual meeting, HU and Board provided updates on their work since the last annual meeting. Strategic planning is ongoing and is informed by the findings of the QEF2 IWR report. HU has achieved equal pay certification.

(4) 2022 Board meeting schedule

The Board will meet on the following dates in 2022:

- 21-22 February
- 16-17 May
- 19-20 September
- 14-15 November

(5) AOB.

- i. REAC will host a webinar on research assessment with brief presentations from three international panellists, followed by panel discussions featuring the three presenters and two Icelandic representatives. The webinar will be on 10 September. The webinar will be followed up with an on-site workshop, conducted in Icelandic, in the last week of September with exact date to be determined. The timing of these events was considered in light of ongoing revisions to the Evaluation System of the Public Universities in Iceland.

- ii. The Board is working on developing a seminar series on internal quality assurance for Greenland. The project will span academic year 2021-2022. However, funding is guaranteed only through 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 15:00.