

Universities Update: The University of Sheffield

**Board of Directors
26 March 2024**

Ashley Blom, Non-Executive Director

The University of Sheffield

Finance

The financial situation of the HE sector is becoming more challenging due to freezing of fees, high inflation and a decrease in the overseas student market. This is having a profound effect on many universities, but TUOS remains in a relatively strong financial position compared to many peers.

Student enrolment

- 30% sector wide decrease in applications for nursing. However, TUOS applications for nursing have increased.
- Applications for medicine have dropped, but we shall still recruit to all our places.

NHS long-term workforce plan

MSC is in talks with DoH and NHSE. OFS is meeting with the VC and VP(Health) this month to discuss impact on the University. Plan is double numbers of medical and nursing graduates nationally over the next fifteen years. This will require expansion of existing schools and the creation of new schools. Currently there is a push for 4-year degrees and apprenticeships for Medicine. There will be very little detail or clarity till after the election. VP (Health) meeting with Wes Streeting's team in May.

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Medical and Dental Undergraduate Tariff

Currently Dentistry is looking at attribution of this between partners. There will be a balancing up with some funds moving to the Dental School. We are working together to ensure that this is phased in such a way as to minimise disruption to the Trust directorate.

Grant income in the faculty has increased over the past year with more large grants. Increases across all 3 Schools. Numbers of applications are increasing.

Faculty restructure has proceeded very smoothly and new Schools are functioning well. The rest of the University is now going through a similar restructure which will take at least 2 years.

Faculty EDI plans are progressing well particularly around decolonising the curriculum and gender equality with 49% of professoriate female.

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University has appointed a new Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Robert Mokaya FRS. He is a Chemist and is currently a PVC in Nottingham.

New appointments. We are currently in the process of appointing approximately 7 cancer research posts, of which 3 are likely to be clinical and 2 will be joint posts with the Trust. Further cancer posts are likely to follow. We are also appointing a Professor of Motor Neurone Disease and a Clinical Senior Lecturer in Dentistry

Upcoming appointments. Dean of Dentistry (June), Head of the Integrated Academic Training School (April), Programme Director for Medicine (April).

Estates. The following projects are current: consolidating School of AHPNMW in Mushroom Lane; refurbishment of Sam Fox House; Construction of a new £26m building for neuroscience and related research (underpinning the BRC) as well as bespoke teaching space.

New courses. We are launching a new undergraduate degree in Pharmacy that should start recruiting in 2025.