

REGISTRAR AND SECRETARY'S CORE BRIEF: JULY 2006

There are five matters for report this month:

Graduation Ceremonies

I would like to offer my personal thanks to the many colleagues throughout the Administration who contributed to the success and smooth running of the Graduation ceremonies held during the first two weeks of July. It is a real tribute to the team work and professionalism of all staff involved that we were able to arrange 39 ceremonies over ten days and still ensure that each ceremony provided a special and unique opportunity for almost 7500 graduates and their families to celebrate their achievement. In view of the delays and difficulties arising from the recent industrial action, I would like to express particular appreciation to colleagues in the Student Services Centre and in Schools for all their hard work in turning around the degree results and preparing the graduation ceremony programmes in record time.

Student Services Centre

As many colleagues will know, Philip Harris retires from the University at the end of this month. Sarah Beer, who is currently Student Experience Officer, will be taking over as Head of the Student Service Centre for an initial period of six months from 1st August.

Progress on process reviews

In last month's Core Brief I reported that two process reviews, on undergraduate recruitment and admissions and on research administration, would be initiated in early autumn. In discussion with colleagues I have identified two small groups who will now begin work on the scoping of both reviews so that the detailed work can begin in earnest within weeks. Chad Ryan will oversee the work on my behalf and he will be in contact with the members of the scoping groups by the end of the week to arrange meetings and agree the working arrangements for each group. Throughout these reviews it is imperative that the views of those most intimately involved in the process (this will include administrative and academic staff) are sought and analysed. The desired outcome is, in each case, administrative processes that command confidence because they are as transparent as possible, with authority and accountability clearly expressed and they operate with the efficiency and effectiveness that is required to meet the University's objectives on recruitment and research.

Review of the scope of HR

A reminder that the above report is on the web at:

<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/internal-comms/hr-review.pdf>.

Service to others

Various parts of the Administration make their own distinctive contribution to helping the community – here in Manchester and overseas. Perhaps we do not highlight the breadth and extent of that contribution as much as we should. This month, by way of example, I am including some details about STARS as follows:

“The Directorate of Sport, Trading and Residential Services has already exceeded its annual target for charitable activity of £12000 just seven months into the year.

STARS has raised the money through various initiatives, social events and individual achievements that have brought the current total to just over £12,880. The biggest fund raiser of all has been the introduction of ‘ONE’ Water to the University catering outlets and vending machines. ONE, the official water used in Live8, uses all of its profits to build unique pumps overseas that provide people with safe, clean and free water whilst also acting as a roundabout for children to play on. STARS were keen to get behind this project and are proud to announce that we have now funded our first pump by raising over £6000 from ONE Water sales.

STARS are also committed to organising charitable events. Earlier in the year the annual university boat race between the universities of Manchester and Salford, and organised at this university by STARS, raised £4000 for The New Children’s Hospital Appeal, a charity close to the local community’s heart.

Social events are also used to make money. Money raised from the Easter Party is being used to support a member of staff who is running the New York Marathon for the ‘Get Kids Going’ charity. The money from the Christmas Party was used to build a piggery in Uganda.”

Congratulations to all concerned on this great achievement. I know there are numerous other examples of service to the community and, with Alan Ferns, I will be looking at ways in which we can recognise them when Unilife and Staff Update appear again in the autumn.

With so many colleagues on holiday at various points over the next two months the next Core Brief will not be until week commencing 25th September. Enjoy your holiday whenever it takes place.

Albert McMenemy
Registrar and Secretary

17th July 2006