

positive feedback from some colleagues at a recent CUC event about the approach taken by the Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive. The Board expressed its support for the Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive.

5.6 The Board was informed of the University's international work, following the retirement of the Pro Vice

its Medical School a colleague who worked on the development of Aston's Medical School, and,

- 10.2 The Board undertook a discussion in four groups and then engaged in a feedback and wider discussion session, on the following topics:
- **Regulation in other sectors and how the new proposed arrangements compare.** The Board agreed that it hoped that universities would be able to retain their autonomy and remain true to their mission and values in this new context, and would not be in the position of the NHS, where the regulatory framework drives the strategy and work of an organisation. Similarly, the Board agreed that it hoped that Higher Education would not be in a similar position to social care and other educational institutions, in the regulatory environments overseen by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted respectively.
 - **Risks associated with the new regulatory context.** The Board felt that there has not been a clear definition of 'Value for Money'. This ambiguity, coupled with the divergence of regulatory oversight of research (to the UKRI) and education (to the Office for Students) may result in some difficulties, for example, when assessing the full cost compared to the funding/resourcing of research in universities. It was noted that early indications suggest that there may be additional data reporting points in the academic year and that this would place an extra burden on smaller institutions such as this university.
 - **Opportunities within the new regulatory context.** The Board welcomed the focus on student support and widening access and participation, which accord with the core values of the University. It also noted that the new framework would be risk-based and that effort and resources at OfS should appropriately be focused on new entrants and failing providers.
 - **Further future discussion.** The Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive will oversee the preparation of the University's formal response to the consultation, taking into account the feedback from the Board. The Board will receive a further briefing when the new Framework has been published.

11. FORMAL APPROVAL ITEMS

11.1 Annual Financial Sustainability (ASSUR) Report

11.1.1

13.2.2 The Board received

