

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERFACE STRATEGIC BOARD

19TH August 2021 AT 10:30AM, HELD ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

Professor Andrea Nolan (Chair), Professor Donald MacRae, Dr Siobhán Jordan, Stuart Bain, Professor Russel Griggs, Jim Watson, Yekemi Otaru, Dr Stuart Fancey, Liz Connolly, Dr. George Baxter, Marc Crothall and Dr Colin Cooper.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Bannon (SFC), John Mackenzie (HIE),

Shelley Breckenridge, Howell Davies, Fiona Curr, Nicola Brooks, and Laura Goodfellow (Interface).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and explained the agenda to the Board.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair noted apologies from Dr. Elizabeth Rattray, Gillian Galloway, Brian Brown and Lorraine Thomson. She highlighted that Dr. George Baxter and Dr. Stuart Fancey would be joining the meeting later.

3. ORAL UPDATES

Professor Andrea Nolan (AN) welcomed the Board informing them that Dr. Elizabeth Rattray had joined the Board in place of Johnny Mone as the Universities Scotland Research and Commercialisation Director's Group representative. She noted the focus of this meeting was the AY2020-2021 year-end review of the Interface programme. She highlighted the final report of the [Scottish Funding Council's \(SFC\) Coherence Review](#) which had been published at the end of June 2021. The Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, Jamie Hepburn, is currently consulting on the recommendations ahead of a formal response from Scottish Government.

Siobhán provided the following updates to the Board

- SJ and AN have a scheduled meeting with Minister Jamie Hepburn in September to explain Interface and its role in enabling knowledge exchange.
- The Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards will be held on the **17th March 2022** and planning is underway with respect to the optimal hybrid format.
- The Interface Team continue to work from home, however the Potterrow office is now available for staff. Guidance on future working models is being developed in conjunction with Edinburgh Innovations Ltd and University of Edinburgh
- Recruitment for 4 positions across the team is now successfully completed (3 maternity covers and one leaver).

4. MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING (PAPER 1)

The Board agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the discussions held on 25th May 2021. They noted progress against the actions as outlined in the table (Appendix 1) which has been updated to reflect the discussions at the meeting. AN suggested progressing Action 3 which was on hold due to COVID-19 and informed the Board that a meeting had been set up with Nora Senior as a result of Action 2.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting after reminding the Board that the date of the next online meeting is **25th November 2021 2pm – 4pm.**