



Strategy 2020

University Leadership Team

University News



PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

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Colleagues,

I can't quite believe that this is my last newsletter of the year and that next week is Christmas. This year seems to have gone by incredibly fast – which is probably a reflection of how much has been going on across the University, and how much we have achieved.

My personal highlights included the engagement with and by staff throughout our strategic review and the development of Strategy 2020: Building Success. I couldn't have asked for much more in terms of sharing opinions and importantly looking at ways that we can build on our strengths in the future.

Our graduations all over the world have seen nearly 5,000 students awarded Edinburgh Napier qualifications, an enormous achievement for staff and for our newest graduates, who are an ongoing source of pride for the University.

Our 50th anniversary celebrations which reached as far as New York and Hong Kong were a real highlight for me. The birthday parties on each of the campuses on 8 September brought staff and students together around coffee and cupcakes (I enjoyed one on each campus), while the Alumni Day and staff and student party in June were great occasions and it was truly wonderful to meet many students past and present. I'll probably never fully accept defeat in the egg and spoon race however...



## University Leadership Team

Academic Board agreed to the dissolution of faculties from August 2015 and on the basis of our new academic structure, I have considered further the structure of ULT.

The University Court agreed last Monday to establish three new Assistant Principal roles – these are:

- Assistant Principal, Internationalisation
- Assistant Principal, Student Experience
- Assistant Principal, Organisational, Corporate & Partnership Development

I plan to progress filling these roles as a priority, and will provide you with a further update early in the New Year.

## Research Excellence Framework (REF)

You will have seen this morning that we have received our results from the Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF).

I was happy to see that the quality of our research has increased with 53 per cent of our activity submitted rated as either world leading or internationally excellent compared to 22 per cent in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), albeit on a reduced staff submission. However although we submitted less people we have increased our 3 and 4 star research; overall a good result for the University.



We have risen 20 places in the **Times Higher Education rankings** released today, from 109th to 89th, so overall a good result for the University.

There are many positives to be taken from the results, and also some key learning points and areas where we will want to improve in the future. The REF outcomes endorse our recently approved **Academic Strategy** which has articulated the ambitions and areas for action in Research and Innovation.

Further analysis will continue into 2015; for more detailed results **please visit the intranet news story**.

## Internationalisation

We have now established an International Operations team and our internationalisation strategy was approved by ULT and Academic Board earlier this month. I look forward to making further progress in this key area in 2015 as we look to meet our vision of being a fully internationalised University that is global in outlook and reach.

For more information you can view the minutes of the Academic Board on the **Governance Services intranet pages**.

## Campus Conversations

In our January 2015 conversations we will focus on delivery plans arising from the Academic Strategy. Our academic plans feed in to the Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) that will be taking place in Spring 2015 and are informed by the REF outcomes.

I would also like to hear if there is anything that you may want to discuss at the campus conversations, please email [a.palin@napier.ac.uk](mailto:a.palin@napier.ac.uk).



#### Dates for your diary:

- **Craiglockhart Campus** - Tuesday 20 January, 1.30 - 3.30pm, Rivers Suite
- **Merchiston Campus** - Wednesday 21 January, 1.30 - 3.30pm, B32
- **Sighthill Campus** - Thursday 22 January, 1.30 - 3.30pm, LRC 5

Please use the voting buttons to reserve your place or email [ideaevents@napier.ac.uk](mailto:ideaevents@napier.ac.uk). Please RSVP so that we can plan table numbers; the conversations will be interactive.

#### Get in touch

I am always interested in hearing your feedback and views on University matters (no matter how small or large!). Please email [principal@napier.ac.uk](mailto:principal@napier.ac.uk) with any questions you may have.

Have a great Christmas and New Year and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew".

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