

## APPENDIX TO MINUTE NO 128

### SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

- 1) The University is wholeheartedly committed to sustainability. Sustainable development is defined as “meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The adoption of a sustainability agenda will help to ensure that resources are used wisely and within a framework in which environmental, social and economic factors are integrated.
- 2) The University will seek to promote sustainable development throughout its activities and will achieve this through:
  1. The management of its business.
  2. Teaching, learning and research.
  3. Partnership with local communities.

#### **Management of Business**

- 3) The University will review its business operations systematically with a view to achieving significant improvements in sustainability. This review will include examination of:
  - The purchasing and use of energy, water and other utilities
  - Approaches to investment and financial management
  - Transportation and travel
  - Capital Programme – strategy, construction and management
  - Biodiversity on the University's estate
  - Procurement policies
  - Materials consumption and waste streams
  - Human resource policies
  - Student services
- 4) The review will set clearly defined objectives and targets.

#### **Teaching, learning and research**

- 5) The University will encourage scholarship and research into sustainable development and will ensure that students have the opportunity to acquire skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to the development of a sustainable society. This will be achieved by:
  - The provision of cross-disciplinary courses and programmes on sustainable development
  - Ensuring that all professionally-based degree programmes enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and values needed in professional practice.
  - Supporting and encouraging interdisciplinary research into issues of sustainable development
  - Developing the capacities of academic staff to promote understanding of the principles of sustainability.

#### **Relationships with the University's wider communities**

- 6) The University will work with its stakeholders to identify opportunities for promoting sustainability in a mutually beneficial way. The stakeholders to be involved in this process will include:

- Local communities
- Public authorities
- Professional accrediting bodies
- SHEFC and other funding bodies
- Schools
- Graduate employers
- Users of University research and scholarship

#### **Targets and monitoring**

- 7) The University will establish an Advisory Group to oversee and ensure the implementation of this policy and to set objectives and targets.
- 8) This Group will establish effective reporting procedures, commit to a process of continual improvement, and set best practice standards which meet or surpass the requirements of legislation. The Group will also aim to promote awareness of all legislative, economic, technical and market developments that assist progress towards sustainability.
- 9) The Group will report to the University Management Group through the designated Vice-Principal. Each policy area will be assigned to an appropriate member of staff who will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of strategy in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. Stakeholders to be engaged in this process will include students, staff, public authorities, professional and statutory accrediting bodies; community groups, suppliers and clients.