Welcome to the annual newsletter from the UBPAS Trustees. It contains a summary of what has been happening with the pension scheme over the past year, information about the Trustees, and other updates. The Trustees have appointed a new Scheme administrator and are in the process of moving to the new administration arrangements. There have also been changes to the investment management arrangements. The funding level of the Scheme continues to be monitored and the three yearly actuarial valuation is currently being carried out. I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and useful. Jonathan Lord - Chairman of Trustees

The UBPAS Trustee board and advisers

The UBPAS is governed by a Trustee board comprising:

4 Trustees nominated by the University:
- Jonathan Lord - the independent chairman
- Len Hall
- Andy Nield
- Mick Axtell

3 Member Nominated Trustees ("MNTs"):
- Tony Macdonald
- Pat French
- Matti Punt

In February 2018 Robert Kerse stepped down as a Trustee and was replaced by Jason Smerdon, who also took on the position of Scheme Secretary. More recently, Mick Axtell has replaced Jason Smerdon as a Trustee. We would like to thank Robert and Jason for their contributions to the board. Jason Smerdon remains actively involved with the Scheme in his position of Scheme Secretary.

Jason and Mick have been working with the Scheme’s advisers to build up their knowledge of the Scheme. We wish them all the best in their roles.

The board takes advice from specialist advisers. Osborne Clarke provide legal advice, Willis Towers Watson are the Scheme’s Actuary and Mercer advice on the Scheme’s investments. All 3 advisers are present at the quarterly Trustee meetings. A sub-committee of the Trustees considers investment decisions alongside the main board and reports at Trustee meetings.

A summary of key UBPAS activities over the year

Administration changes

Historically the administration of the UBPAS has been provided by an administration team working for the University. The University and the Trustee have worked together to review these arrangements and decided to outsource the administration of the UBPAS to a third party provider specialising in administration of pension schemes.

Following a full review process involving 16 providers, Barnett Waddingham have been selected to administer the UBPAS going forward. The Trustees and University were impressed with the quality of Barnett Waddingham’s administration and are confident that they will provide excellent service to members. We are currently working through a transition period, and the plan is for Barnett Waddingham to be solely responsible for the administration from 1 October 2018. This newsletter has been sent to members under cover of a welcome letter from Barnett Waddingham which provides full contact details. The Trustees would like to thank the University administration team for their work for the Scheme over the years.

Investment management approach

Following Mercer’s appointment as the new investment adviser late last year, the Trustees have been working with Mercer to review the current investment strategy and to transition the management of the majority of UBPAS assets to Mercer.

Under the new approach the Trustees will retain control of the most important decisions that are likely to have the greatest impact on the Scheme, however the majority of the day-to-day responsibilities will now be delegated to Mercer in order to improve the efficiency of the management of Scheme assets and to capitalise on short-term market opportunities. This approach is called Fiduciary Management. Further details of the investment strategy are overleaf.
UBPAS investment update

Following the appointment of Mercer as the new investment manager, the Scheme’s assets were transitioned from the legacy investment managers to Mercer during June 2018, with the transition completed in July 2018. Under the new approach, the Trustees have maintained the Scheme’s existing asset split of 70% in “growth” and 30% in “matching” assets. However, the new strategy benefits from a significant increase in diversification at both an asset class and underlying manager level to better manage the level of investment risk.

Further information about UBPAS can be found online at: [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/pensions/schemes/ubpas/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/pensions/schemes/ubpas/).

If you have any queries please contact University of Bristol Pension and Assurance Scheme, Pension Administration, Barnett Waddingham LLP, Hartwell House, Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AD or telephone 0333 11 11 222. This is a local rate number and you’ll be charged your providers standard landline rate.