

University of Bristol

DRAFT response to UUK USS 2017 Schedule of Contributions consultation

December 2018

The University of Bristol is disappointed that the USS Trustee has not reflected any of the JEP's recommendations in the proposed Schedule of Contributions arising from the 2017 valuation. In particular, we would like UUK to push hard for the Trustee to reflect the estimated asset outperformance in the 2017 valuation and Schedule of Contributions. We note that the Trustee is amenable to considering asset performance at the date of signing the 2017 Schedule of Contributions. It is extremely important that this issue is addressed to the best of UUK's ability to safeguard both the affordability of the existing scheme and the confidence of the sector in the JEP process.

We would also like UUK and its advisors to consider whether the recovery period could be extended beyond the current proposal of the Trustee (17 years from the 2017 valuation date; 14 years from the increased past service deficit contributions in April 2020). There is scope to increase the recovery period further due to the number of participating employers, the strength and further expected growth rate of the sector, the scheme's level of maturity and the fact it is a last person standing scheme.

The University of Bristol would also like UUK to push for the 2017 valuation to be held over until the submission date of the 2018 valuation (June 2018) and for an Interim Schedule of Contributions to be put in place to provide assurance to The Pensions Regulator that the scheme is taking the current estimated deficit position seriously. We believe that this approach is necessary to maintain confidence in the scheme and enable a constructive dialogue in relation to the 2018 valuation whilst protecting the interests of members' accrued pension benefits.