

Advisory Board Meeting July 2018



The mid-term meeting of the Advisory Board marked the arrival of a new Chair and a new era for the Board.

Steve Hollis has taken on the role of Chair. Steve's career has spanned thirty years with KPMG, Chairmanship of Aston Villa Football Club, and now includes Chairmanship of the HS2 Growth Delivery Board. He also holds the distinguished position of Deputy Lieutenant of The West Midlands Lieutenancy. Steve advises and serves on the Boards of a private companies in the UK and USA and has extensive experience in cross-border transactions.

Steve opened his first meeting, stating to his fellow members, *"I have had the privilege to be able to work with Professor Sir David Eastwood and the UoB leadership team over the last seven years and see at very close quarters the impact the University can have on the regional and global economy. Before accepting the appointment I was keen to understand the scale of the ambition for the Business School and the role the Advisory Board could play in achieving this. I propose that we will focus on this in our meeting today but needless to say I believe our Board has the opportunity to be a part of a 'game changer' "*

The meeting also heralded the arrival of two further new members: Billie Major, Corporate Vice President at Capgemini, and Paul Szumilewicz, Global Head of Digital Operations at HSBC Group Management. Both were strategically targeted to join the Board to provide skills in digital and data analytics, vital to the taught programmes we are developing in these areas. Paul is already actively engaged with our faculty in the design and delivery of a brand new Digital Business Strategy and Data Analytics module to be rolled out on our MSc International Business programme January 2019. Billie is also helping on the design of our new data and analytics programmes and has engaged the support of Capgemini's Digital Data Delivery Centre to help the School get ahead in this area. She has also secured Capgemini's support for a University-wide research application exploring the opportunities artificial intelligence poses for the UK's legal services, insurance and accountancy sectors, which, if successful, Capgemini will contribute time, insight and infrastructure towards.

The meeting addressed three areas currently under strategic review at the Business School: 1.the inception of an Advanced Management Centre for postgraduate programmes, 2.embedding responsible business across our research streams, and 3.approaches to academic recruitment. Much of the discussion turned to digital innovation, with Board members advising that the School must develop all its programmes with this in mind. The School agreed to hold a meeting with all academics currently researching and teaching in this area to develop a strategy to grow this activity, and to also consult our key corporate partners, starting with a dinner for key professional services firms in the region to gauge their response to disruptive technologies and the skills they require of our graduates moving forward.

