

Meeting Minutes: Annual Alumni Meeting 2025

Date: 10 September 2025

Time: 6:00 PM BST

Location: Online (Microsoft Teams)

Chair: Martin Cullen (Chair of the Alumni Association Committee)

Attendees: Alumni, Members of the Alumni Association Committee, Advancement Team
Colleagues, Guest Speakers

Agenda Overview

- 1) Welcome & Housekeeping – Martin Cullen
- 2) Advancement Update – Steve Corbett
- 3) University Update – Professor and Vice-Chancellor Nishan Canagarajah
- 4) Q&A Session with Professor and Vice-Chancellor Nishan Canagarajah
- 5) Formal Business – Martin Cullen
 - Approval of Previous Annual Alumni Meeting Minutes 2024
 - Chair's Annual Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Committee Members Review
- 6) Closing Remarks – Martin Cullen

Key Highlights

Advancement Update (Steve Corbett)

- Soft launch of global alumni mentoring scheme (11 active partnerships).
- Nearly 100 alumni volunteers engaged in events and mentoring.
- Successful Alumni Awards Dinner at Middle Temple Hall, London.
- New international chapters launched in Colombo, China, and Dalian.
- £15.4M raised in charitable pledges – highest in university history.
- Launch of “2121 Founders of the Future” campaign with a £100million target.

University Update (Professor and Vice-Chancellor Nishan Canagarajah)

- Research income surpassed £100M for the second time in three years.
- Student recruitment doubled over five years (now over 6,000 annually).
- Strategic review underway for several academic programmes.
- AI integration in education and operations, including the pilot for Microsoft Copilot.
- Plans for infrastructure upgrades and increased hardship support.

Q&A with Professor and Vice-Chancellor Nishan Canagarajah

Question	Response
How is the university bridging academia and industry?	Committed to 100 hours of work-related experience for every student; increasing industrial research income; encouraging internships and graduate employment opportunities for students.
How is AI being integrated into learning?	Three-tiered AI policy for students; pilot with Microsoft Copilot; discipline-specific AI tools (currently rolled out in the Law School).
What's happening with the full-time MBA?	Market demand has declined; Business School exploring alternatives with a focus on leadership courses.
What are the university's ambitions over the next 5–7 years?	Improve infrastructure, expand digital capabilities, attract top talent, and increase student hardship support.

Formal Business Summaries

Approval of Previous Annual Alumni Meeting Minutes 2024

The minutes from the 2024 AAM were available in advance to audience members. No objections or comments were received. The minutes were formally approved.

Chair's Annual Report

Martin Cullen presented highlights from the Alumni Association's centenary year, including global events, the Alumni Awards Dinner, and departmental celebrations. Emphasis was placed on increased engagement and international representation. Open to audience questions after update.

Question	Response
Is the Chair of the Alumni Association Committee looking to visit any of the international Alumni Chapters?	Looking at travel plans; would like to over the next 3-year term as Chair.

Treasurer's Report

Martin Cullen presented on behalf of Simon Green. Overview of Convocation and William Roddick funds provided, including recent allocations to student hardship, creative writing lectures, and departmental centenary events. Financial performance and fund balances were shared.

Committee Members Review

The proposed list of committee members for the upcoming year was presented and approved. Martin Cullen was re-elected as Chair for a third term during the previous Alumni Association Committee. Full membership for all listed committee members will be formally approved during

the next Alumni Association Committee meeting. Opportunities for alumni to get involved were highlighted.

Actions Table

Action Item	Responsible Party	Deadline/Status
Respond to unanswered Q&A questions from the meeting	Advancement Team and Vice-Chancellor's Office	Within 2 weeks post-meeting
Continue centenary celebrations and alumni engagement events	Alumni Association Committee	Ongoing through 2025
Strategic review of academic programmes (Chemistry, Geology, etc.)	University Exec Board	In progress
Launch public phase of “2121 Founders of the Future” campaign	Advancement Team	February 2026
Ensure every student receives 100 hours of work-related experience	Careers & Employability Team	Academic Year 2026–27

Minutes created by Microsoft 365 Copilot and reviewed by the Advancement Team and the Chair of the Alumni Association Committee before publication.