# Meeting Agenda

## Meeting
- **WUN Academic Advisory Group – Annual Meeting and AGM**

## Date
- Thursday 24 May 2018

## Location
- **Formal Dining Room, University Club of Western Australia**
  - University of Western Australia Campus

## Attending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Steering Group Member*)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof David Hogg*, University of Leeds (Chair)</td>
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<td>Prof Tungyang Chen, National Cheng Kung University</td>
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<td>Prof Fanny Cheung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Prof Caroline Dyer, University of Leeds (GHEAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Peter Davies, The University of Western Australia (Responding to Climate Change)</td>
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<td>Ms Ann Singleton, University of Bristol (Understanding Cultures)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Ngaire Kerse, University of Auckland (Public Health)</td>
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<td>Prof Robyn Owens*, The University of Western Australia</td>
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<td>Prof Dave Petley, President, The University of Sheffield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng, University of Cape Town</td>
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<td>Prof Tore Sætersdal, University of Bergen (Understanding Cultures)</td>
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<td>Prof Peter Smith, University of Southampton (&amp; Responding to Climate Change)</td>
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<td>Prof Deborah Smith, University of York</td>
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<td>Prof Qinhua Xu, Renmin University of China (Global Policy Research Group)</td>
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<td>Prof Tom van Veen*, Maastricht University</td>
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<td>Dr David Mickler, The University of Western Australia (Global Africa Group)</td>
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<td>Prof Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town (Global Africa Group)</td>
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## Alternate Representatives

- Professor Samuel Offei, University of Ghana
- Professor Douglas Proctor, University College Dublin
- Professor Tilman Wolf, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Professor Jinming Yan, Renmin University of China

## Observers

- Dr Malcolm Butler, University of Sheffield

## Secretariat

- Dr Mike Hasenmueller, General Manager
- Associate Professor Grace Liu, Research Development Manager

## Prepared by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DH/MH</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 May 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>1030-1200</td>
<td>Academic Advisory Group Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Formal Dining Room, University Club of Western Australia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Confirmation of minutes and matters arising</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Minutes of AAG AGM Meeting – May 2017 to note, <strong>previously approved</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Minutes of AAG SG Meeting – January 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Executive Director’s Report – WUN Status Summary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Current status and priorities</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Global Challenges</td>
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<td></td>
<td>GC Position Papers attached taken as read</td>
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<td>- Updates by Chairs from previous day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Cross GC Collaboration</td>
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<td>Reports attached taken as read</td>
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<td>- Updates by Chairs from previous day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300 – 1400</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1300 – 1430</td>
<td><strong>Academic Advisory Board Meeting (continued)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Formal Dining Room, University Club of Western Australia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Strategic Funding Paper</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Education/Mobility</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Research Development Fund 2018</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Summary for Plenary Session Reporting</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>AOB</td>
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<td>1430 – 1500</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>1500 – 1630</td>
<td>Plenary and AGM</td>
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<td>1645</td>
<td><strong>Group photo and return to Pan Pacific Hotel (bus)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td><strong>WUN Conference Dinner (departs Pan Pacific Hotel at 1840 for Government House)</strong></td>
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**Date and time of next meeting:** to be confirmed –
WUN Steering Group Teleconferences are normally in September and January.
The WUN Annual Conferences and AGM 2019 is proposed for UK 19-24 or 26-30 May.
# Meeting Minutes and Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>WUN Academic Advisory Group Meeting – AGM 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>4 May 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>ONE UN Hotel, New York City USA</td>
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## Attending
- Prof David Hogg, Chair (DH)
- Ms Britta Baron, University of Alberta (BB)
- Prof Deborah Smith, University of York (DS)
- Prof Francis Dodoo, University of Ghana (FD)
- Dr Jane Gatewood, University of Rochester (JG)
- Prof Lisa Roberts, University of Leeds (LS)
- Prof Qinhuai Xu, Renmin University of China (QX)
- Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng, University of Cape Town (MP)
- Prof Peter Davies, The University of Western Australia (GC Chair) (PD)
- Prof Peter Smith, The University of Southampton (GC Chair) (PS)
- Prof Joseph Berger (GC Chair) (JB)
- Prof Robyn Owens, The University of Western Australia (RO)
- Prof Sian Griffiths, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (SG)
- Prof Tom van Veen, Maastricht University (TV)
- Prof Tungyang Chen, National Cheng Kung University (TC)
- Prof Gill Valentine, The University of Sheffield (GV)

## Proxies
- Prof Elizabeth Brabec, University of Massachusetts Amherst (EB)
- Prof Andreas Neef, The University of Auckland (AN)

## Observers
- Prof Maano Ramutsindela (CCT Chair) University of Cape Town (MR)
- Prof Fanny Cheung (CCT Chair) The Chinese University of Hong Kong (FC)
- Dr Arturo Molina, Tecnológica de Monterrey (AM)
- Prof Nicholas Lieven, University of Bristol (NL)

## Apologies
- Prof Elizabeth Chilton, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Professor Jim Metson, University of Auckland
- Prof Duncan Ivison, The University of Sydney
- Prof Anne Christine Johannessen, University of Bergen
- Prof Yonghua Song, Zheijiang University
- Prof Lucy Irungu, The University of Nairobi

## Secretariat
- Dr Mike Hasenmueller, General Manager, WUN (MH)

## Prepared by
- Mike Hasenmueller
- Date 20 May 2017

### Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Confirmation of minutes and matters arising</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Minutes of AAG Maastricht AGM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Minutes of January 2017 Steering Group</td>
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## Notes
- The minutes of the 19 April 2016 AAG meeting of the 19 April 2016 were reviewed and accepted.
  - 4 - the action was complete.
• 5 - agreed to remove the first action on mapping of datasets – on reflection it is probably infeasible to cover all of the datasets available to our partners. TV will confirm the progress on the second action here.
• 6 – complete.
• 7 – first action on GC Chairs inviting high-quality Sustainability Fund proposals complete.
• 8 – first three actions done. Fourth action completed but Fellowship bid was unsuccessful.
• 9 – Agreed to delete this action.
• 10 – all four actions complete
• 12 – complete

For the AAG Steering Group meeting on 24th January 2017-05-06, the minutes were accepted.
• 4 – both actions complete
• 6 – 1, 3, 4 were incorporated into the AAG Agenda for the AGM. Action 2 is outstanding

3 Executive Director’s Report

Notes
• Report taken as read

5 Strategic Plan 2017-20 Overview  (correction: no item 4 in agenda)

Notes

5a Research and Development Strategy
- Research – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Research Development Fund
DH: The SDGs could inform, but not constrain, WUN’s research strategy.
RO: Define what Global Challenges would be and reflect them through the SDGs
JB: We should not just take SDGs as they are but help provide critique and refine them
MP: SDGs should be seen as rules, we should be able to work outside these
DH: Reiterated “inform not constrain” approach
FC: Use of SDG framework could be used to articulate the impact of our research
DH: Suggested that Sustainability Fund be reworked to “Strategic Development Fund” to support implementation of the Strategic Plan

It was agreed that:
• We should emphasise the overlap between the GCs, possibly through a new schematic to replace the four pillars;
• The research strategy within and between the GCs should be developed, particularly to identify research foci (e.g. migration, energy);
• The SDGs could inform but not constrain WUN strategy.

5b Cross-cutting Themes (Enabling Cores):
- Data Science, Economics, China, Africa
DH: Do we have the research theme structure right?
LR: Unclear if we need CCTs
JB: The different types of CCTs, which could be confusing (regional vs thematic)
FP: Are WUN CCTs the only enablers and why do we not include others?
GL: Many member universities have interests in the regions reflected in the CCTs, which is the rationale for their inclusion
FC: The Global China Group CCT brings Chinese perspectives into four GCs but doesn’t meet with the GCs to facilitate more synergies. Perhaps this could help.
PS: Could CCTs be rotated/changed periodically?
MR: Global Africa Group CCT is not about studying Africa, but rather helps connect members on the basis of a broad academic interest in Africa. Brings together existing work by members and uses WUN as a catalyst to draw on the expertise and engage within the mandate of the WUN themes
TV: Suggested representing WUN’s research themes as intersecting circles instead of pillars
DH: Pragmatism is key – for outstanding ideas we consider them if they fall outside of GCs, even if GCs remain the primary lens for analysis (using RDF as example)
DH: Posed question to Group as to what opportunities (research areas) they see emerging
PS: Quantum technology

It was agreed that The cross-cutting themes should not be represented at the primary strategic level with the GCs;

5c Education, Mobility
- Postgraduate, ECR, Staff (and RMP Program)
- Undergraduate Mobility
JG: Reviewed the Ed/Mobility proposal presented at plenary to the Group
There was wholehearted support for this proposal.
PS: Don’t assume Coordinator, whose focus is research, should be the person who does Mobility
JG: The Working Group will focus on Mobility first before other areas such as online learning and joint teaching, which have been brought up by some participants, is investigated
MP: Believes Mobility plan should be aligned with WUN research themes
PS: Recommends not to lose focus on the RMP
FD: Agreed with PS as it is a lead part of many of member university interests

Concern was expressed on the potential costs that would be incurred by individual students taking advantage of the proposed mobility programme.

Student mobility should be seen as one part of a broader international experience.

5d Engagement
- International Agencies, partners
- Influence on evidence based policy
- Profile for WUN Partners
- Communications and Media
LR: Asked if there was a strategic engagement plan
NL: Need member universities to step up with Network relationships and engagement
RO: Inward profile raising is also important for academics at member universities who do not know they are part of WUN.

It was agreed that we need clarity of what WUN is about, and particularly what it is we have to offer. We need a stakeholder engagement process, including engagement with our own academic staff.

AAG members noted the implications of the proposed education mobility and engagement proposals on the resourcing of the WUN Secretariat.

6 Funding Paper
### Notes
DH: Key priority is national funding agencies. WUN could take a lead in talking to funding agencies on challenges of funding international projects. Does AAG have appetite to jointly put forward a proposal on how this might work? Is the information source worth doing? Should this be a lobbying initiative for the research councils?
RO: Different countries might have different appetites for engaging in lobbying
BB: Has it been floated if WUN can be at the table of research councils?

### Actions
- Engage with national funding agencies
- Engage global forum of national research funding organisations
- Complete briefing on summary of research sources

### Research Development Fund Process Review

#### Review Panel for 2017

#### Notes
Group: Agreed the 2017 RDF Review Panel would consist of two returning and four new panel members.
RO: Would GC want to discuss using some of their money towards RDFs as part of annual GC plans?

#### Actions
- DH to organise 2017 RDF Review Panel

### Policy Think Tank Initiative

#### Notes
QX: Presented the initiative and noted it is a platform for non-political academic advice to policy makers – intellectual support to policy makers globally
PS: Need to consider/explore any potential issues connected to policy recommendations being badged as WUN
JB: Policy papers should be written with audience in mind

It was proposed that the think tank could coordinate a series of research briefings, consolidating the work of WUN research groups.

#### Actions
AAG noted the potential high impact of the proposal and recommends moving to phase 2: a Working Group should be formed to help Renmin formulate the next version of the proposal taking into account AAG input.

### Any other business
No other business was raised and the meeting was adjourned

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**Date and time of next meeting**

**Next meeting of AAG Steering Group:**

The date of the next AAG Steering Group meeting is 27 September 2017, local times to be advised.
# Meeting Minutes and Actions

## Agenda Meeting of the Partnership Board, Academic Advisory Group & Coordinators

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising</td>
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| Notes       | Minutes were accepted with the following reports on Action Items  
|             | ✓ DH: Re Funding, 1) Applied to join the EPSRC Council but not successful; 2) Will follow up with UKRI; 3) Requests that funding should be on the AGM AAG agenda  
|             | ✓ JH: GC groups will revise position papers to include SDGs, will be put in Document Bank for AGM; Presidents Forum program currently being prepared.  
|             | ✓ All actions reported complete. |
| 3           | Executive Director and General Manager Report |
| Notes       | ED report taken as read  
|             | JH: University College Dublin has officially joined WUN, asked members of AAG members to reach out to new WUN members for engagement  
|             | JH: WUN leadership transition – refer to the circular that has been sent calling for candidates. JH noted that he is not involved in the recruitment process but will be available with the WUN team for a smooth transition. |
| 4           | AGM 2017 Progress Reports |
| Notes       | DH: Suggested a full discussion on this item at the AAG Meeting in Perth  
|             | JH: Re Cross-cutting themes, following recommendations the Global Africa Group (GAG), Global China Group (GCG), International Policy Research Group (IPRG),
Economics and Data Science will integrate into Global Challenges and their workshops at the AGM. However, GAG, GCG and IPRG will have a working dinner in Perth.

- DH: Re Mobility, invited comment on the Education/Mobility Working Group paper now, with a full discussion at the AAG meeting in Perth.
- JH: Noted strong support from Presidents in principle, but when it comes to practical implementation and finances there is more discussion to be had.
- FD: 1) Mobility between developed vs developing country universities presents challenges with regard to financial parity and visa issues. 2) These programs seem to be more sustainable when they are predicated on a platform of existing relationships. If you have faculty working together it becomes more permanent. 3) Might be better to invest the money to cement better research relationships before we layer on the exchange component.
- FC: It would be useful to 1) target students who are already involved in WUN research program at their home institutions, and 2) leverage bilateral relationships for financial support. The financial commitment is quite high.
- DH: How do we go about selecting undergraduates and host them? We could select students that are already involved in WUN research at their own institution.
- MN: Suggested piloting first to see if it is even a meaningful way and evaluate the outcomes before it rolls out to a bigger program.
- FC: Suggest a summer school pilot first as it is more reasonable to organise and also can help reconcile financial differences/cost.
- SJ: Discussed the ways mobility is already taking place (and suggested a full mapping) including, for example, Auckland’s summer research program open to WUN institutions. Suggested joining activities that are happening on the ground already.
- JH: Re Visibility and Engagement, suggested leveraging communications departments at each member university across the Network.

5 Research Development Fund 2018 Outcomes

Notes

- DH thanked the panel: Brita Baron, Nishan Canagarajah, Fanny Cheung, Jim Metson, Robyn Owens; and GC Chairs Peter Smith, Tore Sætersdal, Ann Singleton, Caroline Dyer, Ngaire Kerse, Mark Hanson
- JH added his thanks, sepeically to DH, and suggested we write up our process as a model for others to consider as it is the best model he’s seen
- MH: 14/27 applications awarded. Referred to RDF Award Matrix for details.

6 Global Challenge Updates – Perth preparations

Notes

- TS noted that the UC Steering Group is meeting tomorrow and preparing a three-day workshop for Perth focusing on Heritage, Indigenous Cultures and Migration
- JH asked AAG to make sure Presidents are aware of the draft program. He will be sending out an updated draft in the coming days.

Actions

- AAG Steering Group Members to ensure Presidents are aware of Presidents Forum draft program

7 Updates: International Policy Research Group, Global Africa Group, Global China Group

Notes

- JH noted the upcoming Renmin University WUN Policy Research Group Summit and remarked that more than 20 WUN member universities would be represented.
- DH: Summary of outcomes from this conference/program will be discussed in Perth.
- JH: Re Global Africa Group, noted the workshop to be held in Nairobi on 21 March.
and the Public Panel that will take place on 25 May (evening) in Perth

- JH: Re Global China Group, listed the upcoming Policy Group Summit in Beijing and working dinner in Perth as important upcoming events
- GL: Drew the group’s attention to the recently distributed Chinese New Year email update

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<th>8</th>
<th>AAG AGM 2018 Agenda</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DH: Called for suggested agenda items, and identified Mobility, RDF 2018, review Global Challenge plans, and broadening engagement within our own institutions as priority agenda items</td>
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<td>No other suggestions were registered by the group.</td>
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<td>No other business was reported, and the meeting was declared closed.</td>
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**Date and time of next meeting**

Next meeting of the full AAG:

24 May at the WUN Annual Conference and AGM 2018 in Perth, Australia
REPORT TO THE WUN PARTNERSHIP BOARD FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR JOHN HEARN

Summary 2017-18. After the fundamental review of all WUN activities in 2016-17, this reporting period has seen a continuing strengthening of WUN research programs, productivity and funding success, with alignment of each Global Challenge Group to the relevant SDGs and other global policy frameworks. As recommended by the Board in New York in 2017, the cross-cutting themes of Economics and Big Data are built into the four Global Challenge Groups, while the Global China Group and the Global Africa Group perform as enabling support groups for WUN-wide engagement with those continents. A Global Policy Research Group has developed rapidly to support a focussed engagement of the Global Challenge research programs with international policy development. A lot of work has been completed in exploring the expansion of WUN Postgraduate and ECR Mobility, alongside a further expansion into Undergraduate Research Student mobility, which could be a new and strong binding force for WUN Partners. We are delighted to welcome our new Partnership Board Chair, Professor Martin Paul, and new member University College Dublin to the WUN Network, now totalling a record 23 members (see below). During the year the Board Steering Group carried out an extensive search for new Executive Director to replace John Hearn, who completes his service after 9 years in July 31 2018. A smooth transition is carefully planned and ensured to the new Executive Director and Secretariat.

1. WUN Conference and AGM 2018. The Partnership Board asked to focus in the annual face to face Board meeting on key strategic discussions concerning the future development of WUN, reducing time spent on management and operational matters, which can be handled through the year by the Board Steering Group and the Executive Director. Consequently we have allocated the time to a few key strategic issues, while a number of other matters are listed in this report for note. Note 1: The 2018 meetings were transferred from Beijing to Perth due to new regulations in China. We are grateful to President Dawn Freshwater and her team who worked well with WUN Secretariat to implement.

2. WUN Conference and AGM 2019. The Board steering group proposes that these meetings are held in the UK. Considerations of time and cost encourage a venue for workshops and governance meetings at one or more UK member campuses; and the Presidents Forum to be held in London in order to facilitate participation from government, international funding agencies and major NGOs. While the UK government will be engaged in the launch of BREXIT, the UK will also be developing strong global partners. In addition the UK is currently maintaining its foreign development spend at 0.7 GDP through its relevant agencies, with the Global Challenge Research Fund, Newton Fund and other instruments in education and research.

3. WUN Reference Documents Bank. Note 2: I draw your attention to this reference bank, which is designed to brief and inform all WUN colleagues on the current platform and status of WUN initiatives. The bank is easy to access and user friendly. The WUN website is also replete with up to date information on all knowledge partnerships, policy documents, the 88 WUN program teams world-wide, and the future directions approved by the Board. This data base can reduce the large number of enquiries to Secretariat.

4. Development of WUN Strategic Plan 2018-20. The outcomes of the WUN meetings in New York are the basis of the adjusted WUN Strategic Plan, for consideration and approval in Perth. In fact, the new strategic directions have required only minor edits and inclusion of innovative additions to the earlier Strategic Plan 2016-18. The Strategic Plan is kept to two pages, and is included in the WUN Annual Report for continuity.

6. WUN Membership. We welcome University College Dublin, Ireland’s Global University; Tec de Monterrey, and the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. WUN membership now stands at a record 23 members. The Board determined earlier that membership should not go beyond 25, so that the complex linkages of research and education have time to develop. Renmin University of China, National Cheng Kung
University of Taiwan, and the University of Nairobi joined in 2016-17. As we approach the Conference, we have an expression of interest from the University of Pretoria – a leader in Africa.

**Note 3:** There is inevitable turnover of a minority of our membership with new Presidents and their strategies, priorities and engagement. While some of this appears inane and egotistic, it is a Trumpian characteristic of our time and takes a great deal of energy and time from the Executive Director and Board. The Board may invite a new Membership strategy paper, to raise the membership ceiling to 30. We could certainly strengthen with 2 new members from Asia (Japan/Korea/Thai); 2 new from Europe (South and East); 2 from America (mid-west and west coast) and one more each (because of size of their continents) from Chile, Pacific (Hawaii/Fiji). Of course, new members would meet criteria (approved earlier).

7. **WUN Criteria for Success.** I repeat this item from my report in 2017, as it is vital to WUN success. There is a growing list of Interdisciplinary Research Groups that, while initiated in part by WUN, have now grown and become independently autonomous and sustainable. A few examples are the Critical Zones Consortium (Prof Steve Banwart); the INFLAME Inflammatory Diseases Group (Prof Susan Prescott); the Life Course Approach to Non Communicable Disease (Prof Mark Hanson); the OPERA Pregnancy Risk Program (Prof David Olson); the Global Farm Platforms Program (Professor Mark Eisler); and the Migration Research Program (Ann Singleton). WUN does not claim these successes, although each of them were stimulated and catalysed by the WUN Research Development Fund. In the course of our review of WUN it emerges that the criteria for success include (i) Strong and enduring leadership; (ii) a committed team and scholarly community; (iii) linkage with a relevant international agency; (iv) engagement with the major international society in the field; (v) strong support from their home university; and (vi) focus on outcomes, impact and sustainable resources. Other WUN IRGs are well along this trajectory for the future. These criteria give some guidelines and insights for the further development of WUN.

8. **WUN Sustainability Fund.** This fund was established in 2013-15 with extra subscriptions of £10K per annum, in order to develop competitive bids for resources that would make the WUN group sustainable (as in paragraph 7 above). In the current financial year, the fund has supported three major teams and programs (i) Professor Loretta Baldessar (UWA), $AUD 25K for the “Social Care Approach to Ageing”; (ii) Professor Cecilia Svanes (Bergen), £ 30K for Helminths in the global allergy epidemic; and (iii) Professor David Olsen (Alberta), £20K for “Optimal Pregnancy Environment Risk Assessment”. Reviewers considered these applications to have high probability of attracting major funding towards sustainability. After these expenditures and at the start of financial year 2018-19, the fund holds £165K for future investment.

9. **Budget and Subscription.** We have managed the budget very carefully and will have a small surplus and carry over into financial year 2018-19. The projected budget does not include any expenditure required for a new undergraduate mobility program. In its first year, I suggest the Postgraduate mobility model be applied, supported through participating Universities, and any central Secretariat cost be kept minimal. The projected budget has included a modest expansion of Secretariat to deal with the bigger membership.

10. **Thanks.** I am grateful to all those who have given their time, energy and expertise to WUN over the past nine years of my tenure as Executive Director. In visiting our member universities and meeting many of the researchers who engage in WUN programs, I am constantly impressed (and amazed) at the enthusiasm for WUN and good will of our colleagues. I thank all those who are faithful participants (at any time of day or night) in the WUN Steering Group teleconferences, between the annual Conferences and AGM, who make sure that business is proceeding well. The governance meetings with the Partnership Board (and seven Chairs during my term), AAG, Global Challenge Groups and Coordinators are essential in monitoring and implementation. The Coordinators are extraordinary in their dedication and hard work. Especially, I thank my colleagues in the Secretariat, Dr Mike Hasenmueller, A-Prof Grace Liu and Marije Nieuwenhuis in Sydney and Helena Smith, Dawn Thompson, Marcin Sanocki and Diane Allinson in Leeds, for their smart and tireless teamwork and efficiency. It is a privilege to help lead such a worthwhile group of people around the world, in such a worthwhile program of activities.
A world leading research university network, tackling global challenges through international collaboration.

WUN is a global network driving international collaboration in research and education and developing research talent. Our membership spans 23 universities from 13 countries on 6 continents. We foster over 90 research programs, engage over 2,000 researchers and students, and work with government, international agencies and industry.

We exist to find solutions to some of society’s most significant challenges and to improve quality of life. Our research, informed (but not constrained) by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and other global policy frameworks, is focused on four Global Challenges:

- Responding to Climate Change
- Public Health (Non-communicable Disease)
- Global Higher Education and Research
- Understanding Cultures

We take pride in being an experimental laboratory at the frontier of internationalisation. WUN is committed to:

- Research and education that is innovative and makes a difference
- Creating opportunities for established and emerging talent
- Attracting resources to sustain our world-class teams
- Creating access and advantage for our members.

This approach is backed up by strong governance and rigorous quality management. WUN is building on its achievements and teamwork to further strengthen relevance and capacity. We present here our vision, priorities and key strategies that will guide our network’s development and future success.

**VISION**

As a leading international higher education and research network, we will be a force in developing innovative solutions to some of the world’s most significant challenges.

**MISSION**

WUN draws upon the combined intellectual power and resources of its members to create opportunities in international research and graduate education. It partners with government, international organisations and industry to stretch ambitions and develop the next generation of leaders.

www.wun.ac.uk
**VALUES**

WUN’s values underpin our approach to maximising the network’s core strengths.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DEVELOP</th>
<th>NURTURE</th>
<th>INNOVATE</th>
<th>COLLABORATE</th>
<th>IMPACT</th>
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<td>WUN actively develops our global research alliance and education programs to meet our objectives.</td>
<td>WUN nurtures and invests resources in the intellectual strengths and priorities of our members.</td>
<td>WUN seeks and instigates innovation in knowledge management and educational exchange.</td>
<td>WUN promotes opportunities that accelerate internationalisation for global collaborations between universities and with government, international organisations and industry on issues of global significance.</td>
<td>WUN exists to make a difference. Our research produces new knowledge that influences policy and impacts society to improve lives.</td>
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**OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES**

1. **Strengthen and grow our university network**
   - Develop and maintain a dynamic portfolio of research and education programs in alignment with WUN members’ priorities.
   - Strategically grow the membership as a network of peer universities with mutual strengths and regional diversity.
   - Build ownership and leadership within WUN to increase collaboration, commitment and sense of community.

2. **Foster influential research communities and nurture research talent**
   - Focus our efforts on four Global Challenges,\(^1\):
     - Responding to Climate Change (food security, urbanisation, oceanography);
     - Public Health (lifecourse approaches to obesity, heart disease, diabetes);
     - Global Higher Education and Research (access and equity, new technologies);
     - Understanding Cultures (migration, digital futures, ageing).
   - Incorporate the Global Africa Group, Global China Group, and International Policy Research Group into our Global Challenge programs.
   - Strengthen leadership and accountability to ensure quality and delivery.
   - Create opportunities for the engagement and career development of talented researchers at the postdoctoral, postgraduate and undergraduate level in international research collaborations.

3. **Support education**
   - Create opportunities for the engagement and career development of talented researchers at the postdoctoral, postgraduate and undergraduate level in international research collaborations.
   - Facilitate the mobility of students and academic staff.
   - Promote equity for researchers in our programs.

4. **Enhance the visibility and impact of WUN**
   - Position WUN as a recognised thought leader in our areas of expertise, engaging the WUN Presidents and experts as an international think-tank and as policy advisors.
   - Increase the power of the “WUN voice” in an ambassadorial and lobbying role.
   - Strengthen the WUN brand and profile with internal and external audiences, ensuring WUN is recognised for the vast potential of its intellectual resources.

**THE FUTURE LIES IN OUR STRENGTHS**

The landscape of global higher education and research is fast changing, with a revolution on the horizon. WUN is adaptive and uniquely placed to provide distinct advantage to our members in preparing for these changes. This strength will allow our community to lead strategic research and education that improves the quality of life around the world. That is our future.
Reports on achievements, status and futures of the Global Challenge Steering Groups

Position Papers
A fundamental review of WUN, to evolve and be fit for future purpose and priorities, is in progress. Consultations for options, opinions and data, including governance representatives and the internal and external stakeholders of WUN, will be presented at the Annual Conference and AGM in New York on 3-5 May 2017. The future directions and priorities of WUN will form the sinews of the new Strategic Plan, formulated and implemented in 2017-18. This includes the research, education and mobility programs, function of board and secretariat, and funding strategies.

In order to fully engage the Global Challenge Groups, who are the main base of WUN activities, we request that you prepare a short position paper that summarises at high level, (i) major achievements of WUN in 2013-16, (ii) and major priorities 2017-20, and (iii) the top five papers, grants and outcomes over the past three years.

**ACTION:** So that this may be considered alongside other Strategic Review input, we ask that you please consult your respective steering groups and complete the form below, submitting the final agreed draft immediately after your January teleconference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Challenge: Name of Global Challenge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summary objectives and rationale:</strong> Why is your Global Challenge an appropriate area of primary focus for WUN, and why should it continue to be so? (maximum 200 words)</td>
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</table>

Through strong links with key national and international agencies and global datasets, our world leading experts from across all continents, in Migration, China studies, Africa, Heritage (including indigenous heritage and preserving heritage through digital cultures) have the capacity to produce cutting edge, evidence-based research that will inform impactful and socially beneficial policy and practice.

**Current Status:** Outline major directions, priorities, programs (IRGs), workshops, and achievements. from 2013-15. (maximum 500 words) Total word count = 827

**General background**

The research agenda of the WUN Understanding Cultures Global Challenge is shaped by a concern with how profound globalization trends such as a more integrated transnational economic system, the rise of global communications networks, increasing levels of population mobility, the advent of international consumer brands, and widening social inequalities are challenging national, regional and individual cultural practices. Deeper understanding of these challenges for cultural changes is necessary to inform effective policy-making and implementation.
Achievements

A) Conferences, workshops, and other

2015 Interdisciplinary Migration conference, CUHK

2015 Digital Cultures Conference, AGM Hong Kong

2015 Web Observatory meeting, Southampton.

2016 Global Adjustments to China’s Growth Transition conference (Robertson), UWA, Global China and Economics

2016 Migration Conference, Maastricht, focusing on: Irregular Migration – refugees/ illegal/ forced; Labour Migration

2016 Migration, Development and Global Transformations (MDGT) (Singleton), Bristol

Heritage mapping study of WUN members.

IOM internship, Singleton, 6 months. Aim to extend the Bristol- IOM relationship to all WUN members.

B) Research outputs and research funding

A special themed issue of the Journal for Mixed Methods Research (JMMR) was launched in July 2016 – this is an outcome of the Hong Kong Migration conference. The issue includes an editorial relating to the WUN Migration conference and its outcomes, and a contribution from Frank Laczko, Head of Migration Research Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM).


Alistair Paterson’s UWA led ‘Archeology of the Indian ocean’ RDF (2012-13) led to many publications, a number of prestigious grants, including an ARC Linkage grant to the value of UWA $489,368.00, an ARC Discovery Project worth $1,175,000 and most recently, a Future Fellowship.

Research Priorities

*Migration – 1) to build a collaborative network of WUN migration scholars to respond to the new research and policy challenges being raised by the post 2015 global development agenda, which will include migration across several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 2) to work with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which provides resources and research for governments in implementing the SDGs. Through this link, to open up internship opportunities for PhD students and staff in the IOM’s Global Migration Data Analytics Centre 3) research focus - to extend the evidence base on hidden forms of migration (the most vulnerable and under research migrants) through globally comparable research.

*Heritage (including indigenous heritage, and preserving heritage through digital cultures)

One of the core components of cultural identity for both individuals and societies is heritage—that is, the relevance of the past in the present. The key relevance of heritage to the UC Global Challenge is the implications of people’s connections to their pasts for social and economic stability and the overall wellness of individuals, communities, and nations.
Three subthemes within heritage studies are particularly relevant to both the UC global challenge and the strengths of the WUN member institutions as derived from the mapping study. These are global issues that require international, interdisciplinary research teams to address:

(1) Urbanization: during the next 50 years, the world will be facing unprecedented urbanization and the changes that will bring for communities and societies. WUN can work with international bodies such as UNESCO to consider the role of cultural heritage in various forms of public participation, norms and practices to create sustainable urban environments.

(2) Heritage & Displacement: while we know that millions of people are either currently displaced or will be displaced in the coming years, there has been little focused research on how the promotion of heritage could mitigate against the trauma and threats to cultural memory, ontological security, a core belief system, and overall wellbeing that result from such displacements. A strong sense of heritage has been demonstrated to be a key to a healthy sense of identity in the present, and a means of coping with an uncertain future.

(3) Digital Heritage: One of the major changes in critical heritage studies worldwide is the recognition that cultural heritage should not be only a collection of relics from the past that are studied and curated by historiographical experts. Instead, there has been a new focus on the importance of local participation in defining heritage values and in actively promoting and safeguarding heritage. As such, and recognizing the diasporic nature of many cultural groups, there has been an increasing emphasis on digital methods for public participation and access to heritage collections (audio and visual recordings, objects, crowd sourcing historical documents, archives, research, etc.). A number of WUN members have expressed a strong level of expertise and interest in digital heritage and digital humanities. There is a great need for better understanding how digital technologies can change our views of the past and how they can shape the future.

Working together on these issues in an international context provides the opportunity to make lasting and significant contributions to the Understanding Cultures Global Challenge.

**Future Directions:** What are your predicted priorities for the next three years? How might the global environment might affect this? What work should grow and/or be added? What should be reduced and/or stopped? (maximum 500 words)

The most logical way forward for the UC GC for the next three years is to go with the GC’s current momentum and further develop the key themes of the forthcoming meeting at Amherst which will focus on ‘The Role of Heritage in Migration and Displacement’.

In general, the UN, UNESCO, and international development bank projects have focused on the protection of tangible heritage, particularly immovable tangible heritage. The conference aims to focus on a significant research gap – participating researchers will look beyond the preservation of heritage to ask how the re-establishment and promotion of heritage and heritage/cultural participation through physical and digital means might mitigate against the trauma and threats to cultural memory, ontological security, a core belief system, and overall wellbeing that result from climate and conflict driven migration and displacement. Three major research areas are ripe for interdisciplinary and international attention: (1) basic research on the importance and value of cultural heritage for social, ecological, economic and physical/mental well-being, (2) the application of such research to international policy and (3) exploration of the potential of emerging digital technologies for new forms of cultural expression and meaning making.

However, while millions of people are either currently displaced or will be displaced on a global scale in the coming years, there has been little focused research on how the re-establishment and promotion of heritage and heritage/cultural participation through physical and digital means mitigates against the trauma and threats
to cultural memory, ontological security, a core belief system, and overall wellbeing that result from such displacements.

A major goal of the workshop would be to formulate an agenda for the WUN in its approach to the role of heritage in the Understanding Cultures Global Challenge, and in the WUN Global Challenges more broadly.

The key relevance of heritage to the UC Global Challenge is the implications of people’s connections to their pasts for social and economic stability and the overall wellness of individuals, communities, and nations. But the implications of heritage for public health, climate change, and higher education are also clear. The interdisciplinary and burgeoning field of heritage studies is uniquely poised to address some of the global challenges in social and economic stability and well-being.

The other UC priority areas - Migration, digital cultures and indigenous heritage – will not be dropped; they will simply be incorporated into the dominant Heritage theme.

Relevance of heritage to the Public health GC - A strong sense of heritage has been demonstrated to be a key to a healthy sense of identity and overall wellness of individuals and societies in the present.

Relevance of heritage to the Responding to Climate Change (RCC) - millions of people are either currently displaced as a result of conflicts and more will be displaced on a global scale in the coming years as a result of conflicts and climate change.

The key relevance of heritage to the GHEAR Global Challenge -

In this way, the UC GC could potentially bring together aspects of all four global challenges and also incorporate cross cutting themes of economics, Africa and China.

Note: We do not recommend reverting to a call for RDF proposals which fall under the broad UC theme. Indeed, our preference is to focus in on only one or two priority areas and to subsume under these major themes the other UC related areas of WUN expertise.

Data: Indicate your Global Challenge group’s

- Five top publications;
- Five top grants;
- Leading strategic workshops;
- Key points of influence;
- Sustainable programs that have or are currently emerging (e.g. Critical Zones, Migration; Ageing Health, Higher Education Access, etc);
- Top think tank contributions.

(maximum 500 words)

Collect data from the Understanding Cultures IRGs annual reports.
A key approach guiding the Strategic Plan is to position and support our three African university members as ‘regional hubs’ to link local-regional-global expertise and to marry associated research agendas and priorities. This first part of this is to hold a Strategic Research Workshop at the University of Ghana in early February 2017, which would directly connect WUN GAG and wider West African researchers with the objective of identifying and developing collaborative project proposals for seed and then full funding. Along with the regional hubs model, the other core component of our approach is mobility – directly connecting researchers within WUN and across Africa.

Research priorities: environmental change and food security, public health, governance, inequality and social inclusion, higher education and research capacity and natural resources for inclusive growth and sustainable development.
Attachment 6
Global Higher Education and Research Position Paper

Paper not available at time of publishing – please refer to the Document Bank
Directions

A fundamental review of WUN, to evolve and be fit for future purpose and priorities, is in progress. Consultations for options, opinions and data, including governance representatives and the internal and external stakeholders of WUN, will be presented at the Annual Conference and AGM in New York on 3-5 May 2017. The future directions and priorities of WUN will form the sinews of the new Strategic Plan, formulated and implemented in 2017-18. This includes the research, education and mobility programs, function of board and secretariat, and funding strategies.

In order to fully engage the Global Challenge Groups, who are the main base of WUN activities, we request that you prepare a short position paper that summarises at high level, (i) major achievements of WUN in 2013-16, (ii) and major priorities 2017-20, and (iii) the top five papers, grants and outcomes over the past three years.

ACTION: So that this may be considered alongside other Strategic Review input, we ask that you please consult your respective steering groups and complete the form below, submitting the final agreed draft immediately after your February teleconference.

Global Challenge: Responding to Climate Change

Responding to Climate Change

Summary objectives and rationale: Why is your Global Challenge an appropriate area of primary focus for WUN, and why should it continue to be so? (maximum 200 words)

The WUN Responding to Climate Change (RCC) Global Challenge is a collaborative process bringing together world’s leading researchers to develop appropriate strategies as a response to climate change. Links are being made to global initiatives in the area such as the recently-announced UN Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was endorsed by world leaders at the September 2015 meeting of the UN.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve including #13 specifically on climate action.

The WUN Global Challenge on Responding to Climate Change is focused on water management, food/environment security, forced migration, community resilience, disaster responsiveness, decarbonisation of communities and consequently encapsulates a number of innovative research projects that address environmental, cultural, health and social issues. Changes to climate are leading to environmental changes, food and water shortages, and population displacement and forced migration. Collaborative and multi-disciplinary research programs are a crucial component of our response to these emerging problems, and experts from across the globe need to work together to explore sustainable approaches to how we can best adapt to a changing climate.
- Managing a response to climate change.

The RCC Global Challenge is designed to effect policy-informed, evidence-based responses to climate change through combining:

- Exceptional links with key international agencies and critical datasets
- Globally leading expertise in food security, food safety, water management, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, energy and health, forced migration (as a cross-cutting theme) and deforestation.
- Geographic differences and farm platforms on all continents to extend the global relevance of that research.

**Current Status:** Outline major directions, priorities, programs (IRGs), workshops, and achievements. from 2013-15. (maximum 500 words)

### 2013-2014

**Focus Areas 2014-2015 as identified in AGM report**

- Enhancing Food Security through Urban Agriculture  
  [http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/enhancing-food-security-through-urban-agriculture](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/enhancing-food-security-through-urban-agriculture)
- Ancient Soils and Modern Land Use – A Challenge for Critical Zone Science  
- Developing compatible energy & climate strategies  
  [http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/developing-compatible-energy-and-climate-strategies](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/developing-compatible-energy-and-climate-strategies)
- Global Farm Platforms for optimisation of grazing livestock production  
- Managing the Globalisation of Water Services  
- The impact of climate change on the socio-ecology of animals  
- Climate Change in the Media  
  (no web page)

**Successful RDF Applications (2014 Round)**

- Himalayan Climate Change: Debris Covered Glacier Response, Water Availability, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Response
- Health promoting responses to climate change
- Climate change: Understanding Systemic Shocks in Integrated Infrastructures
- Transcultural Understanding of Designing with Climate Change: A Joint Design Research Studio Approach
- Legumes as the hub of diversification and adaptation to climate change in Mediterranean agriculture

### 2014-2015

**Highlights as identified in AGM report**

- Global Farm Platforms  
• Urban Agriculture
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/enhancing-food-security-through-urban-agriculture)
• Soil Science Summer School
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/events/view/wun-summer-school-2015)

**Successful RDF Applications (2015 Round)**

• Healthy-Polis – Developing Urban Lifecourse Approaches in response to Climate Change
• Climate Resilient Open Partnership for Food Security (CROP-FS)
• Building sustainable mountain systems in sub-Saharan Africa: assessing the linkages between communities, ecosystem services, environment and health
• Exchanging mobility for intensification modes of livestock production in African pastoral systems: trade-offs and challenges for pastoralists’ climate change adaptive capacity.
• Impacts of future climate and land use changes on public health and food security in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia
• Non-market valuation of loss and damage under climate change

**2015-2016**

**Highlights as identified in AGM report**

• 5 new RDF awarded in December 2015 (50% success rate)
• 27 active projects producing 51 publications, over £9M external funding secured, 14 conferences, 12 cases of policy impact
• UWA Summer School
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/events/view/wun-summer-school-2015)
• Global Farm Platforms
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/global-farm-platforms-for-optimisation-of-grazing-livestock-production-systems)
• UNFCCC COP21
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/article/cop21)
• Critical Zones Observatories
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/critical-zones-observatories)
• Legumes Conference in China
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/events/view/legumes2020)
• WUN Web Observatories – Disaster Management
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/article/inaugural-web-observatories-workshop-takes-place-in-southampton)
  [Link](http://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/web-observatory-project)

**Additional from 2016**

• UNFCCC COP22
  [Link](http://www.wun.ac.uk/article/cop22-wun-panel-explains-tie-between-climate-resiliency-and-natural-disasters)

**Successful RDF Applications (2016 Round)**

• Impacts of Grain Legume Research and Development in Developing Countries
• New insights into the transmission of Angiostrongylus lungworms by gastropods under climate change: a comparative approach

**Future Directions:** What are your predicted priorities for the next three years?
How might the global environment might affect this?
What work should grow and/or be added? What should be reduced and/or stopped? (maximum 500 words)
Increased emphasis on ‘response to climate change’ rather than drivers and processes. With grant opportunities, taking a more tactical (responsive to opportunities) view rather than strategic (taking a wide view which, in some circumstances, could be outside funding opportunities). Increased use of global farm platforms amongst the WUN partners are a mechanism to ask questions across bioregions and as a way to escalate collaboration within the WUN network.

**Data:** Indicate your Global Challenge group’s

- Five top publications;
- Five top grants;
- Leading strategic workshops;
- Key points of influence;
- Sustainable programs that have or are currently emerging (e.g. Critical Zones, Migration; Ageing Health, Higher Education Access, etc);
- Top think tank contributions.

(maximum 500 words)

**Five top publications:**


**Five top grants:**

- EU, Marie Curie ITN, EU, Adaptation and Resilience in East Africa, 3.5 Million Euro
- Australian Research Council, Linkage Projects, Australia, Collecting the West: Reimagining Western Australia from its collections, $1.2 million, 2017-2020, Prof Alistair Paterson (with Partner Investigator British Museum, JD Hill)
- Centre for Doctoral Training, EPSRC and NERC UK, £2,000,000.
- Department for Business, Innovation & Skills/British Council. Global Innovation Initiative. UK. 2014-2016. Global Farm Platforms for Sustainable Ruminant Livestock Production. £248K Professor Mark Eisler, Professor Michael Lee, University of Bristol; Balasundaram Ashok, T.P. Sethumadhavan, Deepa Ananth, Kerala State Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. Professor Molly Jahn, Dr Sarah Collier, Dr Dennish Busch, Dr. Greg Sanford, University of Wisconsin; Professor Jianxin Liu, Dr Diming, Zhejiang University;

**Leading strategic workshops:**

- Combined International Workshop on Sustainable Livestock Production Systems and IPA Project Meeting on Health and Welfare of Dairy Cattle in India, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, 17-21 August
- COP22

**Key points of influence:**

- COP 22: Marrakesh. Parralel session. Petra Tschakert (UWA) has now been appointed Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 5 (Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication, and Reducing Inequalities) of the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C Global Warming. This following the COP22 meeting in Marrakesh (facilitated by WUN). The Australian Govt and UWA will cover her costs.
- CUHK has constructed a website for the WUN Symposium cum Research Summit: [http://csr.cuhk.edu.hk/legumes2017/](http://csr.cuhk.edu.hk/legumes2017/). A total of 50 young scientists (open to PGs and ECRs) will be selected to participate, please circulate it to relevant researchers in partner universities.

- **Sustainable programs that have or are currently emerging (e.g. Critical Zones, Migration; Ageing Health, Higher Education Access, etc);**
  - Global Platforms
  - Forced migration

**Other comments:** Enter any further relevant comments in this section. This may include, but need to be limited to, outlining interaction with other Global Challenges and/or Cross-cutting Themes. (maximum 200 words)

The important cross-cutting themes include forced migration and, operationally, the use of global platforms. New linkages could be established with the theme “Understanding Cultures”, e.g. by focusing on indigenous knowledge and other localized knowledge systems with regard to climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. A cross-cutting theme could be named “Building Resilience Cultures”.
A fundamental review of WUN, to evolve and be responsive to future objectives and priorities, is in progress. Consultations for options, opinions and data, including governance representatives and the internal and external stakeholders of WUN, will be presented at the Annual Conference and AGM in New York on 3-5 May 2017. The future directions and priorities of WUN will form the sinews of the new Strategic Plan, formulated and implemented in 2017-18. This includes the research, education and mobility programmes, function of board and secretariat, and funding strategies.

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**ACTION:** So that this may be considered alongside other Strategic Review input, we ask that you please consult your respective steering groups and complete the form below, submitting the final agreed draft immediately after your January teleconference.

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**Global Challenge:** Name of Global Challenge

**Public Health (with emphasis on non-communicable diseases [NCDs]).**

**Summary objectives and rationale:** Why is your Global Challenge an appropriate area of primary focus for WUN, and why should it continue to be so?

The WUN Public Health Global Challenge brings together some of the world’s leading experts to explore socioeconomic, cultural, environmental and behavioural solutions across the life-course. Research focuses on four themes: the health of families and migrants across the life-course; health resilience in adolescents in different cultural contexts; the life course approach to healthy ageing and schools as a setting for reducing risk factors related to NCDs. There are links to major global initiatives such as the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and WHO programmes, with a focus on population-level and individual approaches that increase access to education, promote health literacy and empower women.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at the United Nations meeting. The 17 goals aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity over the next 15 years. Among these goals is ‘Good Health and Wellbeing’, which includes targets to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio; end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age; reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases; ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services; provide support for the research and development of vaccines; and more. However, many of the SDGs are relevant to public health and cross over with other WUN key areas such as climate change and education and the PH group wishes to work collaboratively with these groups. The strategic objectives of the WUN Public Health GC align closely with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**Current Status:** Outline major directions, priorities, programmes (IRGs), workshops, and achievements from 2013-15.
Directions: The WUN Public Health Global Challenge emphasizes a life-course approach to opportunities for addressing NCDs especially in low and middle income countries and transitioning populations but also in developed societies where there are large social disparities in risk. This focus is based on substantial evidence for the inextricable link between parental, perinatal, infant, childhood factors and adult lifestyle factors that accumulate and contribute to the risk of developing NCDs later in life and which contribute to reduced health and well-being in ageing. It is recognised that some NCDs are linked to communicable disease and some others have genetic predisposing factors. Particular attention will be paid to both population- and individual-based approaches to increase access to education, to promote nutritional and health literacy and physical activity in children, adolescents and parents and to empowering women. Such strategies will contribute to the reduction in the burden of NCDs, promote healthy ageing and provide other benefits such as gender equality, promotion of neurocognitive capacities and healthcare and economic cost savings.

Priorities:

Health of migrants across the life course.
How does migration affect the health and well-being of families? This theme includes ageing, NCDs, mental health and the economic impact of migration as a determinant of health outcomes for both migrants and family members who are left behind.

The resilience of adolescents and health workers in different cultural contexts.
This theme addresses the biological, socio-ecological and psychological resources associated with resilience with a particular focus on two groups: young people and health workers. It includes how resilience compares in young people from different cultures, and the factors that contribute to their resilience; and why and how formal and informal health professionals adjust positively to occupational adversity across time. It also addresses issues of resilience in ageing populations.

Schools as a setting for reducing risk factors associated with NCDs.
How can interventions in schools help to effectively reduce the burden of NCDs? This theme includes identification, implementation and measurement of best practice to support the development of sustained health behaviours through curriculum-based, policy-based and public health messaging interventions in a wide range of social, cultural, geographic and economic contexts.

Life course approach to healthy ageing.
There is growing evidence supporting the life course model of ageing, and for early life as period of opportunity to prevent accelerated ageing. This theme aims to increase knowledge of markers of factors which influence the trajectories of intrinsic capacity across the life course. A multidisciplinary group within this theme looks into several processes that influence the pathways to healthy ageing including biological factors (genetic and epigenetic factors, physiological changes) as well as social and environment determinants.

Programmes, workshops and achievements:
Members from the theme on life course and ageing attended several meetings with the WHO on Healthy Ageing. A meeting on trajectories of intrinsic capacity through the life course was also organised at the WHO in Geneva in June 2017, attended by several experts from WUN institutions and key stakeholders from the WHO.

Early Life Opportunities for the Prevention of NCDs in Developing Countries. Experts from 27 organisations and institutions are leveraging their expertise in public health, epidemiology, underlying mechanisms and biomarkers, and translational clinical medicine, to present a concerted view on the prevention of NCDs. So far, the group has produced 14 publications and have met in Shanghai, Cape Town, Hong Kong, Southampton and Washington DC to further the collaboration. They have also contributed to the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) report and developed a Research Fellow position to strengthen the link between WHO and WUN with a particular focus on the life-course approach to healthy ageing.

in-FLAME, the International Inflammation Network, was formed in 2012. This is an interdisciplinary
collaboration (currently comprising 125 experts across 19 countries) dedicated to understanding the risk factors for inflammation and devising strategies to prevent them, particularly in early life. The rising burden of NCDs now poses the greatest threat to global health. Inflammation is a common element in almost all of these diseases, including obesity, allergies, asthma, autoimmune disorders, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, cancer, and neurodegenerative conditions. A substantial component of the risk of all NCDs is programmed in early life. The group has produced 31 publications and have met in Southampton, Washington DC, Cape Town, Marburg and Maastricht.

**Future Directions:** What are your predicted priorities for the next three years?

How might the global environment affect this?

What work should grow and/or be added? What should be reduced and/or stopped?

The importance of socio-demographic and environmental factors underlines the importance of links with ongoing global initiatives, in particular the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals which highlights the importance of the environment for good maternal and child health, food security, climate change and health systems responses to global public health. NCDs are responsible for over 60 per cent deaths worldwide. The areas most affected are low and middle income countries, where the heavy burden of healthcare drives millions into poverty each year and consequently impedes economic development. This poses a serious threat to human health and productivity, as deaths by NCDs are expected to rise by 17 per cent over the next decade. The WUN Public Health GC aims to undertake advocacy to promote wider recognition of the importance of a life-course approach to NCD prevention with a particular focus on the adolescent and preconception periods and low and middle income countries. The group is committed to reducing health inequalities in all its manifestations be they at global or local level. This relates to our wok in different behaviour settings (e.g. schools), the wider community and in different cultural contexts and is intended not only to promote health in young people now and as future adults but also in future generations.

The impact of migration on health is often neglected since international migrant policies tend to focus on aid, security, immigration enforcement, trade and labour. Furthermore, migrant health policies tend to be implemented at a national level. However, since it is now recognized by the WHO that exposure to hazards during sensitive periods or accumulated over the life-course significantly affects health outcomes, there is an urgent need to establish international policies that ensure equal health opportunities for migrants. International collaborative research about the effects of migration, the migration of health and relevant approaches is urgently needed.

Lower levels of health literacy are increasingly linked to higher mortality, inappropriate medication and higher hospitalisation rates. Evidence shows that levels of health literacy are lowest among socially disadvantaged groups, which have higher rates of preventable NCDs as a result. Thus, improving health literacy has been identified by the WHO as a key strategy for tackling health inequalities in both developed and developing countries.

A life-course approach to healthy ageing is an overarching theme which will draw on other priority areas in the Public Health Global Challenge. Ageing populations and the concomitant growing burden of NCDs are high on the international agenda for health and social policy. WUN responds to this by bringing to bear its considerable strengths in life-course approaches. We are examining evidence surrounding the early-life indicators of healthy ageing and the interventions that can be introduced at an early age to ensure healthy outcomes across the life-course. This may support the development of biomarkers of resilience which can be used to predict outcomes and devisaor monitor potential interventions to improve intrinsic capacity.
Data: Indicate your Global Challenge group’s
  • Five top publications;
  • Five top grants;
  • Leading strategic workshops;
  • Key points of influence;
  • Sustainable programs that have or are currently emerging (e.g. Critical Zones, Migration; Ageing Health, Higher Education Access, etc);
  • Top think tank contributions.

GC Public Health highlights in WUN Annual Reports 2011/12 to 2015/16.

2011/12:
  • 1st WUN Public Health Global Challenge conference in Shanghai in May 2011 assembling 70 leading academics and representatives from external agencies.
  • Outcome of the conference was the Shanghai Declaration of the Worldwide Universities Network on Early Life Opportunities for Addressing NCDs in Developing Countries submitted to the WHO and published in The Lancet in 2011.

2012/13:
  • Journal articles on health literacy education in Education in Science and Health Education (2012).
  • Commentary on public health leadership published in The Lancet (2012).
  • Two journal articles on medicines information in International Journal of Pharmacy Practice (2012).
  • A systematic review published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (2013).
  • Bupa Foundation Multi-Country Grant of £307,000 for new project on achieving sustainable health behaviour change in adolescents.
  • RCUK School-University Partnerships Initiative grant of £300,000 for project engaging secondary school students and teachers.
  • Contribution to European Commission working group examining the future of medical informational leaflets across Europe.
  • Input into Australian Government policy on over-the-counter medicines labelling.

2013/14:
  • Paper on governance, transparency and alignment in the Coalition of Australian Governments National Health Reform.
  • AUD$268,000 Australian Research Council Discovery Grant awarded for research on the topic “How Australians navigate the healthcare maze: the differential capacity to choose”.
  • Input into Secretary-General’s Every Woman, Every Child review and UN Global Compact meeting.
  • Forged new ongoing partnerships between WUN, WHO and United Nations Foundation.
  • Working with Novo Nordisk, Steno Diabetes Centre, Malaysian Government and other partners to reduce risk of diabetes.

2014/15:
The in-FLAME network:
  • Over 25 research papers published, with more submitted or in review.
  • Three Research Collaboration Awards totalling AU$60K from the Univ of Western Australia, 2012-2014.
  • Presented data from food allergy survey at the WAO International Scientific Congress in Brazil (2014).

Immune Responses Underlying COPD Pathology project:
  • Five research papers published, as well as one book titled ‘How Helminths Alter Immunity to Infection’.
  • Patent application for ‘Protection against parasitic nematode infection by surfactant (SP-D)’ (2014).
  • Awarded over £150K from the Marie Curie Incoming Fellowship (EU), National Research Foundation (South Africa), Royal Society International Exchange (UK), Sir Halley Stewart Trust (UK) and the University of Cape Town (South Africa).

Health Literacy Network:
  • Six papers published (2015).
  • Attracted over AU$230K in funding from the Australian Research Council, ANZSN-Amgen and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation.
### Scoping Survey of Autism Care Resources: Social Integration of Diagnosis, Treatment, and Support Systems:

- International conference titled Autism: Global Challenges and Local Needs was held at CUHK on 16-17 January 2014 with 150 participants attending.
- A symposium titled Genetics and Epidemiology in Autism was held at CUHK on 20 November 2014 featuring international speakers from the fields of genetics, genomics, neuroscience, and psychiatric epidemiology in autism.
- Grants from the Hong Kong Health and Medical Research Fund (HK$ 999,898)
- Grants from the Hong Kong Health Care and Promotion Fund (HK$299,886)

### 2015/16:

#### Early Life Opportunities for the Prevention of NCDs in Developing Countries:

- 14 research papers published in 2014-2015.
- Contributed to the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) report to the WHO (2016).
- Development of a WUN/WHO Research Fellow position to strengthen the link between NGOs and academic institutions.

#### Health Outcome of Migration Events group:

- Awarded $40,000CAD from the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research, 2015.
- Received joint funding from the University of Bergen and UWA for research into health interventions targeted at migrant populations, 2015.

#### Lessons for Life: Innovating and Evaluating School Age Health Education Interventions for the Prevention and Control of NCDs:

- Two research papers published.
- Awarded £50,000 by the Research Councils UK’s School-University Partnership Initiative, 2016.

#### OPERA - Optimal Pregnancy Environemnt Risk Assessment group:

- Inaugural meeting in San Francisco in March 2015 where 38 members attended and presented papers.
- Participation in the PREBIC Annual Meeting of the Global Initiatives Working Group in Italy in 2015.

### Other comments:

Enter any further relevant comments in this section. This may include, but need not to be limited to, outlining interaction with other Global Challenges and/or Cross-cutting Themes.

It is relevant for the WUN Public Health GC to interact with other Global Challenge Groups and cross-cutting themes. The examples include:

- Food security and health (GC Responding to Climate Change)
- Migration and health (GC Understanding Cultures and Global China Group)
- Care, ageing and health systems (Economics Group)
- Effect of NCDs on poverty and health care systems in LMI-countries (Global Africa Group)
- Health, environment and socio-demographic data (Big Data)
WUN Global China Group – Summary Report 2017-18
Co-Chair: Prof John Hearn; China Manager: A/Prof Grace Liu

The WUN Global China Group (GCG) has made significant progress in the past year. The research and education platforms are strengthened with new members from Greater China and around the world. There are new programs, initiatives and successful seed-funding success in the RDF. The productivity in research papers, grants, mobility and strategic workshops is increasing, with relevance to our knowledge partners and impact on policy options.

• Research Programs

Global China Group (GCG) has focused on several research projects. Each of the four Chinese member universities (including the newly joined RUC and NCKU) has achieved success in a leadership RDF project. Chinese university member-led projects include:

a) Wind or Solar? The Political Economy of Fuel Competition between Renewables
   The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

b) “The Belt and Road” Green Development: International Culture, Climate Change, Energy Investment and Environmental Protection
   Renmin University of China (RUC)

c) Marriage Migrants in Asia
   National Cheng Kung University (NCKU)

d) Social innovation and elderly care
   Zhejiang University (ZJU)

• Research Highlight

a) Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and Zhejiang University (ZJU) have longer term membership with WUN. They have continued making great progress in their research after achieving a strong level of success in the previous year WUN RDF projects.

CUHK Prof Hon-ming Lam is leading the WUN project “Impacts of Grain Legume Research and Development in Developing Countries”. He is a pioneer in enhancing the genetic make-up of soybean to help alleviate the looming problems in world food supply and security. An International Symposium was held at CUHK during 8-17 June 2017 where over 100 participants from 37 universities were brought together to formulate a blueprint for the future development of legume research.

ZJU Prof Gangmin Ning is leading the RDF project “Assessment and Intervention Technologies for the Movement Ability of older Adults”. The research team of Zhejiang have developed devices to assess the movement ability which may predict the falling risks of older adults, also collaborating with clinicians they have used the technology to evaluate the efficiency of Chinese acupuncture in treating osteoporosis. Under the collaboration framework between Zhejiang and Alberta, they have also made close contacts with the local
governments and companies to seek further support for sustainable development of the related technologies.

b) Renmin University of China (RUC) and National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) are newly joined Chinese members. They are developing well and both won a WUN RDF in the 2017 round. RUC Prof Xu Qinhua is leading a RDF project “The Belt and Road” Green Development, aiming to leverage the WUN’s multi-national research collaborative platform to explore a green sustainable development strategy regarding the B&R’s environmental impact, and to establish a research platform for innovation and policy support systems in the green Belt and Road. NCKU Prof Su-lin Yu is leading an RDF: “Marriage Migrants in Asia”. They have launched a new Marriage Migrants in Asia website www.wun-mma.org and will provide a quarterly newsletter on this project. Please visit their website for further information.

c) The Global China Group is establishing a research program on Aging Health, which will work in alliance with WUN and WUN-plus universities. It will also align with the WHO life-course program and aging health project. Zhejiang University has strengths in the area of aging health from the medical, health engineering and policy aspects and has taken leadership on this program. A Round Table discussion was held on this program in Zhejiang in October 2017.

- Global China Group Activities and Events

  a) WUN Global Policy Research Group launched at Renmin University of China

  This initiative was proposed by Renmin University and was discussed at the AAG meeting in New York 2017. Fourteen universities indicated strong interest in engagement after a mapping study across WUN members. Three AAG members formed a working group, with WUN secretariat, to set up this policy research group. This group was recently launched (stage 1) at Renmin University of China on 24 March 2018 during the RUC-WUN Think Tank Conference. The launch (stage 2) will be completed at the WUN AGM in Perth on 25 May 2018. This group brings a global research and policy perspective from 23 leading Universities on six continents to assist in decision-making based on the intellectual resources of some of the world’s top universities. These can build an intellectual community contributing through teamwork to an improved understanding and future for mankind.

  b) RUC–WUN Think Tank Conference on “The Belt and Road - Green Development”

  This conference was held on 24 March in Beijing, co-organised by Renmin University of China (RUC) and WUN. Many VIP guests from China and other countries, along with academics from WUN and non-WUN universities attended the conference. Nine leading WUN universities sent representatives. The WUN Global Policy Research Group was launched (stage 1) at the conference. Stage 2 of the launch will be completed at the WUN AGM 2018 in Perth. At the end of the conference, WUN delegates held a separate meeting, chaired by the WUN Executive Director Prof John Hearn. The purpose was to review the main outcomes from the conference and propose actions to take forward this initiative. All participants at the conference contributed towards a fruitful discussion with outcomes that will be further explored in the follow up meetings in Perth during the WUN Conference and AGM 2018. Please visit WUN website for further information.

  c) CUHK Conference on Global Sustainability and the Belt and Road Initiative

  The International Conference on Global Sustainability and the Belt and Road Initiative was held on 27 April 2018 at CUHK. It brought together scholars, policy-makers, members of think tanks, professionals, and business people from Hong Kong, Mainland China, the Belt
and Road regions, and all over the world, to share research endeavours and exchange ideas. The objectives of the conference were to evaluate policy coordination in the areas of finance, energy, and sustainable development in the Belt and Road regions; to study the opportunities and challenges in connection with sustainable development projects in the Belt and Road regions, and the implementation of such projects; and to foster and strengthen various academic, business, cultural, and social linkages between China and the Belt and Road countries, with a special emphasis on Hong Kong’s special roles, functions, and contributions. For further information, please visit the conference website.

• **WUN AGM 2018 engagement**

With regard to the GCG activities at the WUN AGM in Perth, the China Group will have an organisational round table of the GCG steering group during a working dinner on the 21st May to review the previous GCG Strategic Plan and to discuss the next step for development and the future directions. The China Group members will join in with the four Global Challenge Research Groups’ academic workshops. The China Group planning dinner will be held alongside the Global Africa Group and the Global Policy Research Group working dinners. The second half of the respective events will be an open discussion on interaction between the three groups, seeking collaboration and synergies.
Global Africa Group  
Summary report on activities since May 2017 AGM  
8 May 2018

Background

The Global Africa Group was established by WUN in late 2015 as a cross-cutting regional group and is now comprised of 14 WUN members. The Group is Co-Chaired by the University of Cape Town (Prof. Maano Ramutsindela) and the University of Western Australia (Dr David Mickler) and meets quarterly via its Steering Committee. The Group facilitates research collaboration at the intersection of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and existing WUN expertise. GAG has focused its work on five priority research themes: environmental change and food security; public health; governance, inequality and social inclusion; higher education and research capacity; and natural resources for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Group’s Strategic Plan 2016-18 outlines how, given the imbalance in African/non-African universities in the Network, the Group supports its three African university members—Cape Town, Ghana and Nairobi—as regional research hubs for Southern/West/East Africa, respectively. It does this by concentrating GAG activities on these hubs, promoting researcher mobility, aligning with like-minded research networks, and linking local, national, regional and global research and development priorities. GAG’s activities over the past year have been supported by a small WUN Sustainability Grant.

Workshops & Events

GAG convened its launch workshop on 8-9 June 2017 in Accra, Ghana, with University of Ghana Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ebenezer Owusu formally launching the Group. The workshop, attended by over 50 WUN members from 12 member universities (and five non-member universities), heard a number of presentations by senior researchers and leaders in the Network, including a keynote address by UG’s Prof. Chris Gordon. Participants then split into the five priority research themes to discuss mutual interests and to generate ideas for collaborative projects. These ideas were refined and presented back to the whole group on the final afternoon, with the aim of further developing the ideas into grant proposals for seed funding. Participants then enjoyed a group cultural tour on 10 June to historic Cape Coast Castle, the University of Cape Coast, and Kakum National Park.

On 12-13 June 2017, four members of WUN, including GAG Co-Chair Dr Mickler and WUN Coordinators Group Chair Dr Susan Jim, visited the University of Nairobi, Kenya, to welcome UoN into the Network and GAG as the third African university member. The WUN delegation met with leaders and researchers from a number of UoN colleges and faculties before meeting in roundtable with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi and members of the university’s senior executive. The delegation presented the structure and opportunities for collaboration within the Network and GAG, while learning about the research and development priorities for the University of Nairobi and Kenya more broadly.
At the University of Cape Town, South Africa, authors participating in the GAG collaborative book project *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* (Springer, forthcoming) met for a book workshop on 2 December 2017. The workshop featured presentations of draft chapters by co-authors and discussion by other participants, including guest experts not involved in the project. The workshop concluded with a group dinner at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town.

Side meetings of participating GAG members have been held at meetings of the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) in Perth (September 2017) and Cape Town (December 2017), and in addition to AAUN the Group has discussed collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and the Association of African Universities (AAU).

**Research Projects**

The principle research project undertaken by the Group is to produce the edited volume *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*, co-edited by GAG Co-Chairs Prof. Ramutsindela and Dr Mickler, which will be published in Springer’s Sustainable Development Goals series in late 2018/early 2019. A call for EoIs to submit chapters was made in early 2017, with the Accra workshop serving to develop collaborative chapters and the Cape Town workshop providing an opportunity for accepted chapter drafts to be presented. The project will feature 25 chapters covering all of the 17 SDGs under three sections: (i) Africa’s sustainable development: approaches, institutions, agendas; (ii) Scientific evidence and critical thinking on the SDGs in Africa; and (iii) Africa and the SDGs: the role of collaborative research. It features some 70 contributing co-authors from WUN and beyond, including both academics and expert practitioners. The rules included that each chapter must be co-authored by at least one Africa-based author, and at least one WUN-member based co-author, with the co-editors seeking overall gender balance and balance between senior and early career researchers (including postgraduate researchers). The publisher has agreed to feature the WUN logo on the book’s cover.

The Accra workshop was designed to facilitate bottom-up research collaborations among participants with an objective of forming research teams that would develop and submit seed grant applications, such as the WUN RDF 2017/18 scheme. We were delighted that there were three successful Africa-related projects in the RDF 2017 round, including: (i) Resilient Peace: Exploring resilient peacebuilding actors, cultures and policy transfer in West Africa (led by University of Bristol); (ii) African Solutions to African Problems-Translating Indigenous Systems, Plants and Microbial Biodiversity into Drug Candidates for Neglected Tropical Diseases (led by University of Ghana); (iii) An Intersectional Exploration of Religion and Gender-Based Violence: A Case Study of Accra in Global Context (led by University of Ghana). The GAG Steering Committee is working to support each project where possible.

**Upcoming Activities**

2. 22-26 October 2018 (tbc): proposed GAG 2018 annual research workshop at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, alongside 6th African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Conference.
Terms of Reference for the WUN Global Policy Research Group – WUN 2018
(Draft for Development – John Hearn, Executive Director, WUN)

Introduction. The WUN Global Policy Research Group (GPRG) was proposed by Renmin University of China in late 2016. According to WUN practice with such proposals, a mapping study was carried out, with 14 WUN Universities wishing to engage. A working group was established at the WUN meetings in May 2017 in New York to develop the group. A steering group is being developed with representatives of member universities. A conference was co-hosted by WUN with Renmin University in March 2018, at which a step-one launch of the group was completed. A step two launch will be in Perth at the WUN Presidents Forum, focusing WUN engagement with global policy frameworks. This Term of Reference (TOR) provides a draft platform for implementation, and a guideline for the priorities and work plan to be developed at the Perth meetings.

Reference Papers: There has been extensive development and wide enthusiasm for this WUN –GPRG:

1. Minutes of teleconferences and strategic development discussions during 2017-18;
2. Report of the Renmin-WUN Conference (link to the report)
3. Summary report of the post conference WUN delegates meeting on development and implementation (attached).

WUN-GPRG. Terms of Reference:

1. The GPRG will include WUN Partners and WUN-Plus expertise as appropriate to the programs.
2. Priorities and projects will be identified when they are beyond the capacity of individual members.
3. Priority is in engaging the Group with the international policy frameworks (SDGs, BRI, Paris-COP)
4. Regional Policy Frameworks are highly relevant, including Africa 2063, Indo Pacific, EU global
5. WUN will form alliances with other groups as necessary to focus on relevant challenges
6. WUN will engage with geopolitical change (BREXIT, USA, China) in exploring policy options.
7. WUN will focus on evidence based policy, and on research gaps and questions.
8. WUN will respect and develop cultural understanding towards harmony in global policy.

Next Steps. These terms of reference are a first step for engagement with the WUN Global Challenge Groups, Global China and Africa Groups; and WUN Knowledge partnerships with international agencies (OECD, WHO, UNESCO, British Council etc) to turn strategy into practical programs. These discussions will proceed at the GPRG planning dinner in Perth on 21 May 2018.
Meeting Summary: WUN Global Policy Research Group  (Draft 3 May 2018)

Renmin University of China  -24 March 2018  1700h -1800h

Chair: Professor John Hearn, ED WUN;  Manager/Secretariat: A Prof Grace Liu, Research Development Manager WUN. Attending: 26 delegates from WUN Partner Universities


The RENMIN University of China – WUN Think Tank Conference 23-24 March included Universities, Government, Business and International Organisations (see attachment 1 and www.wun.ac.uk for the report). At the end of the conference, delegates attending from nine WUN Universities met to focus the next steps and actions to be developed for the WUN Conferences and AGM in Perth 20-25 May 2018.

The conference in Renmin included a launch (part 1) of the WUN Global Policy Research Group. Part two of the launch will be in Perth at the AGM and the Presidents Forum on WUN policy impact.

Background: the WUN Global Policy Research Group (GPRG) was proposed by Renmin in late 2016. A mapping study was carried out across WUN, with 14 member Universities registering strong interest. A working group was set up at the 2017 AGM in New York. A Forum was held on BREXIT in February 2017 in Brussels; and the Presidents Forum in New York in May 2017 was on the UN-SDGs. The conference in Renmin in March 2018 was successful, and the scope, scale and terms of reference for the group were discussed further.

The purpose of this meeting was to focus the principal outcomes of the Renmin Conference, consult with WUN members present, and articulate a plan for the Policy Group. Working closely with the four WUN Global Challenges, and aligning with global policy frameworks, WUN experts would have a platform to engage in evidence based policy development. The objective is to define knowledge gaps, key questions, and a global approach beyond the capacity of individual institutions. The main issues discussed, and outcomes for follow up are:

1. The WUN Global Policy Research Group should engage principally in its areas of expertise in health in NCDs, climate and food, higher education and research, and understanding cultures. Global disruptors such as BREXIT, Trump and relevant geopolitical change should be incorporated but should not drive the agenda.

2. The focus of work should be in addressing global challenges, and a WUN global teamwork beyond the capacity of single institutions. Programs and projects could be proposed by any WUN member(s).

3. A further mapping study should be carried out to explore the interests of WUN members not yet engaged in the policy group.
4. **Two or three co-chairs** should be elected across WUN for 2-3 years to establish and develop the network, along with an **active steering group**. Teleconferences should be quarterly and a face to face meeting annually, probably but not essentially at the AGM when many members would normally attend.

5. **The Steering Group** should have a representative each from each continent (6), with 2-3 year terms. All member university representatives can dial in to teleconferences and attend meetings.

6. **All WUN members** interested in the policy group should have a representative, who also promotes and engages the group, with the coordinators, in their University and with relevant WUN-Plus partners.

7. A **draft position paper** on the Group and its priority activities should be prepared by Secretariat for adoption in Perth.

8. **The Presidents Forum in Perth** will explore the opportunities for WUN in Global policy frameworks, including the SDGs, Belt and Road, Paris Climate accords, and regional policies.

9. **The Secretariat** for the Policy Research Group should include, in the first instance, representatives from the WUN Secretariat, Renmin NADS (National Academy of Development and Strategy), and one other member (TBC).

10. **Resources** would be provided from internal and external grants, and in kind from cooperating universities. Renmin University offered to assist with Secretariat support, in conjunction with WUN Secretariat and the GPRG steering group.

11. **The next meeting** of the Group will be a strategic planning meeting (dinner) at the WUN Conference in Perth, engagement with the four Global Challenge Groups, China Group and Africa Group; and the AGM.

12. **The terms of reference**, organization, priorities, initial opportunities, work plan (implementation) and resource plan will be drafted for discussion and further development in Perth. These will be based on the research and education priorities of the four Global Challenge Groups, with some focus themes and appropriate alignment with the relevant global policy frameworks.

**Additional Notes from the meeting:**

The group would follow WUN practice in shared governance, equal partnerships and global perspectives. Cooperation with other policy networks (national) would be encouraged. Projects should be targeted to the relevant policy makers, and indicators for success monitored. Empirical data should be incorporated and opportunities developed for ECRs and PhD students, including RMP exchanges. Data bases could be shared by agreement. A newsletter could be considered. Minutes of meetings can be shared with the Global Challenge, China and Africa Groups, as well as the AAG and Partnership Board.
Strategic Pursuit of External Funding for WUN Research

Professor David Hogg – Chair of Academic Advisory Group
Dr Susie Jim – Chair of Coordinators Group

Thus far, the WUN research profile has been built largely ‘bottom up’ via seed funding through the Research Development Fund and has resulted in around 80 Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs) which are currently active. The WUN Sustainability Fund has provided further subsequent support for some IRGs. One key success is our Global Farm Platforms project, which has attracted in excess of £5M in external funding for its partner institutions and has produced 10 publications, including two papers in Nature.

Clearly, this is not the trajectory of all IRGs and WUN faces the challenge of establishing sustainable multi-national research teams, when most available funding is from national sources. Fortunately, there are already notable instances of sustained collaboration between national funding agencies. For example, the CHIST-ERA programme coordinates support for research spanning multiple countries in Europe and beyond. Although the infrastructure of CHIST-ERA is supported by funding from the EU, participation in projects is funded by national agencies.

Within the UK, there is growing emphasis on international research collaboration which is ODA (Official Development Assistance) compliant - interdisciplinary, challenge-led and building equitable partnerships for sustainable development in the DAC list of countries - and an increasing number of multilateral funding arrangements to support this (UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund, Newton Fund, etc.). It now seems highly likely that a new round of the UKRI GCRF will provide increased opportunities for wider collaboration involving national funding agencies from outside the UK (German, Swiss, Dutch, Canadian, etc.) and international agencies such as the UN and International Red Cross, to leverage co-funding and also impact.

On the basis that these and other multilateral funding arrangements are increasing worldwide, there now exists a major opportunity for the WUN to benefit from a more strategic ‘top down’ and direct approach in the pursuit of external funding to complement our current ‘bottom up’ RDF scheme. This approach draws together some key priorities in our Research Strategy 2017-10, namely:

- **Alignment of WUN Global Challenges to the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals** - this is of particular pertinence to the research profiles of our regional African and China groups, and our International Policy Research Group

- **Maximising visibility and impact with international agencies** - engagement with and securing the support of relevant global organisations. This is particularly the case for the UN, given our focus on the SDGs.
• Maximising visibility and impact with funding agencies – engagement with national funding agencies to promote the benefits of multi-national collaboration, drawing on the achievements of WUN, and motivating joint funding initiatives between national agencies.

The above factors highlight the congruence and opportunity for the WUN to plan ahead now for ambitious multi-partner research programmes in the expectation of a viable and strategic route to external funding.

Our Global Challenges Steering Group meetings at the AGM in Perth will provide an early opportunity to marshal ideas for such programmes, as we have done successfully in the past. Ideas that emerge could then be developed through strategic funding in the 2018 RDF round.

The WUN Coordinators Group is maintaining a concise database of national sources of research funding to inform the development of proposals (see Annex A). This will be extended with information on multi-lateral funding agreements as soon as we become aware of these.

“The advice I would give WUN would be to mobilise your resources to bring together your universities, to be in the best possible position to work up applications to future GCRF. I would also encourage universities to be making contacts with the UN, etc., so that you have the high-level partners for future bids. I would advise you to pursue internationalisation - with partners in developing countries - vigorously and strategically.”

Director of International and Interdisciplinary Research at UK Research and innovation (UKRI).
December 8, 2017

Professor Joseph Sung
Professor Martin Paul
Professor John Hearn

Dear Joseph, Martin and John,

**Report of Working Group on Undergraduate Education**

On behalf of the working group I’ve attached for your consideration a copy of our final report.

Although we reviewed a broad range of opportunities for WUN to enlarge its mission, we did not discuss joint degree programs at a level that would permit us to make a recommendation. We think this might be worth study at a later date.

As you might expect from a group representing diverse universities, members had a range of views on what was most important. While we agreed on the recommendations, the group was clear that adopting all of them will not benefit all partners equally. This led to discussion of whether we intend that adoption of our recommendations obliges partners to participate in the resulting initiatives. We believe that partners should be free to participate or not. We consider it a matter for the Board to decide the extent to which the WUN contribution to the cost of initiatives is shared by all partners vs. just participating partners. We also consider it a matter for the Board to decide the extent to which the initiatives it adopts are funded by new vs. existing revenue sources.

Our financial recommendations are constructed so as to give the Board flexibility in allocating resources. For the pilot projects (the grants to faculty, the summer school, and the scholarships), the number and/or scale can be adjusted to accommodate different levels of commitment.

All good wishes

Peter Lennie
REPORT OF WUN WORKING GROUP ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Executive Summary
We examined two ways in which WUN might strengthen undergraduate education: first, through direct provision (or sponsorship of) academic programs; second, through providing mechanisms that make it easier for students to study abroad.

Research-Related Academic Programs
We considered academic opportunities in two areas: mobility with a research focus, and broadening access to courses. We concluded that the best opportunities lay in research-related mobility. We recommend that WUN invest in two pilot projects:
- Grants to faculty to engage groups of advanced students in substantial research projects.
- “Summer schools” that introduce undergraduates to research problems.

We do not at present recommend WUN involvement with co-branded courses, or course-sharing or co-teaching among partners, but recommend that this be reviewed periodically.

Enlarging Opportunities for Study Abroad
WUN could help partners increase participation in education and research opportunities abroad by offering a consortium-wide exchange program, and we recommend that WUN invest now to establish machinery for consortium-wide exchanges. By developing standards for uniformly characterizing courses, WUN might make it easier for partners to award home institution credit for work undertaken abroad. We recommend that this be looked into at a later stage.

Resources
We recommend that WUN commit £140,000-£192,500 to establish the undergraduate mission:
- As pilot projects: £30,000-£55,000 to support a summer school and grants to faculty to engage advanced undergraduates in research, plus an additional £35,000-£52,500 as scholarship support for 35 students.
- Annually: £55,000-£65,000 to establish in the secretariat a full-time permanent position responsible for undergraduate education, plus an additional £20,000 for information technology.

Administrative Organization
To accommodate the enlarged mission we recommend that the AAG include members with expertise in undergraduate education, and that an additional standing group of specialists be established as a counterpart to the coordinators’ group.
Introduction

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting in New York, the Partnership Board embraced a recommendation that the WUN mission be enlarged to include an explicit role in undergraduate education. All partners are committed to educating globally-aware citizens, and have made major investments in undergraduate education abroad. By extending its mission to embrace undergraduate education the WUN has the opportunity to add value to what individual partners currently do on their own while at the same time elevating the profile of the network. Moreover WUN can be made more robust. At present, the network’s value to a partner depends greatly on the extent to which that partner’s research portfolio intersects the global challenges. Every partner is deeply engaged in education in an international context, so by adding value here the network can strengthen the ties that bind partners to it.

The Board recognized that opportunities existed on two levels: 1) providing a distinctive WUN-branded educational experience; 2) providing network-level machinery for obviating some of the common obstacles to students experiencing education abroad.

The working group was established by the Board to develop a plan for enlarging the mission, and was charged to address the following:

- Recommend educational programs that:
  - Would be linked to research, with priority when aligned with the WUN research emphases.
  - Would be of distinctive quality and attract strong students.
  - Would ensure equal opportunity for students from high- and low-income countries.
- Explore models for supporting multi-institutional mobility across the network.
- Make budget recommendations.

Our group had two meetings by teleconference and one in-person, the latter at the EAIA meeting in Seville, at which we were joined by additional partner representatives.

Educational Opportunities

Potential opportunities fall broadly into two categories: mobility, and broadening access to courses.

Mobility with a research focus

The group considered three different kinds of programs that could connect undergraduate education with the WUN research mission.

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\(^1\) The charge also flagged the need to have student input in shaping the program. This remains to be done.
Faculty-supervised research projects
There was broad agreement on the desirability of student engagement in individual or small group research projects under the supervision of faculty. Most partners have established mechanisms for their own students to do this, and two (Alberta and CUHK) also have summer programs aimed expressly at students from other institutions. We recognized that a program for students to undertake supervised research projects at partner universities abroad could provide a high-profile mechanism for WUN to engage the strongest undergraduates, and potentially build a pipeline for recruiting PhD students.

The administrative effort required to match students and faculty can be considerable. For this reason we recommend adopting a model used by the US National Science Foundation for its Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The REU model awards funds competitively and directly to faculty, who then select student participants from among those who have applied to join a project. Students learn about opportunities through individual institutions and also through an NSF web site that publicizes them.

NSF provides two avenues of support for REUs:

1. The first REU mechanism provides funds to support a group of ten or more undergraduates on a project designed expressly to engage them in research. Projects typically last 6 weeks or more during long vacations. They can involve one or more disciplines as long as they are thematically coherent.

2. In the second mechanism, the faculty member applies for a supplement to an existing or proposed major research project, so that undergraduates can participate in it. In the WUN context, this might be an addition to an RDF application, or a stand-alone application for funds to augment support from other sources. This mechanism can work for projects undertaken during the academic year, or during vacations.

We think the first model could work well for WUN. It can engage students in significant numbers for relatively low management overhead and it provides a vehicle for faculty to promote opportunities for (and to vet) potential future graduate students. The second model might be attractive for the longer term, but we do not recommend adopting it now because for the same overhead as the first model it benefits fewer students and is likely to be less effective in engaging faculty.

We recommend that WUN provide support for undergraduate research done under the supervision of faculty, through competitively-awarded grants to faculty for projects that will engage groups of students.

We recommend that projects be designed so that students could receive academic credit, or an alternative recognition such as a certificate when a
student’s home institution did not permit credit, and we would expect projects to accommodate the complexities of ensuring access from both hemispheres.

To engage faculty sufficiently, we think that the program needs to appeal to, and select for, the strongest and best-prepared students. This can be achieved by providing scholarship support for undergraduates to participate in the research projects.

We recommend that WUN establish a program of competitively-awarded scholarships for undergraduates to participate in research projects.

To have the impact we seek, the program needs to be offered at sufficient scale. At maturity a successful program should probably support 100 or more students each year. It should begin small.

We recommend that WUN commit to a pilot investment in two projects in different research domains, covering about 20 students altogether.

Summer schools
In 2015 WUN sponsored at UWA a very successful summer school for PhD students/postdocs on Soil Science and Climate Change. Some particulars of its organization would be inappropriate for undergraduates, but a thematically coherent meeting hosted by an institution with special domain expertise could provide an unusual opportunity for undergraduates.

We think that short (2 weeks or less) summer schools (more broadly, schools offered during vacations) on topics falling within the compass of the Global Challenges or SDGs, and drawing on faculty from several partners, would offer distinctive opportunities that differ in important respects from the research projects commended in the previous section. Notably, summer schools can be offered at introductory levels (for example some might be designed to introduce students broadly to research in the summer following the freshman year; others might be designed to introduce students to specialized research areas they would be unlikely to encounter otherwise), and at different scales. The summer school hosted by UWA accommodated about 25 students. Universitas21 offers one each year that is thematically very broad, and accommodates 60-100 undergraduates. We prefer smaller summer schools, which make it easier to accommodate varied and potentially specialized themes, and also to stratify schools in ways that can be tailored for students at different stages in their careers.

We recommend that WUN commit pilot support for a summer school (credit-bearing to the extent possible) on a topic related to its research mission and/or that provides undergraduates with a distinctive introduction to research problems.

Research conference
An important part of undergraduate engagement in research is the public presentation of work, generally as a poster or talk. Our proposal for research projects (above) implies provision of a public forum for students to discuss their

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\(^1\) Some institutions forbid credit for work done outside the normal academic year.
work. Such a forum could be associated with the AGM, or it could be a stand-alone conference, or part of a larger, broader research conference that showcased the best of undergraduate research undertaken at partner universities (Universitas21 holds an annual undergraduate research conference, hosted by one member, limited to 80-100 students from member universities, though some content is made widely available via streaming). The nature and scale of a research conference is probably best decided after we know about the success of the undergraduate research projects.

We recommend that, after a successful launch of the program of faculty-supervised research projects, WUN sponsor an annual research conference at which undergraduates present their work.

Course access beyond and across the network

Many universities offer credit-bearing distance learning and online degree programs for students in other countries. This is a crowded space, and it is unlikely that it offers opportunity for WUN as an organization.

Massively open online courses (MOOCS) have potential appeal. They can have long reach, and one might imagine a select portfolio of distinctive WUN-branded MOOCS that brought the network greater visibility, while also enlarging access. However, such courses can be very expensive to provide, and it is not clear that they offer direct benefit to WUN partners in educating their own students (managing MOOCS for credit is a particular problem).

The geographical dispersion of partners and the different national and regional contexts in which they work endow the network with distinctive resources that we might tap to enrich education, in disciplines extending from the sciences through the humanities. This could take multiple forms:

- Courses provided by a faculty member from one partner but made available for credit to others. These might be typical semester- or term-long courses, or possibly short courses.

- Courses co-taught or team-taught by faculty from two or more partners, where each faculty member brings distinctive specialist knowledge or perspective to the collaboration.

In both cases there are complexities of access and timing (if the teacher is in a different time zone and/or not physically present), and potentially of language. These logistical issues are surmountable, but they’re also local to the particular courses and partners involved, and it’s not clear that there is a role for the network in orchestrating/managing this kind of initiative. There might be a role for the network in maintaining a register of courses that universities want to make accessible to other partners.

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1 By ‘course’ we mean a course in the American sense (the modular building block of a degree program) not in the British sense of a whole degree course.
Although we do not recommend that at present WUN provide or sponsor normal undergraduate courses or MOOCS, we do recommend that it periodically review the matter.

**Easing Access to Study Abroad**

Two substantial opportunities exist for WUN to help partners simplify and enlarge access to study abroad.

1. Student flows between institutions are often limited by the need to ensure that exchanges are balanced. The network could make a big impact by becoming the vehicle for consortium-based exchange accounting, so that partners balance outflows and inflows at a network level (across all partners), not bilaterally.

2. At present, study abroad does not always result in credit that is useful to a student. Some institutions do not allow credit for work undertaken outside the academic year. In other cases accrediting bodies don’t recognize credit transfer from institutions outside the home country. These problems are eased if students can be awarded home institution credit for the work undertaken abroad.

**Consortium-wide exchange balancing**

Although all WUN universities have exchange agreements in place with one or more partners (a study by CUHK earlier this year showed the average is 6, with a maximum of 14), flow between partners is in many cases limited by the need to keep exchanges balanced. This problem can be greatly eased by instituting a mechanism for balancing at consortium level (among all participating partners).

We know about two models for doing this:

- **International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP)**, of which 3 WUN partners are members, handles exchanges in all disciplines, but has relatively few members of the stature of WUN universities. ISEP is relatively expensive: $4,100 annual membership, plus additional fees per student placed. We do not discuss it further.

- **Global E3 (GE3)**, of which 4 WUN partners are members, handles only engineering exchanges. GE3 has a $3,000 annual membership, and no per-student fees. GE3 offers a potential model for a WUN consortium-based exchange.

GE3 benefits members in three respects: a) it increases the flow of students into study abroad; b) universities don’t (need to) enter into individual (bilateral) MOUs, but enter into a master agreement with GE3; c) it exists comfortably alongside bilateral exchanges, which it encourages. GE3 is often used by universities as an easy way to test what might later develop into bilateral partnerships.

**How it works**

Students apply online through their home institution, typically to around 3 host universities. After review and approval by the home-institution advisor the application goes to GE3 for technical review and potential placement.
Each potential host university gives advance indication of how many incoming students it can accept. A host can't specify the universities from which it will accept students—it must be open (or closed) to all comers—but can decide whether to accept individual students, based on their attributes and goodness of fit.

GE3 places students in twice-yearly cycles. Each cycle has ~300 applications from across ~70 member universities. GE3 staff assign students to their preferred universities where possible. When demand exceeds availability at a host university, GE3 will stratify placements based on a set of agreed principles. Of the ~600 students/year who enter the system, about 80% are placed. After a student has been placed, he/she is counted in the balance. Balances are updated if student leaves placement, etc. Balance accounting is over a three year window, and is 'flexible.' Each university stipulates the maximum imbalance it's willing to tolerate.

We recommend that WUN establish a mechanism to support consortium-wide undergraduate exchange, covering placement and balancing, broadly along the lines of the system used by GE3.

Home-institution accrual of credit
The establishment of a consortium-based exchange program would naturally include academic credit from throughout the network being accepted by partners, in the way it is currently recognized on bilateral exchanges. Since home-institution credit is generally more valuable to students than credit from outside, the WUN-sponsored mobility initiatives—whether research experience, summer school or consortium-based exchanges—could be made more attractive to students if partners were able to recognize such experiences for home-institution credit. To make it easier for universities to evaluate the suitability of courses for home-institution credit, WUN could develop standards that partners could, if they wished, adopt for characterizing courses (syllabus, etc.) and how they are managed/assessed.

We recommend that, in a second phase of expanding its commitment to undergraduate education, WUN look at the feasibility of developing standards for characterizing courses in uniform ways, to facilitate award of home institution credit for work undertaken at a partner university.

Resource Needs and Allocation

Direct support for faculty and students (£65,000-£107,500)
Programs to support undergraduate research and summer schools can attract support from national and international agencies (for example, in the US the National Science Foundation such support), but that that support will be easier to secure when we have proof of concept. When programs are established it might also be possible to augment income by opening summer schools to students from non-WUN universities, and using fees to subsidize WUN students. We have assumed that initially there will be no external revenue, and that all costs are met by WUN and member universities.
Faculty grants (£15,000-£30,000)
We think that an adequate pilot initiative should provide support for one or two awards of up to £15,000 each, for projects that each provide research experience for 10 or more students. Funds would cover costs of project preparation, including materials and technical assistance. We recommend that all of these funds be provided through WUN.

Summer school (£15,000-£25,000)
We think that WUN should sponsor one summer school as a pilot project. Funds would support general expenses, and also travel and related costs for faculty from outside the host university. We project the overall cost at £25,000, and recommend that the contribution from WUN be at least £15,000.

Student support (£35,000-£52,500)
To participate in research projects or a summer school, most students will need support for travel and subsistence. The cost will vary considerably with the location of the research experience or summer school, but in an expensive location could be as high as £4,000-£6,000 per student. We recommend that WUN contribute a fraction of this as ‘honorific’ component to the award, with the student and/or the home institution providing the remainder (we recognize that this can be difficult for students from low-income countries, and address it below). For a pilot program of 20 students participating in research projects and 15 students participating in a summer school, with an award of £1,500, the cost would be £52,500; if it were necessary to restrict expenditures, awards might be made at £1,000, bringing the net cost to WUN to £35,000.

Administrative support (£75,000-£85,000)
Establishing a WUN presence in undergraduate education will require a greater level of directed engagement from administrators in partner universities than is needed to sustain the WUN research presence. The RDF is a lightly-managed initiative, and the Global Challenge steering groups are sustained by engaged faculty. An undergraduate initiative cannot be correspondingly self-sustaining.

A substantial commitment of effort will be required in the secretariat to ensure coordination of research-related mobility, consortium-based exchanges, and scholarship programs. There will also be information technology needs.

We estimate that 1 FTE position would be required to launch and support the mobility initiatives. Cost: £55,000-£65,000 per annum, including some travel and professional development.

We estimate that information technology for consortium-wide exchange management might cost £20,000 initially with a smaller continuing annual commitment.

Managing income disparities
Although exchange programs generally neutralize the cost of tuition and fees, other costs (often related to travel, housing and subsistence) must be covered by students and/or their home institutions. This can be a major obstacle to students from low-income countries studying in high-income ones. It is often resolved in
bilateral exchanges by the university in the low-income country sending 1 student for every 2 or 3 it receives from its high-income partner. The high-income partner then uses funds saved through the imbalance to provide cash support for the students it hosts from the low-income partner. Although this mechanism can, in principle, be extended to consortium-level exchanges, legal restrictions in some countries would prevent it being deployed by several partners. More work will be required to find mechanisms that work for all.

The N for 1 mechanism isn’t relevant to ensuring access to summer schools and research conferences. Other mechanisms (external grants, or opening programs to students from non-WUN universities and charging a fee), might yield funds for subsidy, but not immediately. For the pilot projects (research and summer school) we recommend that the WUN-provided scholarship funds be awarded in larger amounts to students from low-income countries.

**Timing**

The summer school is probably the simplest initiative. It is discrete, with the bulk of the organizational effort falling to the host institution. If an early commitment were made (before the end of 2017) one might be developed for the northern hemisphere summer of 2018 or for the southern hemisphere summer of 2018-19.

A program to support research projects needs to give faculty significant lead time for planning, and needs machinery for receiving and reviewing applications for funds—probably several months from the time WUN committed to the program and publicized it. If a commitment were made by the 2018 AGM, machinery could be in place for handling applications in the autumn of 2018, for programs in summer 2019.

Establishing machinery for WUN-wide exchange balancing will require commitment of staff in the secretariat (and to some extent in partner universities), and on the acquisition of relevant information technology. This might take as long as year from the time of commitment.

**Administrative Organization**

We have thought about how responsibility for undergraduate education might best sit within the committee structure of WUN, and have concluded that, as presently constituted, the AAG and the Coordinator’s group are not well equipped to cover undergraduate education at the level needed to ensure success of the expanded mission. For the AAG, it will be important that it evolve to ensure greater representation from academic administrators responsible for education, such as Senior International Officers. We are particularly concerned about the need to add operational expertise at coordinator-level, and recommend establishing a new standing group of education/mobility specialists.

Peter Lennie, Rochester (chair)
Britta Baron, Alberta
Lara Dunwell, UCT
Shally Fan, CUHK
Hilary Layton, York
Dörte Stevenson, Sheffield
Kalpen Trivedi, UMass
Tom van Veen, Maastricht
Iain Watt, UWA
Summary of Feedback on the Report from the
WUN Working Group on Undergraduate Education

1. Background

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), the Partnership Board had embraced a recommendation that the WUN mission be enlarged to include undergraduate education and invited Prof. Peter Lennie from the University of Rochester to put together a proposal for the Board’s further deliberation. Prof. Lennie set up a working group for the proposal which consisted of representatives from eight member universities. A consultation session was held with personnel from student mobility offices of member universities. The report was submitted to the Partnership Board in early December 2017. Please refer to attachment A for the Report of WUN Working Group on Undergraduate Education.

Feedback on the Report from the WUN Working Group on Undergraduate Education was solicited during March and April from the WUN Coordinators as well as personnel responsible for student mobility and international education at member universities. This paper attempts to summarize feedback provided by representatives from 16 member universities.

The report recommends that WUN invests in three initiatives at this stage. They include:

a) Providing grants to faculty to engage groups of advanced undergraduate students in research project (pages 3-4 of report).

b) Running summer schools that introduce undergraduates to research problems (page 4 of report).

c) Establishing consortium wide exchanges (pages 6-7 of report).

WUN Coordinators and student mobility personnel were invited to comment on the recommendations, focusing on three main questions:

a) Would you be supportive of the initiatives proposed? If so, which one(s) and what benefits do you think it would bring to your university and/or WUN?

b) Would you support and be confident that resources would be provided by your university for the initiatives? Please state which initiative, if relevant. Please note the required resources is estimated at (page 8 of report):
   • Faculty-supervised research for undergraduates – £15K-£30K
   • Research summer school – £15K-£25K
   • Student support for both above – £35K-£52K
   • Admin/HR support for above and consortium based exchange – £75K-£85K

c) Please share why you feel some initiatives (if any) may be difficult to implement.

2. Summary

Most respondents generally supported a program of faculty-supervised research projects for advanced undergraduate and the summer schools focused on research problems. Both proposals would provide distinctive alternatives to the regular year or semester long study abroad opportunities which many member universities are already running as well as deepen research engagements among member universities. There was no positive feedback received directly for the consortium based exchange.

1 National Cheng Kung University, University College Dublin, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, University of Alberta, University of Bergen, University of Bristol, University of Cape Town, University of Ghana, University of Leeds, University of Southampton, University of York, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The University of Auckland, The University of Sheffield, The University of Sydney, and The University of Western Australia.
3. Faculty-supervised Research Projects for Undergraduates

The faculty-supervised research projects for undergraduates would add value to WUN’s existing initiatives (which is focused on research). However, the respondents also alerted to the practicality of an individual researcher or project hosting a group of 10 students as presented in the proposal. Existing programs at the University of Alberta and University of Leeds place at most two students with each researcher. At CUHK a larger group of around four students may be placed under one researcher. Respondents also cautioned underestimation of effort and resources required to run such a program. There is a suggestion that the undergraduate research opportunities could be connected to an existing summer school to leverage on existing resources and systems.

4. Research Summer School

There is some support for the Research Summer School as it would raise the relevance and profile of WUN within the university. It would serve as a good platform to bring together students from across the network and should lead to some interesting learning environments. However, those with experience in offering summer schools are skeptical of the estimated cost presented. Besides since the Research Summer School would rotate among members, there needs to be some certainty on members who would have the capacity and expertise to run such an initiative. One respondent raised the possibility of having WUN sponsor a course based summer school as most undergraduates at her university have relatively less experience in research.

5. Consortium Based Exchange

There was no positive feedback received directly for the consortium based exchange. Strong partnerships for bilateral student exchanges already exist between many members of the Network and many respondents feel they have sufficient partnerships and programs in place to meet the needs of their university and students.

In reality those who would benefit from the proposal would be those who are able to send as well as attract students. Inability to do both and on a balanced basis would not benefit from a consortium based exchange.

Those with experience and responsibility for student mobility at their home institution shared difficulties with consortium based exchange, especially one that is created for a small group of universities. Students would not be attracted by the program due to uncertainly in placement in their choice of program, compared to other bilateral exchanges. Since those who apply for the consortium based exchange would not be guaranteed their preferred destination, they will run a risk of losing the opportunity to pick from the wider opportunities provided by the student mobility office at their home university. Besides, consortium based exchanges are time consuming and difficult to manage.

Instead of setting up consortium based exchange, it was recommended that student mobility offices should be encouraged establish working groups and other collaborative groups to explore and advance any agreed projects that support undergraduate mobility.
6. Funding

Funding was a major concern for respondents. Some respondents felt the proposed costings are too high. Some stressed the ability to opt out of the proposed programs and hence not be required to share the cost.

If a centrally funded pot of money was to be collected for the programs, then equal access to the opportunities should be provided to all contributing members. The current proposal suggests that funding is not provided to all participants. However, given the range of opportunities available and the costs, funding for all participants should be available to attract and make participation possible.

Others are willing to set aside funding to support their students’ participation but not to pay towards a central pot.

7. Other Remarks

Other remarks were provided which is worth noting. In order to ensure the sustainability of these programs, it is best that the programs be part of the host university’s offering to its regular and other visiting students.

In developing the proposals, it is important to engage the student mobility personnel at each member university to ensure the proposals are sound and feasible.

Given the very diverse universities represented in the consortium and the very many differing views raised, it is essential that individual universities are given the opportunity to opt-in or opt-out of the proposed programs as they see fit and only participating universities should pay for the programs.

Shally Fan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 23 April 2018

-End-
1. **University A**

Regarding the “Report of WUN working group on undergraduate education”, I have one question and one comment. The first question is about summer school. I was wondering if there is any particular reason that summer school is focusing on research. I think it is a great idea for our undergraduates to be familiar with research study. However, would it be possible for WUN to also sponsor the teaching program? I think this way we can attract more students since most undergraduates have relative less experience in research.

My other comment is about course access beyond and across the network. This report pointed out a lot of essential issues for WUN to develop its own MOOCs. In my humble opinion, I am not the expert in this area so I am not sure if MOOCs would still be the trend in future higher education and worth the investment. On the other hand, as mentioned in the report, many universities offer distance learning and online degree programs. We can have a collection of distance learning programs that was preexisted in our partner university and establish a concept such as “WUN University”.

2. **University B**

I'm pleased to confirm that my university is broadly supportive of the research-related student proposals in the Report (cf. grants to faculty to engage students in research projects, and thematic research summer schools). However, at this point, we are not supportive of the proposal to establish consortium exchange across the network, as our principal rationale for joining this network relates to research engagement with other members.

We are interested to know how any new initiatives might be funded and what alternative costings might be developed by WUN in response to feedback from the members (cf. only partial support for the full suite of recommendations in the Report). At first sight, we are concerned, for example, at the proposal to establish an additional full-time position in the Secretariat. We are also interested to know whether there might be an opportunity for members to opt in or out of a new strand of student-related activity.

3. **University C**

As you probably know, we are currently facing a transition period at my university. Discussions on strategic initiatives and resources provision will need to be looked at more carefully.

Another important aspect that might influence these discussions is the upcoming release of information on the new government scheme to fund universities’ internationalization. As my university is seeing WUN's member institutions as strategic partners in the programme, considerations on financing possibilities would be connected to that. In view of this singular scenario in which we find ourselves, we will probably be able to give feedback on this subject later. I hope it doesn't pose major problems for you, in a context of network resolutions.
4. University D

At the conclusion of the working group’s deliberations we had indicated our willingness to support the full proposal and are prepared to continue to do so. In our final response to the working group we had offered our support with a strong preference for seeing the research internship component developed, and in a manner that facilitated the broadest participation of students and professors. This remains what we see as the strongest element in the proposal and we hope that the proposed model can be a starting point and that in time a more robust program can be developed. We see greater impact of the individual placement models that we have established at my university and that I believe you have at CUHK than the NSF model proposed. We are far less keen on the summer schools and remain skeptical of the value of the consortium exchange model.

During the working groups deliberations there was thought that WUN might have existing funds that could be repurposed to meet some of the financial requirements of the proposal. There was also discussion that individual universities could opt out of the consortium exchange model. Given that the full cost of the proposal might need to be borne by additional membership fees it would be important to clarify if there is a range of participation with corresponding fees - or if it will be an all or nothing requirement.

We have not yet explored how the additional funds would be secured at my university. Depending on our ability to secure these additional funds, and the possibility to elect to participate in certain elements and not others, we would again prioritize the research internships and depending on resources may elect not to participate in the consortium exchange.

Do you anticipate moving forward with seeking approval of the program and an additional fee assessment to members at the upcoming AGM? If there is a concrete proposal/motion that is being discussed - especially if it has an implication for increased fees it would be great to have this in advance so that we can ensure we have had the appropriate discussions internally to know how the additional fees will be covered such that we are in a position to endorse the full proposal. We had given a heads up to our senior team about this several months ago but if there is a concrete proposal with respect to increased membership fees, it would be good to have this detail so we can do the appropriate consultations at my University.

5. University E

Personally I think the best solution would be to connect a UG student research experience to an existing Summer School for research (target group graduate students/junior researchers). For instance by extending the Summer School with a special designed programme for UG students. Then you could use most of the Summer School resources that are already in place. Maybe there could be a small amount of WUN central money to apply for on annual basis (in conjunction with the RDF call?) to establish and run a special UG student research programme at the Summer School for the first time. Funding/Scholarship for the UG students to travel and participate in the Summer School's UG student research programme should be the responsibility of each WUN institution and/or student.

6. University F

My university’s Global Opportunities are supportive of any initiatives that help to develop high quality academic student mobility for undergraduates particularly for short-term and/or research programmes that provide alternatives to a year or semester studying abroad. It is this mobility
that we need to increase and have some institutional involvement in if we are to reach our target of 30% mobility by 2023. Traditionally mobility has remained very separate from research but with proposals such as this we have a unique ability to try and bridge that gap. However WUN is primarily a group who have come together out of shared research interests and therefore mobility has not necessarily been a consideration. There are many synergies between our exchange partners and WUN partners and it makes sense to leverage these where we can but with the recognition that some will never be suitable for exchange.

With this in mind WUN should support developing student mobility between its members with a focus on research. The faculty-supervised research projects are an excellent idea and could also help to support postgraduate recruitment at the same time. I am unsure how well research staff and groups would support the project and gaining their input would be vital to make this work.

I am less sure about summer schools as there is an enormous amount of work involved in designing and developing a summer school. As an institution I don’t think that we could commit to hosting one for a single year unless we were using it as an opportunity to trial the programme with a view to opening it up in future years for general international recruitment. This is definitely something we could explore as it is an area we are developing at the moment. To persuade UG students to attend the summer school some element of funding would be necessary whether through a subsidised programme or institutions providing stipends for their own students to attend.

The consortium based approach is that only initiative that we would find difficult to support. It is very hard to get an exchange consortium to work – we have had success when it links to a very specific subject area e.g. Liberal Arts and in these cases I think that a network can add a considerable amount of value. However in a broader context you will find that there are net senders and net receivers. Most likely we would be a net receiver and would generally want to send to net receivers. Multiplied across the network you clearly have an unworkable model as any institution will want to balance numbers of incoming and outgoing students. There are also logistical difficulties in mapping application dates and times and I could not see a reason that our students would apply through a WUN consortium when they are likely to have far more certainty with our bilateral exchange partnerships. I can see that WUN wants to make itself more relevant to its members but by repositioning itself as an exchange network in addition to a research one it is at risk of trying to appeal to too many. In many institutions WUN does not have engagement from their mobility offices and a consortium approach would be short-lived.

Resource is a separate issue and the International Office has no funds available to support WUN mobility. This is something that would require further discussion.

In conclusion I would like to see WUN support undergraduate research mobility. I think the report underestimates the impact and reach that this can have across an institution. I think there is a risk that many WUN institutions do not work closely with their mobility teams and for this to work a WUN mobility group needs to be set up to ensure you have the right stakeholders involved.

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Clearly a lot of time and attention has gotten to develop such a detailed set of proposals, and this should be commended. There are some interesting and ambitious ideas presented. Of the proposals put forward, my favourite is the notion of competitive grants to run UG research summer schools. These should bring together students from across the network, and should lead to some interesting learning environments.

I am not supportive of providing member institutions with grants to help offset the costs of sending students to such summer schools. The vast majority of our universities already have student mobility funding that can be allocated towards such initiatives if we feel that they are an institutional priority. I appreciate that some of our members in the developing world may not have
access to the same quantum of mobility funding, but the solution is not to spend central network budgets supporting it. I am not in favour of establishing central network administrative posts to support mobility initiatives. We (almost) all have specialist offices that deal with student mobility issues. We should encourage those offices to establish working groups and other collaborative groups to advance any agreed projects rather than hiring new people centrally. I am also not in favour of spending meaningful amounts of time and effort trying to establish a multi-institution “clearninghouse” model of network-wide exchanges. Every university network that I have been part of has had the same ambition, and the complexity of making it work administratively has been prohibitive. I’m not saying that I don’t think that WUN is incapable of solving this particular puzzle, but I’m also not convinced that solving this puzzle is the real prize that will unlock meaningful additional UG mobility. In summary, then, I am supportive of the idea of competitive grants to run pilot projects in order to unlock innovation and establish models of best practice.

7. **University G**

My university is in principle committed to support the WUN undergraduate mobility proposal. However, due to the serious funding crisis we face, we had to implement measures to curb costs which includes revisiting our budget. We are therefore not in a position to participate in this initiative at this stage but we fully agree to the significance of it.

8. **University H**

a) Would you be supportive of the initiatives proposed? If so, which one(s) and what benefits do you think it would bring to your university and/or WUN?

   My university supports the initiative because it will promote undergraduate learning and research and deepens faculty exchange at all levels.

b) Would you support and be confident that resources would be provided by your university for the initiatives? Please state which initiative, if relevant. Please note the required resources is estimated at:

   - Undergraduate research – £15K-£30K
   - Summer school – £15K-£25K
   - Student support for both above – £35K-£52K
   - Admin/HR support for above and consortium based exchange – £75K-£85K

   My university agrees to the above support.

c) Please share why you feel some initiatives (if any) may be difficult to implement.

   None.

9. **University I**

Many thanks for sending such an excellent overview of the WUN proposition for student mobility. My observations are as follows:

I agree with the narrower focus on specific activities rather than the development of co-branded courses.

With the specific proposals:
- Grants for faculty to engage students in research projects
  Our limited UG research activity is through our partnership with two other universities. In both cases projects are put forward by academics and promoted to students. Rarely has there been more than one student assigned to a research project (maximum of 2). I am therefore unsure of the capability of faculty staff to host around 10 students either across thematically relevant disciplines or a single project. I would question whether projects supporting 10 students may be more akin to a training/summer school type activity. As this has not been tested I am unsure about how popular it will be with faculty. However across the partners the proposal seeks only to identify two projects so it may be an approach already operating at other partner institutions. The financial incentive to faculty is positive but it should be recognised that, beyond the academic structure for the projects, the administration will fall on others to enable the students to take part including visa support, accommodation, social elements of the programme etc. Overall my question would be the viability of hosting such large numbers but I understand the desire to have a controlled small-scale pilot. I agree that there should be a student subsidy to take part. I would note that over a 6 week period a grant of £1,000 would potentially not address the aim to ensure that students from lower income families could afford to participate. I think, as mentioned, there would potentially be the need for sending institutions to further incentivise.

- Summer Schools
  My university currently delivers a summer school slightly above the top end of the proposed pilot (circa 110). This is not a research based summer school but is credit bearing. It runs over 4 weeks and is managed by 2 full time staff, 6 student assistants and 19 academic tutors. This is a high quality international experience with embedded field trips, social programme and accommodation. The cost is circa £3,000 per student. It would be useful to know if the costing model proposed is based on the actual costs that UWA had in developing their summer school for WUN. The investment cost up front would inevitably determine the level of cost to students to participate. I agree with the subsidy for students. Students at my university can take part in subsidised overseas summer schools (tuition fee waiver) and for the WUN summer school to be popular the incentive would need to be similar to be seen as a viable option. As a potentially rotating offer partners would need to be reassured they have the expertise and the capacity to build a one-off summer school.

- Student Exchange
  We have strong exchange links with 12 of the WUN partners and do not have agreements with others based on potentially being unable to generate reciprocal demand. The numbers with the current partners are healthy and we would have some concern about ensuring we could maintain these numbers in any other scheme. Given that we have bi-lateral agreements in place I’m not so sure this would be a priority. We are also part of GE3 and there is a risk that students are not placed. As we run study abroad selection we would be unable to guarantee a WUN place so the student may lose the opportunity to pick from our wider network of opportunities. GE3 however is a useful addition for our Engineering mobility and we have relatively small numbers accessing study abroad through this route.

  (a) Would you be supportive of the initiatives proposed? If so, which one(s) and what benefits do you think it would bring to your university and/or WUN?

  As above – I believe the research exchanges and summer schools would perhaps offer a more distinctive offer. The relatively focused initiatives could generate sufficient interest from across the partnership. I would suggest hosting such large numbers on a research project may be prohibitive.

  (b) Would you support and be confident that resources would be provided by your university for the initiatives? Please state which initiative, if relevant.
Across 23 partners if the contributions were equal this would equate to £192k so £8,300 per partner. I could not categorically say whether investment would be available but it is not a particularly large funding requirement. I should note that the bulk of this is for the consortium exchange which I see less value if based on our current exchange operation.

10. University J

We are concerned about the funding model and feel that much of the activity could be funded by our own internal resources. If we do go for a centrally funded pot then we would have to make sure that each institution is given the same access to all the programmes ie 2 places per institution.

We have some concern regarding the Faculty grants for running projects for research experience and summer schools. We feel that whilst the grants would be useful, these initiatives should be sustainable and where possible be part of the Institution’s offering to all students, not just those identified as part of the WUN specific programme.

Consortium wide exchanges is very difficult considering that we are not working to a standard offering across the board and some institutions are capable of more than others.

I feel the salary allowed for the Admin support is somewhat excessive unless of course they are administering other programmes that we are not aware of.

11. University K

I think the document is comprehensive in both its considerations and in identifying potential issues with the initiatives proposed. These are my thoughts, in no particular order.

- My preference would be to start with a fully funded pilot summer school of 2 / 3 weeks on research problems with a specific theme of global relevance in a location which will appeal to the widest group of students. It would really raise the relevance and profile of the network within the university.
- The promotion of a distinct brand needs to be centrally managed and it would be good to have materials and launch events in each uni. Making the networking opportunity the key focus would I believe attract more students and provide an external identity to the cohort. What makes this WUN programme distinct is that you meet other WUN students rather than staying in a group of students from my university.
- There are many other summer opportunities for students to gain experience which do not require large outlays of time or money. There is certainly a perception within the student population that international summer schools and research projects are seen as "nice to have" projects which attract those who can afford to pay for them and not work during vacations. We need to promote the value and skills that students would gain from this programme very clearly and make sure we have enough funding to support any student who is selected.
- Realistically, the location, theme and funding offer needs to be decided straight away in order to get events and deadlines in institutional calendars for AY2018/19.

Considerations:

- I would agree that doing any of this is only feasible with the support of a dedicated central WUN mobility support officer.
- Our office resources are already overwhelmed with the increased workload involved in promoting, supporting and funding mobility programmes for a relatively small number of students and the consortium exchange would probably be most time consuming and difficult to manage.
• We do already have issues with reciprocity and so I think the consortium exchange would be hard to manage. A number of institutions already have exchanges and it seemed that the group at EAIE expressed the concern that not all programmes would be equally attractive and experience shows that even if a student provides three choices, they usually only want to go to one place and will drop out if they don't get accepted. It would put huge pressure on some institutions and may cause unease between network partners.
• Credit bearing programmes (ref; exchanges/research) are time consuming for faculty involved and potentially academically risky for students who are replacing studies at home e.g. grade conversions and learning outcomes being assessed out of context could potentially alter final degree classifications.
• Running larger programmes (ref; REU) would also be costly in terms of finding faculty projects, selection and preparation of students so central administration would need to have significant experience to be able to handle this on behalf of the institutions involved.
• We have seen a definite rise in the proportion of students who drop out of summer programmes when they are told they have not received a bursary to support them so we must be careful to have either enough bursaries to cover all selected students, or enough fee paying students to support the viability of the programme without causing the host / WUN to have to subsidise. I'm thinking here of minimum numbers for programmes in terms of fixed costs such as teaching, accommodation, flights etc.
• We are looking at a very small window for the programme to run in, given the difference in term times between northern and southern hemispheres. The term at my university doesn't finish until mid-late June, and we only have 2 weeks over Christmas, so the only clear month would be in July before Australian universities start again. A six week programme would cause some overlap with term time which may cause issues and put students off. July is an expensive month for travel and accommodation and a lot of faculty are on research leave so getting staff to run projects for groups may be more difficult.
• Whilst I am confident that we have resource capable of supporting the operational and pastoral aspects of the initiatives proposed, I don’t think at present we could commit to significant investment in additional resources or bursaries other than perhaps being able to set aside some needs based funding from WP or our travel bursary fund.

I think we are all really positive about the possibilities but securing the central support and funding for students to participate as soon as possible is key to the initiative’s success.

12. University L

My university would be supportive of short programs that provide different opportunities for students beyond the regular term time exchange. The proposal on research opportunities and summer school for undergraduate students would therefore be welcomed. However, I think the details needs to be considered by personnel who run such programs as they would be in a better position to identify challenges and provide solutions.

My university would not be supportive of a consortium based exchange given it already has active partnerships for student exchanges with many members of the Network. Besides, our experience in the student mobility tells us that consortium exchange are expensive and complicated to run and its success requires a much larger number of members than what WUN has.

The costing for the three proposals are extremely high when we compare it to what WUN is currently spending on the RDF. The budget asks for £140,000 – £192,000 whereas £130,000 was distributed in 2017 for the RDF.
13. University M

My university would be happy to support two of the proposed initiatives, the development of grants to support UG research projects and/or a Summer School event with a research focus. We are not looking for further exchange partners, therefore cannot endorse a consortium based exchange.

If we are looking to add value to existing WUN initiatives, we would welcome a method of adding UG researchers to successful RDF/IRG projects, providing UG students with exposure to international research work and stronger engagement with local researchers. As WUN’s flagship programme, we believe this would be a positive first step into engaging UG. This would be of little cost to establish and implement given the current arrangement of the secretariat.

The proposed costs in the paper seem very expensive. We would not be in a position to support an Admin/HR function to facilitate the proposed exchange programme. We have limited funds for student engagement across all three networks and would therefore look to redistribute some of this funding to support UG attendance at a WUN summer school.

14. University N

While I agree with most of the ideas outlined in the report in principle, I feel that some of the proposals, such as a consortium based approach to exchange, will not work and the others would need much more in depth investigation before being considered further.

Given the very diverse institutions represented in the consortium and the very many differing views raised during the conversations of the steering group, I believe it is essential that individual institutions are given the opportunity to opt in or out as they see fit and that only participating institutions should pay towards the initiatives.

15. University O

The University is not supportive of initiative 1 & 2 as the funding requirement is too high. In terms of initiative 3 we currently have sufficient exchange capacity with our existing partners, and the costs of participation are too high. As much as we would like to support this proposal we feel that the University would not benefit from the initiatives put forward.

As you are aware my university has mobility agreements with a number of WUN partner institutions and we feel we are supporting mobility across the network but it’s not necessary for us to go beyond what we are currently doing.

16. University P

My university’s preference from the options presented in the paper is for WUN to focus on undergraduate research.

We are supportive of sending our students to WUN summer schools, and can put funds aside for this but we do not support WUN members to be asked to pay additional fees to support the initiative. Likewise, re student support for the undergraduate research.

Sorry but we do not support the consortium based exchange.
In an ideal world with unlimited funding we would support all of the excellent initiatives suggested in the paper but we, like many other WUN members, are facing declining budgets, and so we have to very carefully consider and prioritise each new proposed expenditure.

Another concern, related to above, is that WUN is in danger of spreading itself too thin with the limited funding available.

Would you support and be confident that resources would be provided by your university for the initiatives? Please state which initiative, if relevant. Please note the required resources is estimated at:

- Undergraduate research – £15K-£30K - Yes but from my own university funds, not as an additional WUN contribution
- Summer school – £15K-£25K – Yes but from my own university funds and more like $5-10k, not as an additional WUN contribution
- Student support for both above – £35K-£52K - No
- Admin/HR support for above and consortium based exchange – £75K-£85K (please see page 8 for details). - No

2 May 2018
WUN Research Mobility Programme (2012 – 2017):

Analysis of Data from participating WUN Partners

Author: Dr Susan Jim
Institute for Advanced Studies / WUN Development Manager
University of Bristol

The WUN Partnership Board, Academic Advisory Group and Coordinators Group are invited to:

1. review the details on the enclosed paper;

2. put forward their questions and comments on the current RMP scheme, and the outcomes of this analysis;

3. recommend any changes to enhance:
   – awareness of the scheme locally;
   – connectivity in the way that this activity is executed across the network, and
   – harmonisation with existing WUN activities such as the RDFs/IRGs or summer schools.

4. advise on the development of a database facility which would allow the sharing and routine capture of the details of RMP visits.
1) **Introduction – what is the WUN Research Mobility Programme (RMP)?**

The WUN Research Mobility Programme (RMP) provides the opportunity for PhD students and research staff (from early career researchers to established professors) to visit partner WUN institutions to establish and cultivate research links.

These visits allow researchers to:

1. advance their research - via access to facilities, resources and skill-sets available at their host institutions,
2. establish new and deepen existing collaborative research links with WUN counterparts,
3. gain experience of working and living in different research and work cultures, and
4. further their career development.

WUN members waive any fees associated with the RMP, which typically involves short visits of 2-3 months. Each WUN partner oversees an internal competition, usually twice a year, to allocate their outbound RMP awards. Some partners operate the RMP through formal bilateral agreements but the majority of partners use an informal ‘bottom-up’ approach, responding to applications as they arise in their institutions without specific target numbers or partners, nor alignment to the WUN research profile.

2) **How are these visits coordinated across the network?**

Currently, home institutions administrate all aspects of their RMP schemes (publicity, facilitation, funding, feedback), and this is usually overseen by the WUN Coordinator who shares the details of their RMP awards with the Coordinators Group on Sosius.

There is therefore scope to provide a central comprehensive RMP overview and database/archive to track and report the outcomes of these visits, and to integrate and streamline existing activities on a network level. For instance, to explore how RMP visits might be dovetailed with new Research Development Fund bids or existing Interdisciplinary Research Groups, Summer Schools, Cross-cutting Themes or Enabling Cores, etc.

The WUN RMP scheme is an obvious springboard to inform discussions on increasing research student mobility across the network.

3) **Who takes part?**

Since 2012, 20/23 WUN partners have participated in the RMP:

- **14 members allocated outbound visits:**
  1. University of Alberta
  2. University of Auckland
  3. University of Bergen
  4. University of Bristol
  5. University of Cape Town
  6. Chinese University of Hong Kong
  7. University of Ghana*
  8. University of Leeds
9. Maastricht University
10. University of Rochester
11. University of Sheffield
12. University of Southampton
13. University of Sydney
14. University of York

- 6 members hosted inbound visitors only:
  1. University of Nairobi
  2. Renmin University of China
  3. Tecnológico de Monterrey
  4. University of Massachusetts, Amherst
  5. University of Western Australia (outbound data too dispersed for collection and inclusion)
  6. Zhejiang University

- 3 members have yet to take part:
  1. National Cheng Kung University
  2. University College Dublin
  3. Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

New WUN members in 2015, 2016 and 2017 may have yet to establish their outbound RMP schemes but it is encouraging to see that many of these are already hosting WUN researchers.


All current WUN partners were asked to submit details of their RMP awards resulting in the collation of data pertaining to 468 visits across the network since 2012.

a) Distribution of outbound RMP awards across WUN

The top 5 institutions with the highest number of RMP awards 2012-2017 (n = 468) are:

1. CUHK (96, 21%)
2. Leeds (66, 14%)
3. Bristol (61, 13%)
4. Sheffield (46, 10%)
5. Southampton (43, 9%)
b) Number of staff vs PG student awards per annum

The total number of staff to student awards is 284:184; 61% staff and 39% student awards. Mean total number of RMPs per annum from 2012-2016 is 78, with a high of 85 visits in 2012 and a low of 60 visits in 2016. Encouragingly, there was an increase in the number of awards in 2017 to 80 visits.

c) Number of staff vs PG student awards at each participating WUN partner

A relative balance of staff vs student awards was observed for CUHK (50:46) and York (17:15). Most other institutions reported more staff awards (Alberta, Auckland, Leeds, Sheffield, Sydney, UCT) with the exceptions of Bristol (22:39) and Southampton (18:25) supporting more PG student visits.
d) Distribution of schools/departments involved in RMP awards

Broad range of disciplines are represented with balanced involvement of key faculties.

e) Temporal variation in number of RMP awards at each WUN partner

In 2017, 9/23 partners made a total of 80 RMP awards:

- CUHK > Sheffield > Southampton > Bristol > Leeds > Alberta = York > Auckland = UCT
f) Number of outbound vs incoming RMP visits at each WUN partner

Data shows:

- a relative balance of outbound vs incoming researchers for Auckland and UCT;
- more outbound than incoming visits for UK WUN partners, Alberta and CUHK, and
- more incoming vs outbound visitors for Bergen, Rochester, Sydney, UMass and Zhejiang
5) Analysis of RMP data (2017 only)

The top 5 institutions with the highest number of RMP awards (n = 80) in 2017 are:

1. CUHK (20, 25%)
2. Sheffield (14, 18%)
3. Southampton (12, 15%)
4. Bristol (10, 12%)
5. Leeds (8, 10%)

a) Number of staff vs PG student awards at each participating WUN partner in 2017

A relative balance of staff vs student awards was observed for CUHK (11:9) and York (3:3). Most other institutions reported more staff awards (Alberta, Auckland, Sheffield, Southampton, UCT) with the exceptions of Bristol (4:6) and Leeds (2:6) supporting more PG student visits.
b) Number of outbound vs incoming RMP visits at each WUN partner

No outbound data for UWA.

The 2017 WUN RMP data show that:

- 80 RMP visits were awarded by 9 WUN members and hosted by 20 members.
- New members such as Ghana, Nairobi, Renmin, Tec de Monterrey are already starting to host visitors.
6) Summary

The WUN RMP (in place since 2002) provides an opportunity for partners to send their staff and students to undertake a period of research at a WUN member institution.

Since 2012, 468 RMP awards have been made (60% staff, 40% students) across a broad spectrum of research disciplines, in particular in the areas of environmental and geographical sciences, public health, medicine and health, law and education, topics which align well with our Global Challenges. The most popular destinations to date have been Sydney, CUHK, UWA, Auckland, UCT, Alberta = Leeds, and Bristol.

In 2017, 9/23 WUN members made 80 RMP awards (54% staff, 44% students) that were hosted across 20 partners, the most popular of which was Sydney, which hosted 16 visitors. There is therefore much scope to increase the number of participating (or home) WUN partners in the RMP. Those who are already receiving visitors constitute 20/23 partners, 11 of which are not currently facilitating their own schemes.
### Mapping of Undergraduate (UG) Exchange Partnerships among WUN Members (May 2018)

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**Key**

- UG exchange partnership in place, including both university and non-university levels.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>International Summer School (course-taking programme)</th>
<th>Summer UG Research Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Alberta</td>
<td>International Summer Program</td>
<td>University of Alberta Research Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Auckland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Summer Research Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Bergen</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Summer Research School</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Bristol</td>
<td>Destination Vet / Biomedical Sciences Lab</td>
<td>Overseas Summer Placements</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bristol Interns in China (Shenzhen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 CUHK</td>
<td>International Summer School (July &amp; August)</td>
<td>Summer Undergraduate Research Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Dublin</td>
<td>International Summer School (3 weeks in June)</td>
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<td>7 Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Leeds</td>
<td>Leeds International Summer School</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Maastricht</td>
<td>Maastricht Summer School</td>
<td>Amgen Scholars Programme (one of 5 hosts in EU + Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Minas Gerais</td>
<td>Summer School on Brazilian Studies 15 - 29 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Monterrey</td>
<td>Summer School</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Nairobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 NCKU</td>
<td>International Summer School</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Renmin</td>
<td>RUC International Summer School</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Rochester</td>
<td>“Summer Sessions” are available to International Students but don’t seem to be specifically offered to them</td>
<td>Summer Research/Internships</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Sheffield</td>
<td>International Summer School</td>
<td>Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Southampton</td>
<td>International Summer School</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Sydney</td>
<td>Short-term Study Abroad Programs</td>
<td>Some depts (Maths, Medicine) offer Summer Research Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 UCT</td>
<td>Summer School</td>
<td>5 places available annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 UMass</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Some depts offer Summer Research opportunities (Political Science, Engineering,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 UWA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>UWA International Research Training Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 York</td>
<td>Short courses for students from partner universities</td>
<td>Physics has summer research placements</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Zhejiang</td>
<td>International Summer School</td>
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**WUN Education: An Undergraduate Mobility Program (UMP) – state of affairs and the road ahead**

**Background:**

WUN has been very successful as a research network with many innovative initiatives launched, from the RDF program to stimulate collaboration between network partners to addressing four grand challenges: Public Health, Climate change, Understanding Cultures and Higher Education Research. These are complemented by cross-cutting activities, currently big data, economics as well as the Africa and China groups working to together in a matrix structure. In this framework there has been also a (non–formalized) place for students, mostly at the graduate level by participation in the research activities and exchanges through the WUN Research Mobility Program (RMP).

In the discussions leading to the current strategic plan of the network, the question was asked whether the sole, or better, predominant focus on research is still sufficient to lead the network into the future. Dealing with grand challenges within a world that is characterized by rapid geopolitical changes voices from within the network have demanded a broader role for WUN, focusing on added visibility, such as the BREXIT seminar organized in 2017 together with the Universities of Maastricht and York; and the China Belt and Road conference organized in 2018 with Renmin University. These activities have proven to be successful additions to the WUN network activities.

With respect to education, the Partnership Board (Board) has – in principle – approved a strategy and program to add an undergraduate “educational arm” to the WUN portfolio, the main reason being that when dealing with grand challenges and sustainable development goals, universities have to take their role in making sure that these themes are also affecting education. In addition, such a dimension would add to the recognition of WUN as a network with broad impact. It also would increase the visibility of WUN in an increasingly complex world of university networks. The Board, therefore, had voted to pursue this model and set up a small working group under the leadership of Peter Lennie.

**State of affairs:**

The working group has prepared a preliminary report and has presented some recommendations for the further development of the program. The proposal focusses basically on three models of undergraduate mobility, in brief:

1. Organizing a WUN summer school or schools
2. Setting up research based graduate exchange, and
3. A consortium-wide WUN undergraduate exchange program.

The report was discussed and endorsed by the WUN Board steering committee, with the task to prepare a more detailed business and implementation plan to present to the full Board. Before this step could be actioned, the WUN central office requested feedback from the international/student exchange officers at all WUN member universities. This feedback provided diverse opinions:
whereas some officers expressed endorsement for the plan as a whole, others were more cautious and concerned. Looking at these responses from the level of “middle management” of WUN member universities, there was not unanimous support of the proposal as a whole. Whereas many showed support for and interest in the summer school and/or the research based exchange, there was more concern about setting up a consortium-wide exchange program. These concerns were based on a number of factors, such as the additional work load, cost for the institutions either directly or through the WUN subscription, imbalance between exchange partners and the realization that in many cases institutions have already got extensive exchange agreements, also with WUN partners. In any case it has to be noted that this diverse picture is somewhat contrasting with the perceived unanimous support from the executive level of the Board members of WUN, and at this stage hindering the development of a concise implementation plan.

**Next steps**

To continue with this process a number of important questions have to be addressed and answered by the Board:

1) Does the Board still endorse the project to add undergraduate education and mobility as a theme to WUN?
2) Is the current plan (or parts thereof) still the basis that should be built on in the further process to create a business- and implementation plan?
3) Which parts of the working group report should be followed up in the next steps?
4) If the project continues, can the Board members ensure that there is alignment concerning this vision in their organization i.e. by the responsible officers?
5) Will the Board confirm that a formal working group is established now to prepare the following steps for approval?
6) Does the Board agree that there is an additional budget needed at the central WUN level (which could be funded through a modest increase of fees)?
7) Alternatively, would the Board stimulate that a group of WUN universities dedicated to create an (undergraduate) educational arm of WUN comes together (coalition of the willing) to plan and carry out a pilot project carrying a WUN label?
8) As an additional / complementary measure: Is adding an additional “WUN-label” to the existing exchange programs between network partners a cost-effective and easy way to start and increase visibility of WUN’s commitment to (undergraduate) education?

It is necessary to have a clear answer to these question from the Board to ensure that there are no misunderstandings about this project, its scope, significance and the next steps to be taken.

Maastricht, May 2018

*Professor Martin Paul,*

Chair of the Partnership Board, WUN