

**From:** [John Vinney](#)  
**To:** [All Staff](#)  
**Subject:** Update from the Vice-Chancellor  
**Date:** 17 July 2019 14:56:01  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---



Dear Colleague,

This is a busy time of year, whether you are getting ready for or returning from a holiday, finishing tasks from the 2018/19 academic year ahead of graduation, working on research or other longer term projects or preparing for the start of the next academic year. Thank you in advance to those of you from across BU who will be helping with clearing this year, I am always impressed by the teamwork and collaboration over a very busy few days.

And this year, as I noted [in my e-mail about the NSS results](#), we are bringing forward the regular work on the academic monitoring and enhancement review, and asking our professional services and support staff to participate, to ensure that we take the urgent and effective action required to respond to this year's NSS feedback.

### **NSS response**

We will be setting up a range of different channels to ensure that we identify the steps that need to be taken and that we prioritise the actions that will have the most impact. This work is being led by the University Leadership Team and we will share more about it as we progress. Reading the verbatim comments made by our graduating students, although there are many positives, I am struck by the themes – students concerned about planning across the year, about last minute changes to timetables, issues with assessment and feedback, inconsistent experiences of support and advice. This is an opportunity for us to focus on getting these things, and others that we will identify, right – working collaboratively and constructively across BU, and take action immediately so that, as we say in BU2025, the BU learning experience is consistently excellent for our students as soon as they start or return in September.

### **BU2025**

We are coming to the end of our first full year of BU2025. Our clear sense of purpose and direction are a strength, as we face up to the knowledge that we have more to do. We have taken many steps this year that will help us. My colleagues and I continue to engage with staff from across BU to discuss how we are doing and hear your feedback. We will continue to have meetings with faculties and services, and you can sign up to our open meetings [here](#). We are also considering other ways to engage with staff next year, and you can make suggestions about this by e-mailing [BU2025VisionandStrategy](#).

**Fusion Learning, Innovation and Excellence**

The Fusion learning approach is a key part of BU2025 and the Centre for Fusion Learning Innovation and Excellence are supporting its implementation across BU. You can read more about the Fusion Learning Principles [here](#).

### **Advancing knowledge and enriching society**

We are making good progress on our plans to develop our research at BU, and on developing the strategic investment areas as new areas of strength to complement and build on our existing academic strengths. We look forward to sharing with you the outcomes of all the Expressions of Interest for the SIAs, but are delighted to announce that earlier this month, the University Board approved Strategic Investment Area funding to establish the Institute for Modelling of Socio-Environmental Transitions (IMSET). Led by Dr Emma Jenkins, Dr Fiona Coward and Prof Adrian Newton, this will enable BU to respond to the most significant global challenge facing humanity today: how we manage and respond to environmental change. It will do so by exploring how past societies were affected by environmental change, how they responded to these and, therefore, what are the most sustainable options available to present-day societies under similar pressures.

Preparations for REF2021 are continuing and the draft Code of Practice has been submitted for feedback. We are confident that our submission to the REF will demonstrate how well Fusion and research have developed across BU since the last review.

### **Our communities**

Following the local elections in May, we have met the new Leader and Cabinet of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The 'Unity Alliance' council is made up from the non-Conservative Councillors in the conurbation. Following their election, the Unity Alliance is undertaking a review of all major developments and plans. In Dorset, the Conservative party held on to control of the council, but have elected a new Leader, and a new Cabinet has been appointed. We have already met with the senior members and officers on a number of occasions. We are looking forward to working closely with both councils on a range of plans and engagement activities.

### **Living our values**

We were delighted that the Department of Life and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Psychology received an Athena Swan Bronze Award, which built on BU's recent institutional Bronze award. Three of BU's academic departments now hold Bronze awards and we are expecting to build on that success over the next year with further applications.

BU will also be making an application under the Race Equality Charter this week. Only 56 universities are members of the REC and only 12 hold awards, so this is an important step for BU as we work on our BU2025 plans for equality and diversity, and living our value of inclusivity. I was also pleased to sign the UUK-NUS pledge to work with students using the UUK-NUS BAME attainment gap framework. This will help us to address issues linked to the BAME attainment gap as highlighted in our Access and Participation Plan.

I was pleased in June to congratulate staff at our [long service celebration event](#). Our people are BU's greatest strength and have enabled BU to get to where we are today. It was fantastic to have the opportunity to thank our long-serving staff for their contribution to BU over the last 25 years and celebrate their loyalty and commitment.

The window for nominations for the 2019 VC staff awards has been extended until Friday

19<sup>th</sup> July. Please take a short amount of time to nominate a colleague or a team for an award this year. You can find a link to the [simple on-line form](#) here #BUProud.

Whatever you are doing over the next few weeks, I hope you find time to enjoy the sunny weather and our fantastic local environment. I look forward to working with you over the summer on our NSS response and other projects, and preparing to welcome our new and returning students in September.

Best wishes,

John Vinney  
**Vice-Chancellor**

Follow me on Twitter @VCJohnVinney

