

Notes from TUCO North West Regional Meeting 28th May 2020

A virtual meeting was held on 28th May 2020.

It was the first virtual meeting for the region and very much a chance for members to catch up and talk through the issues they're facing.

The discussion included:

Keele University – the VC is to issue plans for the university next week. Peter believes the plans are to force a return to Catered Halls. Kitchens for individual use are to be locked down. Keele usually have a lot of business over the Christmas period but this has been cancelled.

University of Liverpool – No date has been set for return of students. A blended method of delivering courses is being considered. Covid Laboratories are open and there is a phased return for research.

University of Manchester - Covid Laboratories are open. A September return is being considered but has not been confirmed. There will be no lectures until after Christmas. All administrative staff will continue to work from home.

Lancaster University – allocating equipment and workspace to chefs to ensure social distancing. The conference business is negligible up until Easter 2021.

RNCM – have a lot of commercial business but this is on hold until students are back. It would send out the wrong message if they were attempting to hold events with only a few students on campus.

University of Chester – a voluntary redundancy scheme is in place. Investigating the new track and trace scheme and waiting for a response from HR to the question of whether or not can request evidence if a member of staff says they have received a message to self-isolate. Staff are being contacted by telephone to sow the seeds of a phased return to work.

There was a discussion around what to do for staff who have been working through this period. Chester are planning a lunch for their cleaners in due course as a thank you.

Universities will not be able to afford to continue to top up furloughed staff salaries when the new rate is introduced.

It was requested that we continue to have the meetings on a monthly basis. The group agreed to inviting Unilever, a TUCO Partner, to the next meeting.

Jane Eve
28.05.2020