



PRESS RELEASE

UMAL welcomes new Chair and Deputy Chair

Wednesday, 19th December 2007

UMAL has announced the appointment of Paulina Lubacz, Treasurer of the University of Durham, as its new Chairman, and Phil Gough, Director of Finance at the University of Swansea as Deputy Chairman.

Making the announcement, Susan Wilkinson, Director and CEO of UMAL, said, "I am delighted to welcome Paulina Lubacz as Chairman and Phil Gough as Deputy Chairman of UMAL. Their considerable experience in Higher Education makes them highly qualified to make a valuable contribution to the work of the organisation."

Paulina has held the post of Treasurer at the University of Durham since 1988, having previously been Deputy Treasurer since 1985. She is Durham's Chief Financial Officer and has lead responsibility on the University's Executive Committee for estates, procurement, business continuity and the University's participation in the Durham City Vision economic regeneration project.

She says, "As Chair I would like to build upon fifteen years of outstanding success in delivering value to our members. Our aim is to continue to grow and develop in partnership with the insurance industry to become recognised as the provider of choice for insurance services to the Higher Education sector."

Paulina brings a range of skills to her new role, and comments, "In the past twenty years I have gained a great understanding and experience of Higher Education in a senior leadership role. I have a passionate commitment to both the values of our sector and to partnership working which is the essence of mutuality."

Phil Gough has been Director of Finance at the University of Swansea since 1996. He has worked in the Higher Education sector for 25 years and is an active member of the British Universities Finance Directors Group. As Director of Finance his responsibilities include the maintenance of effective systems of financial control and securing systems for income collection and payments.

Commenting on his appointment as Deputy Chairman of UMAL, Phil says, "UMAL is one of the best examples of shared services with the Higher Education sector. The quality of service from the staff of the two companies is first rate and, in my opinion, not bettered by other providers. Added to the practice of returning surpluses to the sector, it is difficult to see why colleagues should look elsewhere for insurance services." Phil added, "I am delighted to be appointed Deputy Chairman and look forward to helping the two companies continue their steady growth over the next few years."

ENDS

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