

## Invitation to the Uniac Forum

**18th November 2014**

**Council Chamber, Ormond Building, Manchester Metropolitan University**

**10am –3pm**

The Uniac Forum is an excellent opportunity for audit committee members and senior management to share and debate emerging topical issues in HE governance, to form opinions and to hear about the latest sector developments from your peers and HE experts. It also provides an excellent opportunity to network, meet senior representatives from other institutions, from the funding bodies and internal audit professionals.

If you would like to reserve a place, please reply to Angela Gilchrist (agilchrist@uniac.co.uk / 0161 237 1174 / 07770 336 490) by 31st October 2014.

### **Timings and Speakers:**

**10 -10.30** Tea / Coffee

**10.30 –10.40** Introduction and welcome from Andrew McConnell (Director of Finance, University of Huddersfield and Chair of the Uniac Board)

**10.40 –11.20** **Tony Mears**

Tony has many years' experience of corporate governance in the sector, and retired from his role as University Secretary at the University of Huddersfield this year. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable, Tony has built on his experience by undertaking a DBA at the University of Huddersfield. In this session, he will reflect on his research findings and provide some thoughts on the future of governance in the sector.

**11.20 –11.45** Tea / Coffee

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**11.45 –12.30 James Paterson – Director: Risk and Assurance Limited**

James will use his session to assess the internal audit profession highlighting good practice from his work across all sectors. He will also cover what he sees as ‘the next big things’ and the steps that auditors and auditees should be taking to maximise the value gained from the service.

**12.30 –1.15 Buffet Lunch**

**1.15 –2.00 Ian Parry – Head of Assurance, HEFCE**

Ian will provide an update on HEFCE’s assurance arrangements, their evolving role and a general sector update. In addition, he will give an overview on the Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability which became effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and replaces the Financial Memorandum.

**2.00 –2.45 Paul Smith – Head of Partner Services, Student Loans Company (SLC)** Paul will provide an update on the SLC’s strategic direction and their Transformation Programme, interactions with HEIs and how they are changing through the Programme. He will also cover specific areas of assurance and risk management work which link in with the references to the SLC in HEFCE’s Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability.

**2.45 –3.00** Closing remarks by Andrew followed by tea or coffee.