



Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022

Joel Richards Suite, University Arena

21/55 Attendance

55.1 Present

Mr J Bateman OBE	Independent Governor, Chair
Ms G Allcott	Student Governor
Mrs L Barber	Staff Governor
Dr D Beech	Independent Governor
Mr L Coiffait-Gunn	Independent Governor
Mrs D Gant	Independent Governor
Professor D Green CBE	Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive
Mr M Hardy	Independent Governor
Mr D Iddon	Independent Governor
Dr C Jones	Independent Governor
Mr N Khan	Independent Governor
Ms M Lee	Student Governor
Ms A Linforth	Student Governor
Mr A Noorani	Independent Governor
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen	Independent Governor
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Mr I Smith	Independent Governor
Mr K Sorrell	Independent Governor
Mrs S Speck	Independent Governor

55.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Director of Finance & Resources
Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Ms H Johnstone	University Secretary and Clerk to the Board
Ms A Jordan	Acting Provost
Mrs J Newland	Assistant Clerk to the Board

55.3 Apologies

Mrs J Britton	Director of Communications & External Affairs
Ms L Davies-Ward	Staff Governor
Mr S Devlin	Independent Governor
Dr T Jones	Pro Vice Chancellor Students
Mr D Pocha	Independent Governor

The Chair welcomed the incoming Student governors, Al Linforth, Gemma Allcott and Meg Lee.

21/56 Declarations of Interests

56.1 Ian Smith: Trustee of the Kildare Trust.

21/57 Minutes

57.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2022 [BG21/58] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

57.2 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

57.2.1 Bye-law 9 [minute 50.3.3] The Clerk to the Board had liaised with Alvyn Pettersen to finalise the wording of bye-law 9 as discussed at the Board meeting on 3rd May 2022 and sent the final version to the Board for information.

21/58 Chair's Business

58.1 Chair's report

58.1.1 The Chair reported on events he had attended recently including the School of Arts Degree show, the England Physical Disability Cricket team versus the Lords' Taverners match, the launch by the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, at the Hive, of the University's Levelling Up Impact report, and the Hive at 10 celebrations. The Chair drew the attention of Board members to the Future of Britain conference and in particular the positive comments regarding the role of HE.

21/59 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG21/59]

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

21/60 Financial Matters

60.1 2022/23 Budget [BG21/60] *Confidential*

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION 60.1.1-60.1.4]

60.1.5 The Board approved the 2022/23 budget.

21/61 Students' Union Business

61.1 Students' Union Report [BG21/61]

61.1.1 The student governors presented their update on the Students' Union activities and highlighted key points including their manifesto aims, changing the name of the BAME network to the REACH (Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage) network and the results of the CES 2022 and Big Worcs surveys. In the CES 2022 survey, all the SU related questions saw a decline in scores, however it was noted the results need to be seen in the context of the difficulties in engaging students post pandemic. In the Big Worcs survey, advice and wellbeing was seen as the highest priority for the SU with national democracy and the NUS as the lowest. Actions being taken to address engagement include planned welcome weekends for all years, not only for first years.

61.1.2 Members noted the impact on students of the cost of living crisis with the student officers citing the example of the impact of fuel increases on commuting students.

61.1.3 Members thanked the student officers for their excellent report. The Board received the report.

21/62 Provost's Business

62.1 Acting Provost's Report [BG21/62]

62.1.1 The Acting Provost presented her report, highlighting the following points:

- Teaching: semester two has gone very well, with examinations again running in person and the majority of the end of year examiner meetings having taken place. Preparations for academic year 2022-23 are well underway and most teaching will be in person.

- *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- The University celebrated awards made under the Teaching Award Scheme, designed to recognise and reward excellent and outstanding practice in teaching, the Student scholarships awards and the annual Student Choice Awards. The University has also been recognised in the Levelling Up Universities Awards for meeting Goal 1: Strong foundations in Early Years.

62.1.2 The Board received the report.

62.2 Report from Academic Board [BG21/63]

62.2.1 The governor observer to Academic Board presented the report of the Academic Board meeting of 21st April 2022, highlighting the considerable amount of work that had gone into the responses to the DfE consultations, the anticipation around the REF results and the implications of the revised OfS conditions of registration. Academic Board had received the annual Complaints and Appeals report and noted only a small number of students had submitted a complaint or an academic appeal over the year, with no significant increase due to the pandemic.

62.2.2 The Board received the report.

21/63 University Schedule of Delegation [BG21/64]

63.1 The Board received the annual review of the Schedule of Delegation, noting the substantive changes including a new item on Reportable Events to clarify that the Board delegates to the Vice Chancellor the authority to submit reports of reportable events to the OfS.

63.2 The Board noted the updates to the Schedule of Delegation.

21/64 Reports from Committees

64.1 People & Culture Committee [BG21/65]

64.1.1 The Committee Chair presented the report on the Committee meeting of 17th May 2022 and noted all referenced reports are available on the Governors' portal.

64.1.2 The Board received the report.

64.2 Audit Committee [BG21/66]

64.2.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Committee meeting of 14th June 2022 and noted the Committee considered three internal audit reports, including the Value for Money audit report where soft controls were used for the first time.

64.2.2 The Board considered the updates to the Strategic Risk Register, noting two new risks had been added to the register, one removed and increases in the gross risk across a number of risks. The Board approved the updates to the Strategic Risk Register.

64.2.3 The Board received the Committee report.

64.3 Finance & Development Committee [BG21/67]

64.3.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Finance & Development Committee meeting of 21st June 2022, noting the budget discussion was covered under minute item 60. The Committee also received the update on Capital Developments.

64.4.2 The Board received the report.

64.4 Nominations & Governance Committee [BG21/68]

64.4.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Committee meeting of 27th June 2022 and gave an update on Board membership, the recruitment of Independent members and a professional staff member of the Board.

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION 64.4.2 – 64.4.4]

64.4.5 The Board received the report.

21/65 Reports

65.1 Annual Report on Subsidiary Companies [BG21/69]

65.1.1 The Board received the annual report on the University's subsidiary companies. The Company Secretary to the subsidiary companies reported UW Developments is not currently undertaking any projects, the Board of UW Enterprises is refocusing the company for the management of student employment, and that UW Worcester Wolves has focused on building a more inclusive community focused basketball club since withdrawing a year ago from the British Basketball League.

65.1.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

65.2 Annual Review of Sustainability Policy [BG21/70]

65.2.1 The Board received the Annual Review of the Sustainability Policy, noting no changes were made as a result of the review.

65.2.2 Keith Sorrell had met with the Director of Sustainability to see how the policy translates into practice and reported how impressed he was with the work.

21/66 Compliance with OfS Conditions [BG21/71]

66.1 The Board received an update on matters in relation to the OfS.

66.2 As previously reported, the OfS' new Director of Fair Access asked providers to undertake verifications to their Access and Participation Plans (APPs) for 2023/24, these verifications being ahead of providers being asked to submit new APPs from 2024/25. Responsibility for the APP lies with the Board, with UEB being responsible for implementation. The Board agreed it was content to delegate the finalisation of the variations to the APP to the Vice Chancellor and UEB.

66.3 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

66.4 The Board noted the update.

21/67 Any Other Business

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

21/68 Date of Next Meeting

Board Meeting

4th October 2022 (in person)