



Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2023, 3.30 pm

Anatomy Suite, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Building, Severn Campus

22/61 Attendance

61.1 Present

Mrs S Speck	Independent Governor, Chair
Mr L Coiffait-Gunn	Independent Governor
Ms L Davies-Ward	Staff Governor
Mr S Devlin	Independent Governor
Mrs D Gant	Independent Governor
Professor D Green CBE	Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive
Mr M Hardy	Independent Governor
Mr N Khan	Independent Governor
Mr S James	Student Governor
Ms A Linforth	Student Governor
Ms C Moir	Staff Governor
Mrs S Morgan	Independent Governor
Mr A Noorani	Independent Governor
Mr D Pocha	Independent Governor
Ms I Price	Student Governor
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Mr I Smith	Independent Governor
Mr K Sorrell	Independent Governor

61.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Pro Vice Chancellor Finance & Resources
Mrs J Britton	Pro Vice Chancellor Communications & External Affairs
Ms H Johnstone	University Secretary and Clerk to the Board
Ms A Jordan	Provost
Professor S Moyle	Pro Vice Chancellor Health & Science
Mrs J Newland	Assistant Clerk to the Board
Professor L Stansbie	Pro Vice Chancellor Education, Culture & Society

61.3 Apologies

Mrs L Barber	Staff Governor
Dr D Beech	Independent Governor
Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Mr T Heywood	Independent Governor
Dr C Jones	Independent Governor

Dr T Jones
Ms L Taylor

Pro Vice Chancellor Students
Independent Governor

The Chair welcomed Issy Price, new Student Governor, to their first meeting.

22/62 Declarations of Interests

62.1 Ian Smith: Kildare Trust.

22/63 Minutes

63.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2023 [BG22/61] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

63.2 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

63.2.1 Remuneration Committee reports [minute 50.1.3]: the Remuneration Committee met to consider the points raised and is to bring a report to the next Board of Governors meeting.

22/64 Chair's Business

64.1 Update from Chair

64.1.1 The Chair reported on a recent CUC event she had attended at which the Chief Executive of the UUK gave a presentation on the future of HE. Key points raised included changes in the public perception of HE, UCAS projections of up to a million HE applicants by 2030 and the increase in the gap between the least and the most disadvantaged since Covid.

64.1.2 The Chair had also attended the Mentor Awards and the Fellows' Dinner, noting both were very positive events.

64.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

22/65 Presentation on the Access and Participation Plan (APP)

65.1 In the absence of the Pro Vice Chancellor Students, the presentation on the Access and Participation Plan was deferred to a future meeting and an update on the plan was included under the Vice Chancellor's report.

22/66 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG22/62]

66.1 – 66.5 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

66.6 The University Secretary reported the OfS requires universities to produce new Access and Participation Plans (APPs) for 2024 onwards. The University volunteered to be part of the first wave of submission and submitted its plan on 3rd July. Once reviewed by the OfS and agreed, the plan will be shared with the Board. The Board noted the plan is based around four strategic interventions on work with schools, continuation, attainment and completion, and the risks for each student group. The plan ties in with the University's work on retention and on the OfS B3 condition data sets.

66.7 The Pro Vice Chancellor Health & Science gave an overview of the key points of the recently announced NHS long-term workforce plan and the opportunities for the University, noting the University is already working very closely with the local Health Trusts to make sure it is ready for the plan. A key feature of the plan is the proposal to double the number of funded places for UK

students to study medicine, however there will be no new funded places until 2025. *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

66.8 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

66.9 Members noted that the Stretton Trust charity that provides scholarships to support medical students will from this year offer bursaries to local students for each of the years of their training.

66.10 A student governor highlighted there is some misunderstanding that funded medical school places are free and it should be clearly communicated this is not the case.

66.11 The Board received the report.

22/67 Financial Matters

67.1 2023/24 Budget [BG22/63]

67.1.1 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

67.1.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

67.1.3 The Board approved the 2023/24 budget.

22/68 Students' Union Business

68.1 Students' Union Report [BG22/64]

68.1.1 The Board received the report from the Students Union officers and noted updates on the Advice Service and trends in cases being seen, a look back on academic representation over the year, Sports and Societies, work to address the low engagement in Networks and on Raise and Give. The Students' Union put together a submission on the Access and Participation Plan for the OfS, noting the difficulties involved as the submission request from the OfS was not clear. Feedback was given to the OfS.

68.1.2 The officers outlined their objectives for the coming year.

68.1.3 Members noted ways in which the Students' Union works to promote international student engagement and that the officers network with officers from other universities on what works well for international students.

68.1.4 The Board thanked the officers for their report.

22/69 Academic Governance [BG22/65]

69.1 The Provost presented the report of the Academic Board meeting of 26th April 2023, noting much of what was reported on had been covered by the Board elsewhere. From next year, Academic Board meetings are to be held before Board of Governors' meetings so reporting will be better aligned. The report format is also being reviewed and there will be more alignment between the report and OfS conditions of registration and improved reporting to the Board on the OfS B3 conditions.

69.2 The Provost highlighted the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) is no longer the authorised quality and standards body, with the OfS temporarily taking the role in-house.

69.3 The Board received the report.

22/70 Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech [BG22/66]

- 70.1 The Board considered the University's draft revised Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech which has been reviewed in light of the HE (Freedom of Speech) Act that was passed into law in May 2023, and the approach the OfS has signalled it will take to a new condition in this area.
- 70.2 The University Secretary highlighted the key points of change to the Code, noting the new Act provides for protection for academic staff, and the balance needed between freedom of speech, academic freedom and the University's public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010. Under the new Act the Students' Union will be required to have its own Code.
- 70.3 The draft Code has already been considered by UEB, the Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee and People & Culture Committee and is to be considered by Academic Board at its meeting on 5th July. The Board agreed that in the event of there being no further amendments to the draft Code from Academic Board, it authorised the Chair of the Board to approve the new Code by Chair's Action, allowing the Code to be in place for the new academic year.

22/71 Reports from Committees

71.1 People and Culture Committee [BG22/67]

71.1.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the People & Culture Committee meeting held on 16th May 2023. The Committee received details of staff surveys that are going to run later in the year and the report from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee. The Committee also reviewed its terms of reference following suggested amendments from the Board of Governors.

71.1.2 The Board received and noted the report.

71.2 Audit Committee [BG22/68]

71.2.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Audit Committee meeting of 13th June 2023, noting the Committee received a presentation on Data Returns and confirmed the appointment of the new internal audit service. The Committee also considered the six monthly update to the University Strategic Risk Register.

71.2.2 The Committee Chair had represented the University at an OfS online seminar on fraud and noted fraud was an area the University could not be complacent on.

71.2.3 The Board approved the updates to the University Strategic Risk Register.

71.2.4 The Board received and noted the report.

71.3 Finance & Development Committee [BG22/69]

71.3.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Finance & Development Committee meeting of 20th June 2023, noting the Committee recommended the 2023/24 budget to the Board and was very appreciative of the work on the budget.

71.3.2 The Committee recommended to the Board the terms of reference for the Investment Committee, being set up to manage the investment of funds from the charitable donation from the Kildare Trust. The Board noted the planned membership of the Investment Committee and approved the terms of reference.

71.3.3 The Board received and noted the report.

22/72 Football Foundation Deed of Priority in relation to new Astroturf

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

22/73 University Schedule of Delegation [BG22/71]

- 73.1 The Board received the University Schedule of Delegation which sets out the delegated responsibilities for a range of decisions, statutory roles and other responsibilities. The Board receives the Schedule once a year to provide it with assurance the University has appropriate internal controls in place. Members noted the Schedule has been represented in a new simplified format to aid ease of understanding.
- 73.2 The Board noted the new Schedule.

22/74 Compliance with OfS Conditions [BG22/72]

- 74.1 The Board received an update on matters in relation to the OfS, noting in particular:

- *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- the OfS confirmed their audit of the first-year expenditure of the OfS capital funding 2022/23 – 2024/25 is complete;

- *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- as previously reported to the Board in April the University submitted a reportable event form to the OfS in relation to an HCPC focussed review of Paramedicine. The outcome of the HCPC review was positive and was shared with the OfS who have said they are taking no further action.

- 74.2 The Board noted the report.

22/75 Reports [BG22/60]

- 75.1 Annual Report on Subsidiary Companies [BG22/73]

75.1.1 The Board received the annual report on the University's subsidiary companies, noting only UW Worcester Wolves Ltd is currently active.

75.1.2 The Governor observer to the Board of UW Worcester Wolves Ltd noted the company was now operating on a strong basis since leaving the BBL (British Basketball League), with increasing attendance at Men's games, much greater financial stability, excellent community engagement and increased numbers of student placements and paid employment opportunities for students at the Arena. He congratulated all directors and staff on their success.

75.1.3 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- 75.2 Annual Sustainability Report [BG22/74]

75.2.1 The Board received for information the Annual Sustainability Report.

22/76 Any other Business

76.1 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

22/77 Date of Next Meeting

Joint UEB/Board Development Session Saturday 7th October 2023

Board Meeting

Thursday 23rd November 2023