



Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2023

Joel Richards Suite, University Arena

22/33 Attendance

33.1 Present

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| Mrs S Speck | Independent Governor, Chair |
| Mrs L Barber | Staff Governor |
| Dr D Beech | 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 T Heywood | Independent Governor |
| Dr C Jones | Independent Governor |
| Ms M Lee | 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 |
| Mr M Scriven | Staff Governor |
| Mr I Smith | Independent Governor |
| Mr K Sorrell | Independent Governor |
| Ms L Taylor | Independent Governor |

33.2 In Attendance

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| Mr R Bonham | Pro Vice Chancellor Finance & Resources |
| Mrs J Britton | Pro Vice Chancellor Communications & External Affairs |
| Mrs A Cope | Director of Human Resources |
| Ms H Johnstone | University Secretary and Clerk to the Board |
| Dr T Jones | Pro Vice Chancellor Students |
| 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 |
| Professor JP Wilson | Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor Research [item 22/35] |

33.3 Apologies

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| Ms G Allcott | Student Governor |
| Mr L Coiffait-Gunn | Independent Governor |
| Mr N Khan | Independent Governor |

22/34 Declarations of Interests

34.1 Ian Smith: Kildare Trust.

22/35 Institutional Commitment to Concordat to Support Career Development of Researchers [BG22/33]

35.1 The Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor presented a paper on institutional commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, a HE sector-level agreement to support the personal and professional development of researchers. Institutional commitment to this Concordat can be demonstrated in two ways: through submission to the Europe-wide HR Excellence in Research Award (HREIR) process or through becoming a formal signatory of the Concordat. The University has held the HREIR award since 2016 and has now become a formal signatory to the Concordat. An annual report on progress will be submitted to Academic Board and the Board of Governors.

35.2 The Board thanked the Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor for his report and noted the Institutional Commitment to the Concordat.

22/36 Minutes

36.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2022 [BG22/34] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting, with the following changes:

- item 16.1, Attendance: Mrs S Morgan was not present at the meeting.
- item 21.5, page 3: 'Qualified Teacher Success' to be changed to 'Qualified Teacher Status'.

36.2 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

36.2.1 Board members' support for student initiatives [minute 22.2]: the Pro Vice Chancellor Students will share details when available of initiatives such as the 're(worc)' scheme.

36.2.2 People & Culture Committee terms of reference [minute 25.1.2]: the Committee is to consider whether its terms of reference should cover performance management processes.

22/37 Chair's Business

37.1 The Chair reflected on the excellent progress in the development of the Severn Campus seen by Board members on a tour of the Elizabeth Garratt and Elizabeth Casson buildings prior to this meeting. The Chair also thanked everyone involved in the work on the Medical School.

22/38 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG22/35] *Confidential*

The Vice Chancellor presented his report and the Board noted the following points:

38.1 A highly successful Civil Service Careers Fair took place in January, further to an initiative by Mike Hardy.

38.2 Events were held on 24th February in support of Ukraine to mark the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.

- 38.3 The School of Sport and Exercise Science has won a contract to evaluate the experience of participants, families and coaches in the forthcoming Invictus Games.
- 38.4 A very successful visit by the General Medical Council (GMC) took place on January 12th, after which the GMC confirmed significant progress had been made on all points raised previously and were happy the Medical School was ready to admit the first cohort of students in September 2023. The next GMC visit will be in January 2024. The University has since increased the momentum in its campaign for funded places for UK students and the Vice Chancellor noted his thanks to Board members and Fellows who have written to their MPs on the issue of funded places.

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

- 38.5 The Law School continues to thrive and the Times 'Complete University Guide' rated Law at the University 2nd in the UK for student satisfaction and 3rd for Graduate Prospects.

38.6 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- 38.7 The University has submitted an Expression of Interest to Research England's Expanding Excellence in England (E3) scheme. The scheme is designed to support the expansion of excellent research units in less research-intensive universities, where there are limited internal funds to support such an expansion.

- 38.8 There was a very successful intake of students beginning their studies in Semester II of the 2022-23 academic year and the number of students currently studying at the University is now approximately 10,500. Members noted changes to the student demographic with post-graduate and international numbers increasing, and part-time, mature and EU numbers declining.

- 38.9 Following an Ofsted inspection in January, the University's nursery is now rated as Good.

- 38.10 Work has begun on the new AstroTurf at St John's Campus, a positive outcome of the long-running work to develop a playing fields and community sports strategy.

38.11 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

38.12 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- 38.13 The Board received the report.

22/39 Presentation on New Circumstances, Changes & Direction

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

22/40 Tranche C borrowing [BG22/36]

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

22/41 Students' Union Business

41.1 Students' Union Report [BG22/37]

- 41.1.1 The Board received the update from the Students' Union officers on Students' Union activities, together with the Help & Advice Service Annual Report 2021/22. Highlights from the report included the Rep Conference held in January, engagement with Go Green Week and the pilot of the Repair Café. Societies and sports clubs are doing well; this year first year students were supported with credit for clubs and societies and the impact can be seen in the number of new clubs. Engagement

with the Networks remains difficult unfortunately and attendance at the annual All Student Meeting was very low. There was a suggestion it would be useful for students to know more about the Board of Governors and that Board members could attend a student meeting to talk about their role. Varsity is taking place between 21-31st March and Board members are welcome to attend events.

41.1.2 The officers thanked Board members for their feedback on the recently distributed Students' Union Impact Report, and for their contributions to the community cupboard. Donations to the community cupboard now total over £1,000. The Provost also highlighted her thanks for the work of student reps on the TEF submission.

41.1.3 The Board congratulated the officers for their hard work and noted the report.

41.2 Students' Union Annual Accounts 2021/22 [BG22/38]

41.2.1 The Board received for information the Students' Union Annual Accounts 2021/22.

22/42 Reports from Committees

42.1 Nominations & Governance Committee [BG22/39]

42.1.1 The Board received the report of the Nominations & Governance Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022. It was noted a new Board representative needs to be identified for the University Community Forum and any member who may be interested in undertaking this role was invited to contact the Clerk.

42.1.2 The Board approved the updates to the Committee's terms of reference and noted the report.

42.2 Audit Committee

42.2.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Audit Committee meeting of 24th January 2023 [BG22/40], highlighting the Committee had reviewed the Students' Union annual accounts for 2021/22 as part of the University's responsibility to monitor the financial health of the Students' Union and that the Students' Union audit had gone very smoothly. The Committee had reviewed the external audit service and subsequent to the meeting, the Chair met with the external auditors to provide feedback. The University is to go out to tender for the internal audit provision from 2023/24.

42.2.2 The Committee Chair drew attention to the Value for Money Report 2021/22, transmitted to the Board with this report, noting this would lead into a discussion on social value at the upcoming joint UEB and Board Development Session.

42.2.3 The Committee Chair presented the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2021/22 [BG22/41] and noted the report provided the Board and the University's Accountable Officer (the Vice Chancellor) assurance as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the University's arrangements for risk management, control and governance; economy, efficiency and effectiveness (Value for Money) and the management and control of data.

42.2.4 The Board received and noted the reports.

42.3 People & Culture Committee [BG22/42]

42.3.1 The Board received the report on the People & Culture Committee meeting of 9th February 2023 and noted the Committee received various reports including the Gender Pay Gap Data Report for 2022, a report on the outcomes of the staff reward schemes 2022/23 and from the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee.

- 42.3.2 The Committee transmitted to the Board the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Annual Report 2021-22, introduced as part of the assurances the Board receives, via the Committee, that the University is meeting its EDI duties.
- 42.3.3 A query was raised on the submission of new Access and Participation Plans (APP) to the OfS and it was confirmed the University is considering joining the first wave of providers and submitting its plan in 2023.
- 42.3.4 The Board noted the reports.
- 42.4 Finance & Development Committee [BG22/43]
- 42.4.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Finance & Development Committee meeting of 7th February 2023 and noted that in addition to the discussion of the Tranche C loan options, the Committee received a financial update and Capital Developments update and considered proposals for managing charitable donations. The Committee noted the challenges around finances but had a good level of confidence.
- 42.4.2 The Committee transmitted to the Board a report on a property acquisition on Hylton Road. The purchase was approved by the Severn Campus Approval Group which has delegated powers to agree purchases of property on the former Hylton Road industrial estate *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*.
- 42.4.3 The Board received and noted the reports.

22/43 Academic Governance

- 43.1 Annual Report on Academic Quality & Standards 2021/22 [BG22/44]
- 43.1.1 The Board received an executive summary of the Academic Quality and Standards Report 2021/22, the full report of which has been presented to Academic Board. It had been a challenging year against the background of the pandemic as could be seen in the NSS data and increased student withdrawals. The Provost highlighted key achievements for the year, the huge amount of work on retention and the very good results in the Graduate Outcomes Survey and Longitudinal educational outcome (LEO) data. The Board noted the conclusions of the external examiner reports and updates on course approvals, partnerships and apprenticeships. Since the report was written, the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) has confirmed the BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science course remains approved. The University is due to have an Ofsted inspection of apprenticeships. Members noted an apprenticeship strategy is in place and will be brought to the Board.
- 43.1.2 The Board noted the concluding remarks including the rapid progress in returning to predominantly in-person, on campus teaching, continued good progress on the majority of developmental projects, and key developments and challenges for 2022/23.
- 43.1.3 The Board noted the report.
- 43.2 Report from Academic Board [BG22/45]
- 43.2.1 The Board received and noted the report of the Academic Board meeting of 25th January 2023.
- 43.3 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

22/44 Compliance with OfS Conditions

 [BG22/46]

- 44.1 The Board received an update on matters in relation to the OfS and noted in particular:

- confirmation of the Capital Grant award of £5.8m.

- *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- the University has been awarded £87,130 in additional student hardship funding.

- the University has expressed an interest in participating in the OfS's Sexual Misconduct Survey pilot.

44.2 The Board noted the report.

22/45 Subsidiary Companies [BG22/47]

45.1 The Board approved a recommendation for the appointment of Lerverne Barber as director of UW Wolves Ltd.

22/46 Any Other Business

46.1 There was no other business.

22/47 Date of Next Meeting

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| Joint UEB/Board Development Session | 25 th March 2023 |
| Board Meeting | 25 th April 2023 |