



Board of Governors

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 30th June 2020

19/60 Attendance

60.1 Present

Mr J Bateman OBE	Independent Governor, Chair
Mr C Arntzen	Independent Governor
Dr D Beech	Independent Governor
Mr J Bothamley CBE	Independent Governor
Mr S Devlin	Co-opted Governor
Mr R Dudley	Staff Governor
Mrs D Gant	Independent Governor
Professor D Green CBE	Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive
Mrs A Hooper	Independent Governor
Mr D Iddon	Independent Governor
Dr C Jones	Independent Governor
Dr D McDougall	Staff Governor
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen	Independent Governor
Dr S Pittaway	Staff Governor
Miss M Price	Student Governor
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Mr I Smith	Independent Governor
Mr H South	Student Governor
Mrs S Speck	Independent Governor

60.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Director of Finance & Resources
Mrs J Britton	Director of Communications & Participation
Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Professor S Greer	Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost
Ms H Johnstone	Head of Governance and Regulatory Affairs (Clerk to the Board)
Ms T Manning	Vice President, Students' Union
Mrs J Newland	Assistant Clerk to the Board
Mr R Renton	Pro Vice Chancellor Students

60.3 Apologies

Mr N Khan	Independent Governor
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The Chair welcomed Dr C Jones, newly appointed Independent Governor, to the Board.

19/61 Declarations of Interests

61.1 There were no declarations of interest declared.

19/62 Chair's Introduction

62.1 The Chair noted the purpose of this second session of the Board meeting was essentially strategic.

19/63 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG19/67]

63.1 The Vice Chancellor presented his report to the Board, noting it outlined a strategic approach to the next year. He was conscious other universities were taking different approaches and that it was important the Board was happy with the proposed approach.

63.2 He highlighted the extraordinary achievement in taking the University online and the hard work not only of academic staff but also professional staff and in particular the work of the IT team. The University has been able to meet all its obligations and was able to swiftly refund rents to students who left University accommodation. He felt it was a great tribute that the University has not received a single complaint.

63.3 The University is preparing to "re-occupy the campus" safely with the aim of having as much face to face teaching, research and activity as possible within government guidelines and has outlined the planned approach in communications to staff and students. It is planned to reduce the total number of campus users at any one time, and to extend the regular timetabled day. Members noted the University has taken opportunities to learn formally and informally from what other universities are doing in response to the pandemic. Further to the recent lockdown in Leicester, the University should learn from the local universities affected and be ready for a possible second wave of the pandemic.

63.4 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

63.5 The University wants to make the maximum contribution it can to helping the country and community post-pandemic. The development of the Severn Campus for Health, Well-being and Inclusive Sport, specifically the redevelopment of Berrows House to be the home for the Three Counties School of Health and Medicine and the development of the International Inclusive Cricket Education Centre are ideally placed to contribute to investment in infrastructure for national recovery.

63.6 The Chair pointed to feedback from recent CUC meetings on a downturn in optimism from other universities worried about the immediate future due to an overreliance on international students and noted the University is not in such a position. He congratulated all staff.

63.7 The Vice Chancellor noted the government package announced in the last few days for research funding for universities. It is unlikely however that the University will benefit.

63.8 Equality and inclusion are at the heart of the University's values and the University spoke out in favour of the Black Lives Matter movement and against all forms of discrimination. Members asked how the movement could be an opportunity to further develop the University's work on inclusion. Members noted how active the University was in sports participation, for example in basketball and cricket, as well as its work on the academic attainment gap for BAME students. The new Students' Union networks will have an important role to play as well in inclusion. A query was raised on whether participation by BAME students in sports has been analysed. The Vice Chancellor is to consider how this could be actioned.

63.9 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

63.10 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

63.11 The Board received the report.

19/64 Strategic Discussion *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

19/65 University Budget *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

19/66 Any Other Business

66.1 Members were invited to send any feedback on the meeting format to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk to the Board.

19/67 Date of Next Meeting

29th September 2020.