



Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2022

EE1106, Edward Elgar

21/43 Attendance

43.1 Present

Mr J Bateman OBE	Independent Governor, Chair
Mr S Devlin	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
Mr L Lees	Student Governor
Mr R Mularczyk	Student Governor
Mr A Noorani	Independent Governor
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen	Independent Governor
Mr D Pocha	Independent Governor
Miss N Ricketts	Student Governor
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Mr I Smith	Independent Governor
Mr K Sorrell	Independent Governor
Mrs S Speck	Independent Governor

43.2 In Attendance

Ms G Allcott	Incoming Student Governor
Mr R Bonham	Director of Finance & Resources
Mrs J Britton	Director of 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	Acting Provost
Ms M Lee	Incoming Student Governor
Ms A Linforth	Incoming Student Governor
Mrs J Newland	Assistant Clerk to the Board

43.3 Apologies

Mrs L Barber	Staff Governor
Dr D Beech	Independent Governor
Mr L Coiffait-Gunn	Independent Governor
Ms L Davies-Ward	Staff Governor

The Chair welcomed the incoming Students' Union officers, Al Linforth, incoming President, Gemma Allcott, incoming Vice President Education and Meg Lee, incoming Vice President Student Activities.

21/44 Declarations of Interests

44.1 There were no declarations of interest.

21/45 Minutes

45.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2022 [BG21/48] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

45.2 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

21/46 Chair's Business

46.1 Chair's report

46.1.1 The Chair reported on the CUC Spring plenary he had attended and noted in particular a presentation by the UPP Foundation Student Futures Commission that is calling for joint action between universities and students to tackle problems caused by the pandemic and has set out six key themes for student futures. Meg Price, former President Worcester Students' Union, is involved with the Commission's work.

46.1.2 The Chair also noted the CUC is looking at complaints procedures and has formed a Communications Group.

46.1.3 The Chair had attended several student events on campus, including the Wellbeing Fair and Varsity, and had taken part in interview panels for senior staff appointments.

46.1.4 Noting the lifting of all Covid restrictions, he offered the Board's wholehearted thanks to staff and students for all their work during the pandemic.

21/47 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG21/49]

The Vice Chancellor highlighted the following points from his report to the Board:

47.1 The Covid Response and Recovery Group that worked throughout the pandemic to such positive effect is just completing its work and the Vice Chancellor has written to members of the group to thank them for their work. The University is now in the post-pandemic stage of re-engaging with partners.

47.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

47.3 For some years the University has been teaching tutoring skills and is now working with partners to bid for government contracts to train tutors for schools to help children 'catch up' on learning lost during the pandemic.

47.4 The University is waiting for approval of its accreditation to provide teacher training.

47.5 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

47.6 The University is in discussions with the National Pedagogical University in Ternopil, Ukraine, to set up a twinning arrangement and has been asked to twin with another institution near Kharkiv. In addition, the University has agreed to a request to offer accommodation to Ukrainian refugees.

47.7 The Vice Chancellor drew attention to upcoming events including plans to celebrate the Hive's 10th anniversary and the University's sponsorship of 3 sessions at this year's Hay Festival.

47.8 The University is working on proposals for variations to its Access and Participation Plan (APP) as requested by the OfS, to address the four priorities identified by the new OfS Director of Fair Access and Participation, with an emphasis on working with schools. Members noted this is a very strong area for the University.

47.9 Members discussed opportunities for increasing bursaries and scholarships for students in light of the worsening economic situation and for gaining more philanthropic support for the University.

47.10 The Board received the Vice Chancellor's report.

21/48 Students' Union Business [BG21/50]

48.1 Students' Union Report

48.1.1 The Students' Union officers presented their update on the Students' Union activities. The following points were highlighted:

- the success of the 'Feel-Good Fair' held in March, to mark University Mental Health Day.
- the Students' Union officer elections were record breaking with the highest number of candidates on record and the highest voter turnout.
- Just under 700 nominations were received for this year's Students' Choice Awards, and the TeamWorc Awards event is to be held at Sixways Stadium this year with up to 500 students able to attend to celebrate the achievements.
- The annual Varsity against Gloucester returned for the first time in two years. The trophy was won by Gloucester, however the event engaged over 600 athletes and 3000 spectators.

48.1.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

48.1.3 The outgoing officers thanked the Board for their support during the past year.

48.1.4 The Board received the report.

21/49 Strategic Discussion – Levelling Up Impact Report [BG21/51]

49.1 The Board received a presentation from the Pro Vice Chancellor Students on the Purpose Coalition Levelling Up Impact Report. The following points were highlighted:

- the Levelling Up White Paper of February 2022 sets out six focus areas to drive levelling up (physical, human, intangible, financial, social and institutional), each area the University has a part to play in. However, there is a stark omission of reference to universities, especially in relation to human, social and institutional capital.
- the Purpose Coalition brings together businesses, policy makers, charities and universities focussed on working together on 14 levelling up goals; Worcester is one of 15 universities in the Coalition. The report maps the University against the 14 goals and the presentation highlighted the University's achievements in the areas of 'Successful school years' and 'Right advice and experiences'.

49.2 Members reflected on the report in discussion groups and fed back to the Board.

21/50 Reports from Committees

50.1 People & Culture Committee [BG21/52]

50.1.1 The Committee Chair presented the report on the Committee meeting of 8th March 2022. The Committee agreed an approach to assessing staff morale and received an update on the work of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

50.1.2 The Committee discussed the #Cantbuymysilence University Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) Pledge that the Minister for Higher and Further Education has encouraged universities to sign to end the use of NDAs to silence complaints in sexual harassment cases. Members noted that UEB had decided since the Committee meeting to sign the pledge.

50.1.3 The Board received the report.

50.2 Audit Committee [BG21/53]

50.2.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Committee meeting of 22nd March 2022 and noted the Committee considered internal audit reports on IT Change Management and an advisory report on Value for Money, together with the annual purchasing report and annual financial benchmarking report.

50.2.2 The Board noted that further to a tender process and interviews, the Committee had approved a recommendation from the interview panel to appoint Grant Thornton as the University's external auditors commencing with the audit for the 2021/22 account.

50.2.3 The Board received the report.

50.3 Nominations & Governance Committee [BG21/54]

50.3.1 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

50.3.2 The Committee had considered strengthening the wording of Bye-law 1, Standing Orders for the Board and its Committees, in relation to the Nolan Principles of conduct in public life. The Board approved the recommendation to amend '...They are expected to observe and enact the seven 'Nolan Principles' of conduct in public life' to '...They shall always observe and enact the seven 'Nolan Principles' of conduct in public life'.

50.3.3 The Committee recommended to the Board for approval draft Bye-law 9, Dismissal of a Board member. The Board approved the Bye-law with two changes:

- a member of the Board raising a concern should do so in writing.
- members of any Panel convened should withdraw from the part of a Board meeting at which a decision on the Panel's recommendations is to be made.

The Clerk to the Board is to circulate the amended draft Bye-law 9 to the Board.

50.3.4 The Committee agreed a guidance note for authors of Papers to the Board and its Committees, addressing the use of appendices, length of papers and Executive Summaries.

50.3.5 The Board received the report.

50.4 Finance & Development Committee [BG21/55]

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

21/51 Compliance with OfS Conditions [BG21/56]

51.1 The Board received an update on matters in relation to the OfS and noted the OfS' strategy for 2022-25, revisions to the Quality and Standards ongoing conditions of registration, and the request to providers to vary their Access and Participation Plans (APPs) to address the four priorities of the new Director of Fair access and Participation.

51.2 The Board noted there had been no reportable events to the OfS since the last report and noted the financial returns reviewed and signed off by the OfS.

21/52 Reports

52.1 Report on the use of the Seal [BG21/57]

52.1.1 The Board received for information the report on the use of the Seal from October 2021.

21/53 Any Other Business

53.1 Board members are to be invited to a lecture to be given by Justine Greening on June 14th 2022.

53.2 On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the outgoing student governors for all their work.

21/54 Date of Next Meeting

Board Development Session	24 th May 2022 (virtual)
Board Meeting	5 th July 2022 (in person)