



Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2021 in the Cotswold Suites, Edward Elgar

20/96 Attendance

96.1 Present

Mr J Bateman OBE	Independent Governor, Chair
Dr D Beech	Independent Governor
Mr J Bothamley CBE	Independent Governor
Mr S Devlin	Independent 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
Mr N Khan	Independent Governor
Mr L Lees	Student Governor
Dr D McDougall	Staff Governor
Mr R Mularczyk	Student Governor
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen	Independent Governor
Dr S Pittaway	Staff Governor
Miss N Ricketts	Student Governor
Mr I Smith	Independent Governor

96.2 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	University Secretary and Clerk to the Board
Dr T Jones	Interim Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor Students
Ms A Jordan	Deputy Provost
Mrs J Newland	Assistant Clerk to the Board

96.3 Apologies

Mr C Arntzen	Independent Governor
Mr M Donovan	Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (Inclusive Sport & Educational Development)
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Mrs S Speck	Independent Governor

20/97 Declarations of Interests

97.1 There were no declarations of interest.

20/98 Provost's Business

98.1 Provost's Report [BG20/79]

98.1.1 The Board noted highlights from the Provost's report including the graduation ceremonies held in June for the class of 2020 and the Ofsted Monitoring Visit to review the University's apprenticeships. Stage 5 of the General Medical Council accreditation process for the Three Counties Medical School is to take place in early August and if successful, the University may start to recruit students for the Medical School.

98.1.2 The Board received the report.

98.2 Degree Outcomes Statement [BG20/80]

98.2.1 The Board noted updates made to the Degree Outcomes Statement and approved the updated Statement for publication on the University website.

98.3 Academic Board report [BG20/81]

98.3.1 The Governor Observer on Academic Board presented the report of the Academic Board meeting of 21st April 2021 and noted the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 had been submitted ahead of the deadline. Academic Board received the Complaints and Appeals Annual Report for 2019/20 and reported that only a small number of students had submitted a complaint or appeal.

20/99 Students' Union business [BG20/82]

99.1 The Students' Union officers presented their report on the Students' Union activities, including updates on advice, support services and representation. The former Vice President Education helped to set up a national campaign to raise awareness of academic integrity and to call for a ban on essay mills. The Board noted the results of the 2021 Course Experience Survey (CES) and the Big Worc Survey. The latter showed some decreases in terms of engagement, awareness and satisfaction with the Students' Union, thought to be due to the impact of the pandemic. Men's and Women's outdoor cricket teams were entered in the only BUCS competition to take place this year and Varsity was a great success with Worcester taking the trophy for the first time in 5 years and students greatly appreciating the event. The Board noted the Students' Union had been shortlisted for a diversity and inclusion award in BUCS.

99.2 The Board noted the Students' Union's comments about students' experience of the new on-line learning system, Panopto and discussed some of the challenges for both staff and students with on-line learning. It was acknowledged that the pandemic whilst presenting many challenges, had also resulted in many positive outcomes and the Board heard anecdotal evidence about increased informal student peer support from one staff governor.

99.3 The new Students' Union officers outlined their goals for the coming year from their election manifestos and thanked the Board for their support.

99.4 The Board received the report.

20/100 Reports from Committees

100.1 Nominations & Governance Committee [BG20/83]

100.1.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Committee meetings of 11th May and 21st June and noted recommendations for the appointment of new Independent Members of the Board and a new Academic Staff Member. The Committee also proposed the appointment of a new Vice Chair of the Board in light of the current Vice Chair standing down from the Board, and proposed changes to the Committee

membership. The Board noted good progress had been made against the recommendations arising out of the Review of the Board's Effectiveness.

100.1.2 [NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

100.1.3 [NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

100.1.4 [NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

100.1.5 The Board received the report.

100.2 HR Committee [BG20/84]

100.2.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the HR Committee meeting of 18th May and noted the proposal for the Committee to change its name to the People and Culture Committee with terms of reference which gave the Committee a broader remit with an increased focus on equality, diversity and inclusion. The Committee reported that it had approved the new Staff Resolution Procedure and Staff Disciplinary Policy and Standards of Conduct and considered the draft Personal Relationships at Work Policy.

100.2.2 The Board approved the Committee's new name as the People and Culture Committee and the Committee's new terms of reference.

100.2.3 The Board received the report.

100.3 Audit Committee [BG20/85]

100.3.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Committee meeting of 15th June and noted the Committee had received two internal audit reports, on Responding to Cyber Incidents and on Risk Management. The Committee considered and partially approved the draft Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22, prepared following consultation with Committee and UEB members. The Board noted the Committee had approved the new Counter Fraud Policy and updates to the University's Financial Regulations.

100.3.2 The Committee considered proposed additions to the University Strategic Risk Register and noted the Covid 19 risk register had been subsumed into the Strategic Risk Register. The Board approved the amendments to the Strategic Risk Register.

100.3.3 [NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

100.3.4 The Board received the report.

20/101 Report Items

101.1 Annual Report on Subsidiary Companies [BG/86]

101.1.1 The Board received the annual report on the University's subsidiary companies. The Company Secretary noted that the UW Worcester Wolves Ltd Board had served notice to leave the British Basketball League (BBL). The Board also noted legal advice is being taken on the role of governor observer on the University's subsidiary companies.

101.2 Annual Review of Sustainability Policy [BG20/87]

101.2.1 The Board received the Annual Review of the Sustainability Policy and approved the revisions to the policy.

101.2.2 The Board thanked the Director of Sustainability for their work.

20/102 Compliance with OfS conditions [BG20/88]

- 102.1 The Board received for information an update on matters in relation to the OfS and noted the University had published its Transparency information in accordance with the OfS guidance and that the OfS had confirmed the University's annual Prevent Return.

20/103 Any Other Business

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

20/104 Date of Next Meetings

Board Development Session – 28th September 2021

Board Meeting – 5th October 2021