



Board of Governors

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 5th October 2021

21/01 Attendance

1.1 Present

Mr J Bateman OBE	Independent Governor, Chair
Dr D Beech	Independent Governor
Mr L Coiffait-Gunn	Independent Governor
Ms L Davies-Ward	Staff Governor
Mrs D Gant	Independent Governor
Professor D Green CBE	Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive
Mr M Hardy	Independent Governor
Mr D Iddon	Independent Governor
Mr N Khan	Independent Governor
Dr C Jones	Independent Governor
Mr L Lees	Student Governor
Mr R Mularczyk	Student Governor
Mr A Noorani	Independent Governor
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen	Independent Governor
Dr S Pittaway	Staff 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

1.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Director of Finance & Resources
Mrs J Britton	Director of Communications & Participation
Mr M Donovan	Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (Inclusive Sport & Educational Development)
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
Dr M Stowell	Director of Quality & Educational Development
Mr M Whiteside	Director of IT
Dr JP Wilson	Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor Research

1.3 Apologies

Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Mr S Devlin	Independent Governor

21/02 Declarations of Interests

2.1 The following interests were declared:

Alvyn Pettersen: member of the USS pension scheme

David Iddon: trustee of the Clive and Sylvia Richards Charity

Ian Smith: Bishop Fleming LLP acts for Worcestershire County Cricket Club and Worcestershire Cricket Board.

Louis Coiffait-Gunn: team hosted by HEFE in the DfE.

21/03 Primary Responsibilities of the Board [BG21/01]

3.1 The Board noted its primary responsibilities, presented at the start of the academic year for information.

21/04 Minutes

4.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 6th and 7th July 2021 [BG21/02] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meetings.

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

21/05 Chair's Business

5.1 Board Correspondence

5.1.1 CUC briefing on USS Pension Schedule [BG21/03]

The Board received an update from the CUC (Committee of University Chairs) on the USS Pension scheme giving details of the proposed package of changes that is now out for consultation. The Director of Finance & Resources indicated that they were happy to answer any questions governors may have on the update, including outside of the meeting.

5.1.2 Correspondence relating to closure of Archaeology course [BG21/04]

The Board received correspondence relating to the closure of single and joint honours Archaeology courses.

5.2 Chair's Report

5.2.1 The Chair reported on recent CUC events he had attended on Cyber Security and on Key Trends & Innovation in Higher Education. He noted the presentation given to governors a few months ago by the Director of IT had provided assurance on the University's response to Cyber Security. David Iddon, Chair of the Audit Committee, had attended the inaugural meeting of the CUC Chairs of Audit Committees.

5.2.2 The Chair was happy to note the noticeable positive difference in life on campus.

21/06 Schedule of Business [BG21/05]

6.1 The Board received for information its Schedule of Business for 2021/22.

21/07 Strategic Developments

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

21/08 Students' Union Business [BG21/09]

- 8.1 The Students' Union officers presented their report on the Students' Union activities, including updates on advice and support services, representation and societies. Members noted the success of the Welcome Period, including the inaugural Early Starters Event and with just over 2,500 students attending Welcome Weekend. The Students' Union President is working with the University on establishing a Mental Health Working Group and a mental health awareness event for students is planned for World Mental Health Day.
- 8.2 Members received an update from the officers on their current focus: this included creating a better awareness of what the Students' Union does for students, working with new and returning students to rebuild the community at the University, rebuilding a community of Student Reps, and the creation of a working group to launch a consent campaign. The officers are keen to encourage the recording of face to face teaching sessions and a query was raised on whether this may impact attendance at face to face sessions. It was noted the campaign still promotes the benefits of attending sessions in person.
- 8.3 The officers confirmed the Students' Union was following all C-19 protocols, for example in terms of capacity and ventilation and was strongly encouraging testing and vaccination. Members noted, that to date there had not been an outbreak amongst the student body and student vaccination numbers were good.
- 8.4 The Board received the report.

21/09 Provost's Business

9.1 Provost's Report [BG21/10]

9.1.1 The Provost highlighted three main areas from her report:

- Student surveys: there was a small drop this year in the overall satisfaction score in the NSS, however the University was still comfortably above the benchmark and the decrease was mirrored across the HE sector. Members noted where trends were identified that they would be addressed. The University ranked 3rd for overall satisfaction in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and 7th in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES), a very successful outcome.

- The Three Counties Medical School is now on the GMC's list of New Schools and the University is now looking to recruit students and staff.

- *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

9.1.2 The Provost noted this would be her last report to the Board and thanked members for their support and commitment to the students and academic standards at the University.

9.1.3 The Board received the report.

9.2 Report of Academic Board [BG21/11]

9.2.1 The Provost presented the report of the Academic Board meeting of 7th July 2021 and highlighted the Task and Finish Group reviewing the degrees classification algorithm had almost finished its work.

21/10 Reports from Committees

10.1 Finance & Development Committee [BG21/12]

10.1.1 The Chair of the Board presented the report of the Finance & Development Committee meeting of 21st September and noted the Committee considered the 2020-21 outturn and received updates on the latest position on the Tranche C loan and on capital developments. The Board approved the Committee's revised terms of reference.

10.1.2 The Board received the report.

21/11 Report Items

11.1 Report on the use of the University Seal [BG21/13]

11.1.1 The Board received for information the report on the use of the University Seal.

21/12 Compliance with OfS Conditions [BG21/14]

12.1 The Board received an update on matters in relation to the OfS and the Annual Report on Compliance with the Conditions of OfS Registration and noted that further to the Board's approval of the revised Instrument and Articles of Government in July 2021, these were lodged with the OfS.

21/13 Any Other Business

13.1 Board members were asked to take part in a survey on online and in person meetings.

21/14 Date of Next Meeting

23rd November 2021