Confirmed

Board of Governors

Minutes of the blended meeting held on 8th July 2025

EE 1012, Edward Elgar Building, St Johns Campus

24/74 Attendance

74.1 Present

Mrs S Speck	Independent Governor, Chair
Ms R Akintan	Student Governor
Mrs L Barber (v)	Staff Governor
Dr D Beech	Independent Governor
Ms K Costis	Student Governor
Mr S Devlin	Independent Governor
Professor D Green CBE	Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive
Mr M Hardy	Independent Governor
Dr C Jones (v)	Independent Governor
Mr N Khan	Independent Governor
Ms C Moir	Staff Governor
Mrs S Morgan	Independent Governor
Mr A Noorani	Independent Governor
Mr O Ogunleye	Student Governor
Mr D Pocha	Independent Governor
Mr R Richards	Independent Governor
Mr K Sorrell	Independent Governor
Ms L Taylor (v)	Independent Governor

74.2 In Attendance

Mrs J Britton	Pro Vice Chancellor Communications & External Affairs
Professor S Moyle	Pro Vice Chancellor Health & Science
Ms A Jordan	Provost
Mrs J Newland	Acting Clerk to the Board
Mrs C Taylor-Garrad	Minute Taker

74.3 Apologies

Mr R Bonham	Pro Vice Chancellor Finance & Resources
Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Professor L Stansbie	Pro Vice Chancellor Education, Culture & Society

V – attended virtually

24/75 Declarations of Interests

75.1 There were no declarations of interest.

24/76 Minutes

76.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2025 [**BG24/66**] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

76.2 <u>Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda</u>

76.2.1 The Board discussed the most recent Board/UEB Away Day which took place on the 7th June. Members discussed making space for an innovation working group which will support the executive and bring forward ideas that are brought up during Away Days. It was agreed that the working group can report to Finance and Development Committee and that Fellows could also engage with the group. An email will be sent out to members for expressions of interest to the working group.

24/77 Chair's Business

77.1 The Chair discussed the current ongoings with the Dundee University investigation. GuildHE have provided a checklist which can be shared and taken to a future development session. It was noted that the checklist will need to be regularly revisited.

77.2 The Chair updated the Board about the new NHS 10 Year Health Plan that has come out. The Chair noted that improved collaboration is being looked at and there will be a shift in focus to looking at community care and prevention.

77.3 The Chair gave praise to the University of Worcester daily update and thanked the Communications team for their hard work on this. The Chair urged Board members to check their University of Worcester email for the daily update to see the ongoings in the University.

24/78 National Policy Update

78.1 The Board received a presentation on the national policy context from Diana Beech. The presentation will be shared with members along with the minutes.

24/79 Vice Chancellor's Report *(Confidential)*

79.1 <u>Vice Chancellor's Report</u> [BG24/67]

79.1.1 The Vice Chancellor presented his report and highlighted key points. He began by reporting to the Board on the 10 year anniversary of the Sousse terror attack and that colleagues from the University attended a commemoration for *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]* a student of the University who tragically died in the attack.

79.1.2 The Vice Chancellor asked the Board to look at the investigation report into Dundee University.

79.1.3 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

79.2 <u>Banking Covenants</u> *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

24/80 Strategic Plan [BG24/69]

80.1 Jane Britton, Pro Vice Chancellor Communications & External Affairs, updated the Board on the strategic plan pre-draft document. Further detail is to be added in two key areas, the first being student numbers and widening participation, and the second being partnerships *[NOT FOR*

PUBLICATION]. The direction of travel with the plan seems to be right and drafting is going to be done over the summer ready for the next meeting. The Chair asked if all Board members could read the paper and think about whether it describes the culture of the University, its strengths and direction in which the University is going. Members were asked to email Jane Britton if they had further ideas or would like a conversation.

Mrs Leverne Barber left the meeting when the break commenced.

24/81 Financial Matters

81.1 Finance and Development Committee Report [BG24/70]

81.1.1 The Committee Chair presented the report from the meeting which was held on the 17th June 2025. The Chair highlighted the key points from the report, and the Board noted the report.

81.1.2 The Board approved the updated Ethical Investment policy.

81.1.3 The Board approved the updated terms of reference for both the Investment Committee and the Finance and Development Committee.

81.2 2025/26 Draft Budget [BG24/71] *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

81.2.2 The Board approved the recommendation to adopt the draft 2025/26 budget on a provisional basis and to approve a final budget at its meeting on the 30th September 2025.

81.3 Employment of New Staff Into Uniworc Ltd [BG24/72]

81.3.1 The Board received an update on the Defined Contribution pension scheme project and approved the recommendation from the senior leadership of the University and the Board of Directors of Uniworc Ltd to sanction the University to start to recruit all new staff in the subsidiary entity, Uniworc Ltd, from September 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter.

24/82 Students' Union Business

82.1 Student's Union Report [BG24/73]

82.1.1 The Students' Union Board members highlighted key points from their report to the Board and outlined their key priorities for the next academic year in post. D Beech highlighted that HEPI (the Higher Education Policy Institute) released a report today which showed that students this year seem to be happier than previous years, and hopefully the priorities outlined will help to continue this trend.

82.2 Students' Union Code of Practice [BG24/74]

82.2.1 The Board received and approved the Code of Practice regarding the operation of the Students' Union. The Code details the steps taken by the University to ensure that it fulfils its obligations pursuant to the Education Act 1994 in relation to the Students' Union.

24/83 Reports From Committees

83.1 Report from People & Culture Committee [BG24/75]

83.1.1 The Committee Chair highlighted the key points from the report which was taken from the last meeting held on the 15th May 2025.

83.1.2 The Board approved the Committee's updated terms of reference.

83.2 Report from Audit Committee to Include the Strategic Risk Register [BG24/76]

83.2.1 The Committee Chair highlighted the key points from the report which was taken from the last meeting held on the 10th June 2025. The Chair particularly highlighted the Security internal audit and gave praise to the senior management team involved for having a robust process in place.

83.2.2 The Board approved the amendments to the Strategic Risk Register.

83.2.3 The Board approved the Committee's updated terms of reference.

83.3 Report from Nominations & Governance Committee [BG24/77]

83.3.1 The Committee Chair highlighted key points from the report which was taken from the last meeting held on the 24th June 2025.

83.3.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

83.3.3 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

83.3.4 The Board approved the Committee's updated terms of reference.

24/84 Academic Governance [BG24/78]

84.1 The Provost highlighted the key points from the report and noted that the Open Day which took place recently in June was the highest attended and the busiest Sunday for Open Days, thanks was given to the Communications team. The Chair also urged Board members to attend an Open Day if they can to meet prospective students and their parents. The Provost noted the new algorithm that is being used for degree classifications and explained that there has been a slight shift in students receiving 1st class honours degrees and in relation to 2.1 degree outcomes, however in terms of the overall % of students gaining 1st and 2.1 degrees, there was little change.

24/85 Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech [BG24/79]

85.1 The Acting Clerk to the Board apologised for the late circulation of the paper with the revised Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech; this was due to the OfS issuing regulatory guidance on June 19th on institutions' free speech duties under the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 in advance of Part A1 of the Act coming into force on 1st August 2025. The Board noted that responsibilities formerly with the University Secretary have now moved to the Vice Chancellor. The Code of Practice will be reviewed annually.

85.2 The Board approved the revisions made to the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech in light of the recent OfS guidance. The updated Code of Practice is to take effect from 1st August 2025.

24/86 University Schedule of Delegation [BG24/80]

86.1 Key updates to the University schedule of delegation were highlighted to members of the Board.

24/87 OfS Matters [BG24/81]

87.1 Key points from the update on OfS matters were highlighted to members of the Board.

24/88 Subsidiary Companies [BG24/82]

88.1 The key points from the report were highlighted to the Board. It was added that UW Worcester Wolves Ltd is currently in a surplus position, and that the Board of Uniworc Ltd has met several times.

88.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

24/89 Reports

89.1 <u>Annual Sustainability Report</u> [BG24/83]

89.1.1 The Board received for information the annual sustainability report.

89.2 <u>External Auditors Letters of Engagement</u> [BG24/84]

89.2.1 The Board received for information the external auditors letters of engagement.

24/72 Any Other Business

72.1 The Vice Chancellor reminded Board members that Graduation is coming up and to attend a ceremony if they can.

72.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

24/73 Dates of Next Meeting

Board Meeting 30th September 2025