



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th February 2015

14/24 Attendance

24.1 Present

Mr J Pallett	Chair
Mr J Bateman	
Mrs M Chamberlain	
Professor M Clarke	
Mr T Clarke	
Mr D Dale	
Mrs O Fielding	
Professor D Green	Vice Chancellor
Mrs A Hooper	
Mr D Iddon	
Mrs A Leonetti	
Dr D McDougall	
Mr M Newitt	
Mr Z Padda	
Mr T Patrickson	
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen	
Mrs C Richardson	
Mrs J Swan	
Dr R Woolley	

24.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Director of Finance
Miss A Clarke	Vice President: Student Experience, Students' Union
Dr H Forland	Pro Vice Chancellor (International)
Professor S Greer	Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic)
Ms H Johnstone	Assistant University Secretary
Dr C O'Malley	Pro Vice Chancellor (Business & Development)
Mr J Ryan	University Secretary

24.3 Apologies

Mr C Arntzen
Mr W Hudson
Mrs S Speck

24.4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

24.5 Chair's Business

The Chair welcomed Dr Heather Forland (Pro Vice Chancellor International), Professor Sarah Greer (Pro Vice Chancellor Academic) and Dr Chris O'Malley (Pro Vice Chancellor Business & Development) to the Board.

14/25 Minutes

25.1 The open minutes [BG14/28] of the meeting held on the 24th November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

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

14/26 Board Briefing – Academic, Financial and Estates Strategy

26.1 The Vice Chancellor delivered a presentation to the Board on the University's Academic, Financial and Estates Strategy for 2015 – 2020/22. The presentation looked at the Areas of Distinction as set out in the current strategic plan, the impact of partnership work both nationally and internationally, the success of the various recent initiatives in terms of recruitment, the University's finances including financial projections to 2022/23 based on projected growth in student numbers, and the impact growth would have on the Estates Strategy going forward.

26.2 The Board discussed the briefing, raising a number of points:

- Fundraising – in particular the increased number of University of Worcester alumni by 2020. It was noted that the institution would be celebrating its 10th anniversary as a University and its 70th anniversary as an institution in 2015/16 and these would be opportunities to do more work with alumni
- Possibility of overbuilding – it was noted that should the University build additional residential accommodation and the demand from first years decline then the accommodation could be offered to second and third years. This had been the course of action taken the first year the new halls opened at City Campus and had proved very popular. Members recognised that it was important to build for growth and often new buildings acted as a catalyst to move forward.
- Community impact – the Hive has had a beneficial impact on the Community and the University's standing in the city. Further community engagement will take place around the European Wheelchair Basketball tournament in the summer which will hopefully bring more local residents into the Arena. The University has also won a joint grant with Nottingham University to train PhD students researching in the area of Alzheimer's. It was noted that the attitude of local resident and councillor members of the University Community Forum had been transformed over the last 10 years since the Forum was established.
- Staff – members agreed that it was important to attract talented staff to deliver the exciting courses outlined in the presentation. It was noted that a lot of the innovation in the University had been bottom up with staff being allowed to develop ideas and it would be important to continue this approach going forward.

26.3 Members of the Board agreed that the University was in a very positive position to go forward and that the Board's role was to help support, but also challenge, the Vice Chancellor and senior management team to ensure that the University continued to grow and go from strength to strength.

26.4 The Board received the presentation.

14/27 Open Report from Finance & Development Committee [BG14/30]

27.1 The University Secretary reported that the Committee had received a presentation from the Director of Finance on a financial and estates strategy. Sections of the presentation had been included in the Vice Chancellor's presentation at agenda item 14/26.

27.2 The Committee reported that it had received a report on student recruitment as at 18th January 2015. Members had noted that recruitment to NHS courses had achieved target, recruitment to initial teacher education courses remained challenging largely as a consequence of late notification of increased targets and longstanding problems with recruitment to shortage subjects in the PGCE

Secondary course. Recruitment to HEFCE funded courses was as previously predicted and in line with budgetary forecasts. The Committee also noted the further significant increase in the number of ABB or equivalent students. Members noted that some of the initiatives introduced to address the drop in recruitment in 2013/14 had impacted more quickly than anticipated. The Committee had welcomed the rise in applications but recognised that it was too early to identify any trends arising from the removal of the student number cap.

27.3 The Committee reported that it had received a report on the University's current financial position. The position relating to the collection of student debts had improved significantly and members had congratulated staff in Finance and Registry Services on the improved position. However it was recognised that there still needed to be an improvement in systems especially the linkage between the Finance and Student Record systems.

27.4 The Board noted that the Committee had received a report from UW Enterprises Ltd which included the Business Plan for UW Worcester Wolves Ltd. The University Secretary reported that the UW Worcester Wolves Board was meeting monthly and over the last six months had put in place all the necessary infrastructure and was now working on improving gate receipts and attracting sponsorship. Mr Bateman was the Governor Observer on the Board.

27.5 The Board received the report

14/28 Report from Personnel Committee [BG14/32]

28.1 The University Secretary presented the report from the Personnel Committee noting that the Committee had received an update on progress against the People Strategy which was transmitted to the Board.

28.2 The Board noted that the Committee had also received briefings from UCEA on pensions and its work and on the staff profile of the University. Members noted that the University had commissioned some consultancy work on its pension provision and the Committee would receive a report at its meeting in March which would then be transmitted to the Board.

28.3 The Committee reported that it had received the initial results from the recent reaccreditation assessment for the Investors in People Standard. Members were pleased to report that the University continued to meet the requirements of the standard and will be reaccredited for a further period of 3 years. It was noted that the University had participated in the Sunday Times Best Companies Employee Engagement Survey in 2014, having previously participated in 2009/10 and 2011/12. The preliminary results showed that employer engagement had continued to grow and that University had achieved a 45% response rate. However the sector of the survey in which the University is allocated is now dominated by small organisations predominately housing associations which do not provide an appropriate comparator for the University. It is therefore unlikely that the University will participate in the survey again.

28.4 The Board received the report.

14/29 Report from Nominations Committee [BG14/33]

29.1 The University Secretary reported that he had written to all members of the Board in advance of the meeting setting out the following recommendations in relation to the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the Board to approve:

- The appointment of Mr Bateman as Chair Elect to succeed to the position of Chair on 1st August 2015
- The appointment of Mr Dale as Vice Chair Elect to succeed to the position of Vice Chair on 1st August 2015
- That Mrs Swan be invited to succeed Mrs Leonetti as Vice Chair when her term of office ends.

The University Secretary also reported that he had spoken with all independent and co-opted governors in advance of the recommendations being made. The Board approved the recommendations and thanked the new team for standing for election.

- 29.2 Members noted that the University was currently advertising for expressions of interest from individuals interested in joining the Board and to date 38 expressions of interest had been received.
- 29.3 The University Secretary reported that the Committee recommended that Mrs Hooper and Mr Padda be offered a second term of office. The recommendation was approved.

14/30 CUC The Higher Education Code of Governance [BG14/35]

- 30.1 The Board received a report on the new Code noting that the original Code had been published in 2004 in light of the recommendations in the Lambeth Review. Members were reminded that the Board had also adopted its own Code of Governance which incorporated the main points of the original CUC Code.
- 30.2 The new Code although written in a very different style is not hugely different in its principles and remains voluntary, although institutions would have to explain in their Annual Accounts why they have chosen not to adopt it. The new layout is more useful for the Board to use and includes a template which the Board has to complete confirming that it is accepting the Code.
- 30.3 Members noted that a special meeting of the Board would be scheduled in due course to give consideration to the implementation of the Code. It would represent a useful development activity for the Board particularly in light of the changing membership and leadership of the Board for the next academic year. It was agreed that the meeting should be facilitated by a representative of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.
- 30.4 The Board received the report.

14/31 Report from Academic Board [BG14/36]

- 31.1 The University Secretary presented the report of Academic Board to the Board. Members noted that the Board had considered the Annual Report on Quality and Standards for 2013/14. The report gives an overall picture of sound academic health and it was noted that the main area of challenge to the institution remained levels of student satisfaction, particularly as measured by the National Student Survey.
- 31.2 Mrs Hooper, the Board's representative on Academic Board reported that there was evidence of interdisciplinary work across the Institution as well as good practice with Student Representatives (StARs) working with staff. She commented on the full and wide ranging discussion at the Board.
- 31.3 The Board received the report.

14/32 Report from the Students' Union [BG14/37]

- 32.1 The Vice President, Education reported that there were now approximately 580 StARs registered with 217 having logged to record their volunteering hours on the V-record system which compared favourably with 23 in 2013/14. 51 StARs had attended the recent StARs Forum which had focussed on Feedback and Assessment and the tone of the meeting had been more positive than the previous year. It was also noted that the Vice President had visited partner institutions in the South West to talk to them about the StARs scheme and what the Student's Union could offer. Members were pleased to note that StARs had been included in the consultation process for the plans for Orchard House.
- 32.2 The StARs have been encouraging students to complete the National Student Survey and the internal student surveys and three PCs have been made available in the Student's Union for students to use to complete the online surveys. It was noted that an incentive of £5 printer credit was being offered for completing the survey on line.
- 32.3 The Vice President, Student Experience reported that the sports teams had been performing well in the BUCS leagues. The number of societies available for students to join had increased and the Students' Union was trying to diversify the offering. A Disability Sport Society had been formed and the Students' Union was working with the Institute of Sport and Exercise Science and local sports governing bodies to provide opportunities for different sports for both able and disabled students.

32.4 It was noted that after a number of complaints by residents regarding club and society socials in student houses off campus the Student's Union had agreed that all such events should be held on campus including halls of residence. A new Code of Conduct for socials has been put in place which makes the societies and clubs more accountable and that the new arrangement has been welcomed by Student Services and Security.

32.5 The Board received the report.

14/33 Date of Next Meeting

33.1 Monday 11th May 2015

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)