



Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on 5th February 2019

18/15 Attendance

15.1 Present

Mr C Arntzen
Mr J Bateman OBE (Chair)
Mr J Bothamley CBE
Miss L Conn
Mr R Dudley
Mrs D Gant
Professor D Green CBE (Vice Chancellor)
Mrs A Hooper
Mr N Khan
Dr D McDougall
Mr E Morrison
Mr Z Padda
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen
Mr S Scriven
Mr I Smith
Mrs S Speck

15.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Director of Finance & Resources
Mrs J Britton	Director of Communications & Participation
Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Mr H Jarrett	Vice President, Student's Union
Professor S Greer	Deputy Vice Chancellor
Ms H Johnstone	Head of Governance and Regulatory Affairs
Mr R Renton	Pro Vice Chancellor Students
Ms Joanne Bailey	Executive Assistant

15.3 Apologies

Professor G Agyemang
Ms D Beech
Miss A Brunt
Mrs C Di Nunzio

Mr D Iddon
Dr S Pittaway
Mrs S Hobday

18/16 Declarations of Interest

- 16.1 There were no declarations of interest.
- 16.2 The Annual Declaration Form has been distributed to all Board members and is due to be completed and returned by 28 February 2019.

18/17 Minutes and Matters Arising

- 17.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 November 2018 [BG18/27] were confirmed as a correct record.
- 17.2 The confidential minutes of the meeting held on the 20 November 2018 [BG18/28] were confirmed as a correct record.
- 17.3 Matters arising not covered else on the agenda
 - 17.3.1 Board Apprentice [minute 4.4 refers]
No further contact has been made, but the Board agreed they would be willing to recruit a new Board Apprentice, if the opportunity arose.
 - 17.3.2 The new Academic Structure was distributed as an organogram.[minute 12.4.2 refers]

18/18 Chair's Business

- 18.1 The Chair, on behalf of the Board, congratulated the Vice Chancellor on receiving a CBE in the New Year's Honours List.
- 18.2 The Chair thanked the Students' Union and Student Services for organising the Christmas Carol Service.
- 18.3 The new Strategic Plan has been distributed to all members of the Board – members expressed their thanks to Jane Britton and Sally Jones for their work.
- 18.4 Anna Hooper attended the Advance HE Conference, where the keynote speaker was Martin Coleman of the OfS. The conference was beneficial and emphasised the importance of a national presence for universities.

18/19 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG18/29]

The Board received the Vice Chancellor's report and noted in particular:

- 19.1 The new Strategic Plan had been well received by colleagues and external partners. The approach taken had been acknowledged as a realistic one given the current political uncertainty.
- 19.2 The inquest into the death of Thomas Jones had concluded that he was believed to be responding to a cry for help, which led to his tragic drowning last year.
- 19.3 The Course Reps Conference was held in February 2019 and was a great success; one in every eighteen students is a student representative. The Students' Union had also held a 'Change Week' asking students what they would like to change at the University and had received 500 responses.
- 19.4 The National Student Survey (NSS) commences in February 2019. UW has previously been rated in the Top 20 for Teaching Quality and is hoping to continue this success.
- 19.5 UCU had challenged the national pay award of 2% and had criticised universities for making the award to staff prior to the negotiations being finalised. The University had made the award to staff in August 2018.
- 19.6 The latest figures on gender pay at the University shows that the pay gap between men and women has reduced further from 3.16% to 2.09%; which is anticipated to be one of the smallest in the sector and demonstrates the University's positive approach to equality.
- 19.7 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*
- 19.8 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*
- 19.9 The Board discussed the potential impact of the OfS on the autonomy of Universities and how this could be addressed. It was recognised that Universities needed to demonstrate the contribution they and their graduates made to their communities and the wider society. Members noted that the University was expanding its nursing and midwifery provision with placements now available in Dudley as well as improving its work with the Halesowen University Centre. There was further opportunities to develop in under provided areas in the local region.
- 19.10 The Board received the report.

18/20 Students' Union Business

20.1 Students' Union Report [BG18/30]

The President of the Students' Union presented the regular report drawing members' attention to the following:

20.1.1 Annual Housing Fayre had been a success with 700 students attending, as was Refreshers Fayre and Sport Mental Health week.

20.1.2 The first Societies focussed week had been held in November 2018. There were currently 744 students who were members of societies, which was a slight decrease on the previous year. Members noted that the RAG total has already exceeded the £17,000 raised in 2017/18

20.1.3 The Impact Report had been well received in December 2018 and members commented that it provided real evidence of the work of the Students' Union.

20.1.4 Members noted that unconditional offers had been discussed at the Course Representative Forum and students were supportive of the University's approach. The University has a stringent process of reading Personal Statements and unconditional offers have to be authorised by the Head of Schools.

20.1.5 Volunteering Week launches on 11 February 2019. Members noted the significant contribution that student volunteering made to the local community and asked for some case studies (anonymised) to be included in future reports.

20.1.6 The Board received the report.

20.2 Students' Union Annual Accounts for 2017/18 [BG18/31]

20.2.1 The Annual Accounts were received by the Board.

18/21 Reports from Sub-Committees and Academic Board

21.1 Audit Committee [BG18/32]

21.1.1 Mr Bothamley presented the report of the Audit Committee.

21.1.2 The TRAC Report was received by the Committee and approved. The Committee had extended its thanks to Clive Fletcher in Finance for his work in this area.

21.1.3 It was noted that the internal audit report on the Students' Union had provided a 'substantial' level of assurance, which recognised the significant improvement in the running of the Student Union.

21.1.4 The Annual Financial Benchmarking Report was commended to the Board for information and thanks were extended to Michelle Howarth in Finance for producing the report.

21.2 Finance & Development Committee [BG18/33]

21.2.1 The Chair presented the report of the Committee and drew members' attention to the regular financial and capital development reports.

21.2.2 **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**

21.2.3 **[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**

21.3 Nominations Committee [BG18/34]

21.3.1 *John Bateman and Anna Hooper withdrew for the discussion of their terms of office*

The Board unanimously agreed to extend John Bateman's term as Chair for another 4 years to 2023 and unanimously agreed to extend Anna Hooper's term as Vice-Chair for another 4 years. The Board approved the remaining recommendations in relation to terms of office as set out in the report.

21.3.2 The amendment to Bye Law 6 in relation to the term of office of Vice Chairs had been circulated to the Board previously and was agreed at the meeting.

21.3.3 The Board considered and approved an amendment to Bye Law 7, which clarified, that up to two co-options could be made from amongst the non-academic staff.

21.3.4 The Board discussed the upcoming recruitment for new Board Members and members noted that applications were particularly welcome from those with medical and financial backgrounds.

21.4 Academic Board [BG18/35]

21.4.1 Mrs Hooper, the Governor Observer on Academic Board presented the report to the Board. Members noted that the University had been invited to participate in a TEF Independent Review. The University's draft response would be circulated to Board Members for comment.

18/22 Business Items

22.1 Institutional Risk Register [BG18/36]

22.1.1 The Board received the updated Institutional Risk Register and noted that the Clerk to the Board has been tasked with redesigning the Register.

22.2 University Seal [BG18/37]

22.2.1 The Board received the report

18/23 Strategic Discussion – All Year Student Number and Academic Developments – A Forward Look 2019/20 and Beyond

23.1.1 The Board received a presentation from the Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Director of Communications and Participation on the All Year Student Number.

23.1.2 The presentation prompted a number of areas of strategic discussion including how the government’s changing policy in Health and Education impacts on the University’s courses and what actions the University was taking to mitigate these factors. Members identified that the changing political environment also presented the University with opportunities including growing its provision in these areas.

23.1.3 Members also discussed the University’s approach to social media and how this assisted in raising the University’s profile and in particular promoting opportunities to potential applicants.

18/24 Any Other Business

24.1 There was no additional business.

Observers and those in attendance withdrew from the meeting

18/25 Appointment of Clerk [BG18/38]

25.1 The Director of HR presented a recommendation to the Board, on behalf of the Remunerations Committee, recommending that a new role of Head of Governance and Regulatory Affairs be created, the post holder would also act as Clerk to the Board. The Committee also recommended that the current Interim Clerk should be appointed to the position. The Board approved the recommendations as set out in the paper.

18/26 Date of the Next Meeting

26.1 The date of the next meeting is 21st May 2019.

Signed:.....
John Bateman OBE, Chair of the Board

Dated:

