



Board of Governors

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 27th April 2021

20/63 Attendance

63.1 Present

Mr J Bateman OBE	Independent Governor, Chair
Mr C Arntzen	Independent Governor
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
Dr D McDougall	Staff Governor
Rev'd Dr A Pettersen	Independent Governor
Dr S Pittaway	Staff Governor
Miss M Price	Student Governor
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Mr I Smith	Independent Governor
Mr H South	Student Governor
Mrs S Speck	Independent Governor

63.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Director of Finance & Resources
Mrs J Britton	Director of Communications & Participation
Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Mr M Donovan	Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (Inclusive Sport & Educational Development)
Professor S Greer	Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost
Ms H Johnstone	Head of Governance and Regulatory Affairs (Clerk to the Board)
Dr T Jones	Interim Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor Students
Mr L Lees	Incoming President, Students' Union
Ms T Manning	Vice President, Students' Union
Mr R Mularczyk	Incoming Vice President, Students' Union
Mrs J Newland	Assistant Clerk to the Board
Miss N Ricketts	Incoming Vice President, Students' Union

63.3 Apologies

Ms A Jordan	Deputy Provost
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The Chair welcomed the incoming Students' Union officers, Liam Lees, incoming President, Ragnar Mularczyk, incoming Vice President Education and Neve Ricketts, incoming Vice President, Student Activities.

20/64 Declarations of Interests

64 .1 There were no declarations of interest.

20/65 Minutes

65.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 23rd and 24th February 2021 [BG20/54] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meetings with the following change: the date of the meeting in the minutes of the meeting of 24th February 2021 is to be corrected.

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

20/66 Chair's Business

66.1 The Chair reported on a CUC meeting held this week and a briefing on the responsibilities of governing bodies in relation to harassment and sexual misconduct. He noted the OfS's recent updated statement on expectations for preventing and addressing harassment and sexual misconduct affecting students.

66.2 The Chair passed on the Board's thanks for the very interesting recent presentation on the REF. The Chair had recently visited campus and was happy to see the Salix funded decarbonisation renovations taking place and campus coming back to life.

66.3 The Chair is on the panel of governors currently interviewing prospective independent governors, and noted the high quality of the applications received.

20/67 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG20/55]

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

20/68 Students' Union business [BG20/56]

68.1 The Chair thanked the Students' Union for their very comprehensive Impact Report, recently distributed to members of the Board.

68.2 The Students' Union officers presented the update on the Students' Union activities, highlighting their advice and support services and work on academic representation. This year's Students' Union leadership elections were held entirely virtually due to restrictions. Whilst voter turnout was down, this was reflective of the national picture and the officers were relatively pleased given the challenges faced.

68.3 Societies and Networks have been very resilient in light of continuing restrictions and have worked very hard. *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]* Outdoor sport has now restarted and the University will be hosting a Varsity with Gloucestershire University with events being livestreamed to locations on campus. The current RAG (Raise and Give) total exceeds that of last year and is now £26,326.

68.4 The Hangar has now reopened outdoors with very positive feedback and the officers thanked the University for their support in making the outdoor venue possible. Celebration Week this year is to be blended with three in person events taking place. A record number of nominations were received for the Students' Choice awards with students appreciating work done by staff in a tough year.

68.5 A query was raised on what the Board should be aware of in terms of the needs of new students. The Students' Union officers highlighted the need to address imposter syndrome amongst students as a result of the pandemic, struggles around mental health and wellbeing, and the importance of students having a positive experience and support to succeed.

68.6 The officers thanked the SU staff team for all their support in a very challenging year. The Chair congratulated the Students' Union officers for all they have done in the past year and the Chair of Audit Committee noted the Committee had benefitted from Student Officers giving assurance from the student perspective.

68.7 The Board received the report.

20/69 Instrument and Articles of Government [BG20/57]

69.1 The Board considered proposed amendments to the University's Instrument and Articles of Government. Any amendments to the Instrument and Articles previously had to be approved by the Privy Council, an onerous process. Since the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, the only requirement is to lodge updated documents with the OfS. The main changes relate to changing the composition of the Board, as approved previously by the Board and to modernising some areas. A final draft is to be brought to the Board for approval at its July meeting. The University's byelaws are also currently being reviewed and will be considered by the Nominations and Governance Committee in May, with a recommendation to the Board in July. The Board were asked to send the Clerk any specific comments on the proposed amendments and the Clerk is to confirm the deadline for feedback.

20/70 Reports from Committees

70.1 Nominations & Governance Committee [BG20/58]

70.1.1 The Committee Chair presented the report of the Committee and noted the proposed new approach to Board meeting timings with Board meetings moving to late afternoon/early evening and the introduction of Board Development sessions to replace the current two-part Board meeting.

70.1.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

70.1.3 The Board approved the proposed role descriptors and person specifications for Chair and Vice Chair of the Board and noted the role of Senior Independent Governor is to be further explored.

70.1.4 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

70.1.5 The Board received the report.

70.2 Audit Committee [BG20/59]

70.2.1 The Committee Chair presented the report and noted the Committee had received two internal audit reports, on Apprenticeship Controls and on Compliance with the UUK Student Housing Code, and received assurance of the University's very positive response to the audits. The Committee also received the Fraud Assurance Map and reports on procurement and financial benchmarking.

70.2.2 The Board noted the proposed amendments to the Covid-19 Risk Register and the removal of one risk. The Board approved the amendments.

70.2.3 The Board received the report.

70.3 Finance and Development Committee [BG20/60]

70.3.1 The Board noted the University's current financial position and that this would be considered further at the Board session on 28th April.

70.3.2 The Board noted the update on capital developments including the appointment of a main contractor for the refurbishment of Berrows House and the granting of planning approval. The planning application for the Severn Campus infrastructure is planned for May 2021 and designs for the IICEC project are well advanced.

70.3.3 The Committee received updates on the USS Pension scheme and is to keep the situation under review.

70.3.4 The Board received the report.

70.4 Property acquisition [BG20/61]

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

20/71 Compliance with OfS conditions [BG20/62]

71.1 The Board received for information an update on matters in relation to the OfS, noting in particular a new condition of registration which gives the OfS powers to intervene if they consider a provider may not be able to continue to provide higher education.

71.2 The Access and Participation Plan (APP) 2019-20 Monitoring Return was submitted to the OfS, one of the conditions of registration. The Board noted the Students' Union had submitted a written submission to support the return.

20/72 Subsidiary Companies

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

20/73 Report Items

73.1 Report on the use of the University Seal [BG20/64]

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

20/74 Board Succession Planning [BG20/65]

[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]

20/75 Any Other Business

75.1 The Board thanked the outgoing Students' Union officers for all their work and looked forward to welcoming the new officers to the Board.

20/76 Date of Next Meeting

6th & 7th July 2021.