



Board of Governors

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 27th February 2024, 3.30 pm

EE1012, Edward Elgar, St John's Campus

23/27 Attendance

27.1 Present

Mr K Sorrell MBE	Independent Governor, Acting Chair
Mrs L Barber	Staff Governor
Dr D Beech (v)	Independent Governor
Mr L Coiffait-Gunn (v)	Independent Governor
Ms L Davies-Ward	Staff 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
Ms A Linforth	Student Governor
Ms C Moir	Staff Governor
Mrs S Morgan (v)	Independent Governor
Miss I Price	Student Governor
Mr M Scriven	Staff Governor
Mr I Smith	Independent Governor
Ms L Taylor	Independent Governor

27.2 In Attendance

Mr R Bonham	Pro Vice Chancellor Finance & Resources
Mrs J Britton	Pro Vice Chancellor Communications & External Affairs
Mrs A Cope	Director of Human Resources
Ms H Johnstone	University Secretary and Clerk to the Board
Ms A Jordan	Provost
Mrs J Newland	Assistant Clerk to the Board
Professor L Stansbie	Pro Vice Chancellor Education, Culture & Society

27.3 Apologies

Mr T Heywood	Independent Governor
Dr T Jones	Pro Vice Chancellor Students
Mr N Khan	Independent Governor
Professor S Moyle	Pro Vice Chancellor Health & Science
Mr A Noorani	Independent Governor
Mr D Pocha	Independent Governor

V – attended virtually

23/28 Declarations of Interests

28.1 There were no declared declarations of interests.

23/29 Minutes

29.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024 [BG23/26] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

29.2 Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

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

23/30 Chair's Business

30.1 There was no Chair's business.

23/31 The National HE Context

31.1 The Board received a presentation from Dr Diana Beech on the national financial and political situation for Higher Education. A discussion followed on possible future government approaches to the sector.

23/32 Vice Chancellor's Report [BG23/27] *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

23/33 Report from People & Culture Committee [BG23/28]

33.1 The Board received the report of the People & Culture Committee meeting of 8th February 2024 and noted the Committee received an update on strategic staffing matters, the Gender Pay Gap Report for 2023 and a report from the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee.

33.2 The Committee considered and transmitted to the Board the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Annual Report 2022-23, that forms part of the assurances the Board receives, via the Committee, that the University is meeting its EDI duties. Key points from the report included the year on year increase in the number of students declaring a disability, the rise in students disclosing a mental health condition and the growing diversity of the student population. With regard to staff, it was noted the age profile is older than the sector and the University has a higher disability disclosure rate than the sector.

33.3 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

33.4 The Board noted the Committee report and EDI Annual Report 2022-23.

23/34 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

23/35 Students' Union Business

35.1 Students' Union Report [BG23/30]

35.1.1 The Board received the update from the Students' Union officers on Students' Union activities, together with the Help & Advice Service Annual Report 2022/23. Highlights from the report included:

- a significant increase in January in the number of cases raised with the Help and Advice Service, with housing cases raising greater concerns than in previous years.
- 'Give it a Go Week' was launched at the start of semester 2, as part of the Vice President Student Activities' extra-curricular campaign, aiming to attract new members to student groups in the Refreshers period.
- the continuing cost of living campaign, with an ever increasing demand for the community cupboard. Members asked if there was a way to make a financial contribution to the cupboard, for those unable to make donations in person.
- very strong levels of engagement from department and course reps, highlighted by reps conducting student surveys asking for feedback on the plan on Progress Week. Members noted the University found the student feedback very useful and is going to review the plan.
- this year's Leadership Elections are underway. The number of candidates was quite low, a sign of the difficulties with student engagement.

35.1.2 Members received the Students' Union Impact Report 2022-23.

35.1.3 The Board congratulated the officers for their hard work and noted the report.

23/36 Academic Governance

36.1 Annual Report on Academic Quality & Standards 2022/23 [BG23/31]

36.1.1 The Provost presented the annual report on Academic Quality & Standards 2022/23 that provides an overview of the academic health of taught and research degree programmes and assists the Board in fulfilling their responsibility for ensuring the University meets the OfS conditions of registration related to quality and standards. The Board noted key points in the report, including on student outcomes, conclusions of the external examiner reports, updates on course approvals and apprenticeships and that good progress was made on a number of development projects and quality enhancement initiatives. Priorities for action in 2023/24 were noted.

36.1.2 In conclusion, the report provided the Board with assurance academic standards remain very high and that there were no areas of major concern.

36.1.3 The Board noted the report.

36.2 Updated Degree Outcomes Statement [BG23/32]

36.2.1 The Provost presented the Degree Outcomes Statement that includes an update on University classification profiles and an outline of progress made in reviewing the University approach to degree classification. Members noted that as identified in the Access and Participation Plan, the University is aware of attainment gaps across different student groups and has targets to narrow those gaps. The concluding statement highlighted the University continues to maintain strong oversight of the proportions of classifications awarded to students both at subject and University

level and the University does not have high levels of ‘unexplained’ increases in proportions of first and upper second-class honours

36.2.2 The Board approved the University’s updated Degree Outcomes Statement for publication.

36.3 Report from Academic Board [BG23/33]

36.3.1 The Board received the report of the Academic Board meeting of 24th January 2024. Members noted the meeting received an update on the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029 that will cover the period from January 2021 to December 2028. The Governor observer to Academic Board commented on the positivity of the meeting and interface between staff and students.

36.3.2 The Board noted the report.

23/37 Reports from Committees

37.1 Nominations & Governance Committee [BG23/34]

37.1.1 The Board received the report of the Nominations & Governance Committee meeting held on 6th December 2023 and noted updates on Board membership and proposed changes to the Board and Committee meeting schedule for 2024/25. *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

37.1.2 The Board approved the updates to the Committee’s terms of reference.

37.1.3 The Board received and approved changes to Bye-law 5 (Appointment of the Chair of the Board), Bye-law 6 (Appointment of Vice Chair(s)) and the Role Descriptor for Vice Chair.

37.1.4 The Board noted the report.

37.2 Finance & Development Committee [BG23/35]

37.2.1 The Board received and noted the report of the Finance & Development Committee meeting of 30th January 2024 that included a paper on regional partnership prospects, an update from the Investment Committee and an update on Capital Developments.

23/38 OfS Matters [BG23/36]

38.1 The Board received for information an update on matters in relation to the OfS, in particular on the OfS’s B3 review and on payment of the OfS Capital Grant.

23/39 Subsidiary Companies

39.1 UW Worcester Wolves Annual Impact Report [BG23/37]

39.1.1 The Board received the UW Worcester Wolves Impact Report for the 2022/23 season that provides the University and Board of Governors with an overview of the club’s impact and value during the year and assurance over the University’s support of the club. The Board noted the company has made positive strides in increasing financial surpluses and improving the cash impact to the University.

39.1.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

23/40 Any Other Business

40.1 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

23/41 Date of Next Meeting

Joint UEB/Board Development Session 23rd March 2024
Board Meeting 7th May 2024