

MINUTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS, BG-133

Date: Wednesday 26 June 2024 Time: 14:30

Location: CA105/6, Catalyst, Leek Rd

1430 – 1500: A Know Your Business session from Professor Annabel Kiernan on Partnerships – Risks and Opportunities.

Annabel Kiernan gave an overview of the different types of partnerships arrangements within the UK and internationally and an overview of the University's current partnership portfolio. The presentation also focused upon the risks and opportunities of partnership provision, noting the additional risks of UK private provider institutions and the international franchise model.

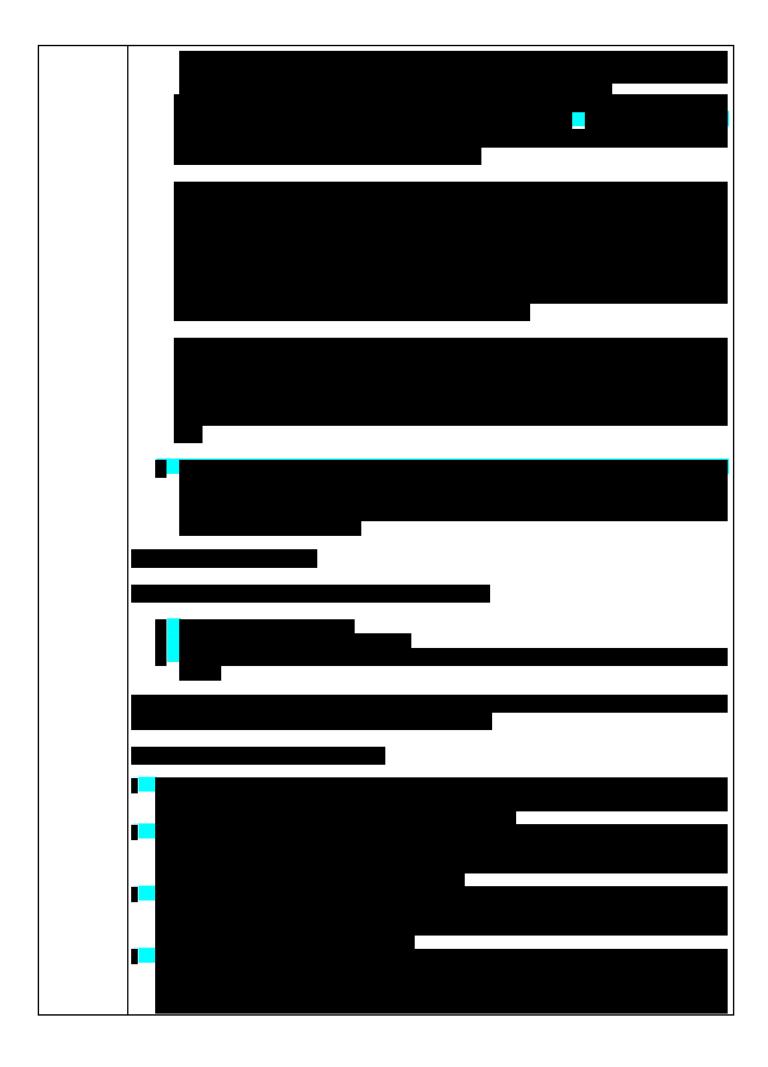
Members		
Olayemi Ajiteru	Student Governor (outgoing President, Students' Union)	P
Gemma Brierley	External Member	P
Jonathan Chapman	External Member	Р
Mohit Dhingra	External Member	Α
Kevin Gould	External Member	P
Professor Chris Headleand	Staff Governor (Academic Staff)	P
Colin Hughes (Chair)	External Member	P
Joseph Knight	Student Governor (new President, Students' Union)	P
Professor Martin Jones	Vice Chancellor	P
Baljinder Kuller	External Member	P
Precious Ogbein	Student Governor (new President, Students' Union)	P
Josie Morris	External Member	P
Eleanor Morrissey	External Member	Α
Martin Pugh	External Member	P
Kim Newell Chebator	External Member	P
Juliet Oosthuysen	External Member	P
Leonard Stuart	Student Governor (outgoing Vice President, Students' Union)	P
Marta Vizcaya Echano	Staff Governor (Professional Support Staff)	P
In attendance	•	
Ian Blachford	Chief Operating Officer and Clerk to the Board of Governors	IA
Dr Annabel Kiernan	Pro Vice Chancellor - Education	IA
Sally McGill	Chief Financial Officer	IA
Professor Raheel Nawaz	Pro Vice Chancellor – Digital Transformation	IA
Sue Boyce	Assistant Clerk to the Board of Governors (minutes)	IA

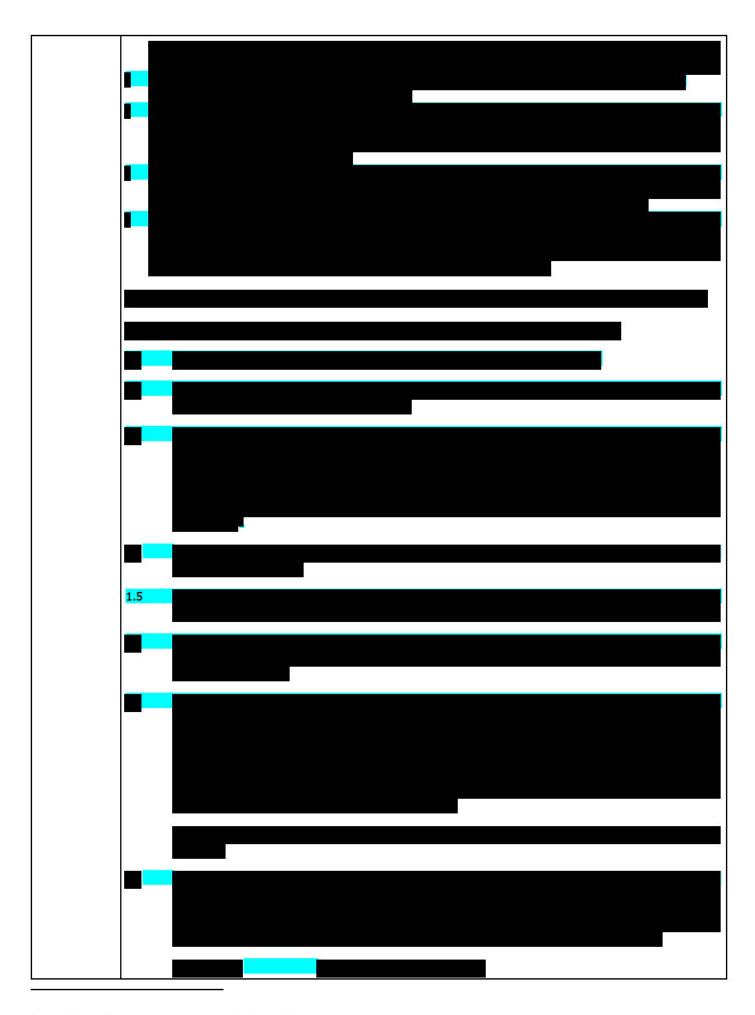
1 MEETING MANAGEMENT

2904

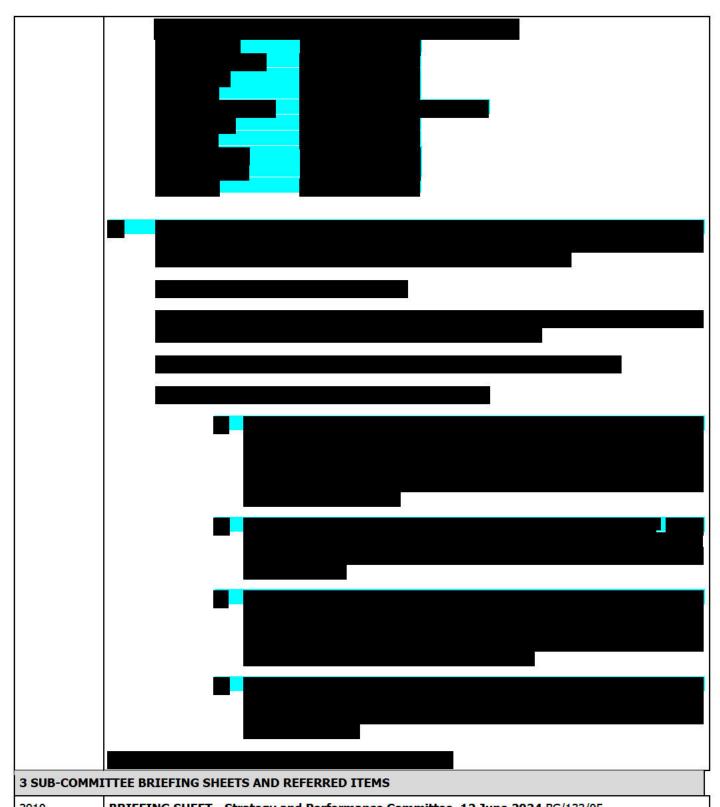
Apologies for Absence were received from Mohit Dhingra and Eleanor Morrissey. Olayemi Ajiteru, President of the Students' Union and Leonard Stuart, Vice President of the Students' Union were thanked for their contributions

	as Student Governors, as this was their last meeting. Precious Ogbein and Joseph Knight were welcomed as the new Student Governors for the academic year 2024-2025.	
2905	There were no new declarations of interest.	
2906	Minutes: BG132 Board of Governors meeting, 10 April 2024 BG/133/01 Extraordinary meeting, BG132a 22 May 2024 BG/133/02 The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meetings.	
2907	Matters arising:	
2307	Minute 2865 – Budget and Expenditure Reduction – the Board would be provided with an update on the delivery of the in-year budget savings under the item referred through from Sustainability and Resources Committee.	
	Minute 2871 – Prevent – The OfS had confirmed that the prevent annual return had been accepted and there were no issues arising from this on 12 th March 2024.	
	Minute 2880 - Student Village project - The extraordinary Board meeting on 22 March approved the progression of the Student village Project. This appears on this agenda.	
2 STRATE	GIC OVERVIEW	
2908	The Strategic Developments and Organisational Performance Report BG/133/03 was introduced for discussion by the Vice Chancellor, Martin Jones. The paper reflected on the external environment and the forthcoming general election, university performance including the CUG league table, university business and key staffing changes.	
	Members and attendees commented as follows:	
	 Gemma Brierley noted that with regard to the CUG league table, the low student satisfaction figures appeared to be a cause for concern and asked how this is expected to impact recruitment. Annabel Kiernan responded that the University had in recent years fallen behind the upwards trend of the NSS and consequently the sector was now outperforming the university, resulting in the drop in relative position. A number of interventions were underway and the next NSS data would be available in July 2024, which would then provide a greater level of insight for planning interventions for the new academic year. Kevin Gould requested that the Board be kept informed on an ongoing basis, risk based, regarding the external developments so that the Board could be fully up to speed, particularly with an imminent change of government predicted. 	
	There were no further comments and the report was noted.	
2909		





 $^{^{\}rm 1}\,{\rm Amend}$ to reflect the position as at the date of the meeting.



2910 BRIEFING SHEET - Strategy and Performance Committee, 12 June 2024 BG/133/05

The contents of the Briefing Sheet from the Strategy and Performance Committee were noted and the following matters were considered:

Approval

a) None

	Tufammakian		
	Information b) Minute 418 - KPI Scorecard BG/133/06 The report was noted.		
2911	BRIEFING SHEET - Audit and Risk Committee, 5 June 2024 BG/133/07		
	The contents of the Briefing Sheet from the Audit and Risk Committee were noted and the following matters were considered:		
	Approval		
	a) Minute 2011 - Internal Audit Plan for 2024-2025 and Audit Charter BG/133/08		
	Both reports were approved.		
	Information a) None		
2912	BRIEFING SHEET - Sustainability and Resources Committee, 22 May 2024 BG/133/09		
	The contents of the Briefing Sheet from the Sustainability Committee were noted and the following matters v considered:		
	Approval		
	a) Minute 673 - Student Recruitment Position 2024-2025 BG/133/10. Sally McGill reported that there was currently an uplift of 119 which was slightly better than reported to the Sustainability and Resources Committee on 22 May. The Postgraduate and international figures currently look the same as previously reported. Further updates will be made available to the Board.		
	b) Minute 676 - Budget 2024-2025 BG/133/11. Sally McGill presented the paper together with the Scenario Planning paper BG/133/12 and advised that data suggests the likely outcome will be scenario 1, however there is a 30% chance it could be lower.		
	c) Minute 676 - Scenario Planning BG/133/12. Martin Pugh asked how updates will be relayed to the		
	governors over the summer recess as the next full meeting of the Board will be in October. Ian Blachford responded that Committee Chair meetings will continue to be held on a monthly basis and as the picture unfolds over the summer a written communication will be provided for governors. It was agreed that the Board be briefed of the figures regardless of the position.		
	d) Minute 685 -		

The above reports were all approved.

Information

- a) Minute 674 Period Nine Financial Outturn Forecast for 2023-2024 BG/133/14
- b) Minute 683 Target Operating Model BG/133/15
- c) Minute 678 Staffordshire University: London Way Forward BG/133/16 Juliet Oosthuysen asked how the proposition for Staffordshire University: London aligns with the recent positioning work. Ian Blachford confirmed that London remained an important aspect of the University's provision, however, it needed to perform better than its current position.
- d) Minute 684 Pension Update BG/133/17

The above reports were all noted.

4 FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL (marked below accordingly)

The **Branding Update** BG/133/18 was introduced for discussion by Pro Vice Chancellor – Academic, Professor Annabel Kiernan who updated the Committee on the progress of the brand project following the last update in March 2024.

- The Office for Students (OfS) decided to conduct a targeted consultation via our Students' Union instead of
 a full public consultation. We await the results of this. If the OfS is satisfied that changing the name to the
 University of Staffordshire is not misleading or confusing, we will not need to move ahead with a full public
 consultation and will progress to the next part of the process with the Department for Education (DfE).
- We continue to work to a launch date of September 2024, dependent on final OfS approval.

There were no comments and the update was noted.

5 FOR INFORMATION

2914 The **Students' Union Report** BG/133/19 was introduced by the President of the Students Union, Olayemi Ajiteru who outlined key points.

Martin Pugh noted that the Stafford engagement data was low compared to the Stoke campus. Len Stuart
responded that the courses offered at Stafford are placement based and that the demographic of students
is challenging as they tend to be mature students who are only on campus for short periods of time. To
address this, an exercise to organise events on days when students were on campus was being undertaken
with varying success.

There were no comments and the report was noted.

*Academic Board minutes (unconfirmed): 19 March 2024 * BG/133/20
The Academic Board Minutes were noted.

6 ADDITIONAL MATTERS

2916 There were no additional matters.

2917 Next Meeting: Weds 2 October 2024 – 2:30pm (Catalyst Building, Leek Road)

Clerk's note: following the meeting approval was given by email for the following items

Nominations and Governance Committee, 8 May 2024

The referrals from the Nominations and Governance Committee were circulated by email and the following matters were considered:

Approval

2918

- a) Minute 707 Term of Office Renewal Schedule/Independent Governor Vacancies BG/133/21
- b) Minute 708 Proposed Membership of Sub Committees 2024 202 BG/133/21

Both reports were approved.

Information

a) Minute 710 — Calendar of Meetings for the Next Academic Year BG/133/22

Noted.

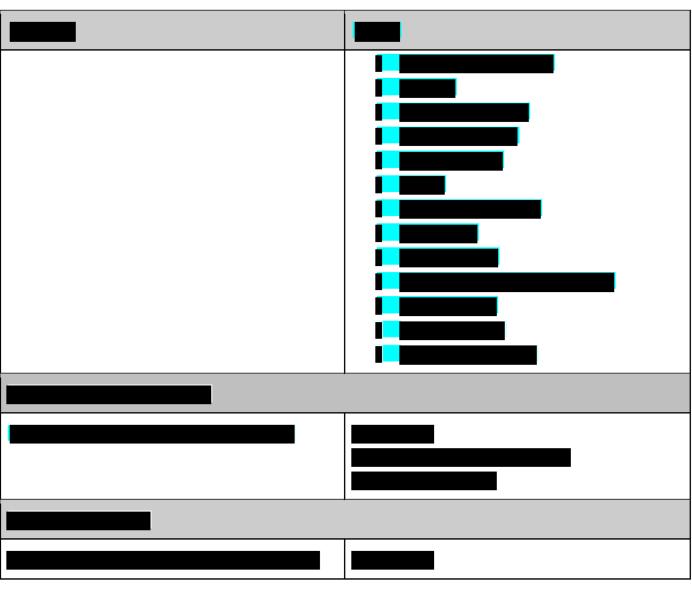
APPENDIX A¹

Part 1 - List of documents to be entered into by the University on or before Financial Close

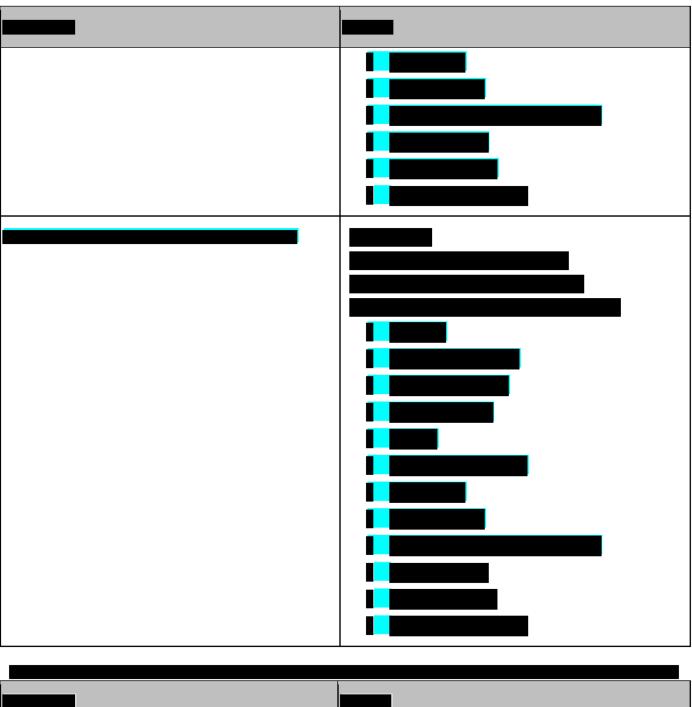
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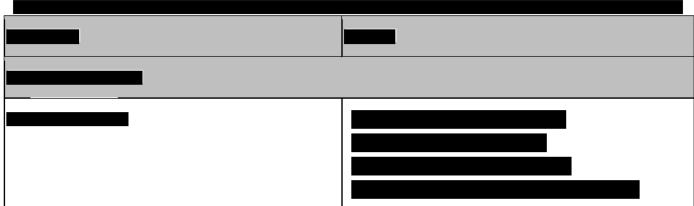
¹ List of documents based on most recent documents list circulated by Osborne Clark on 18 June 2024.











Sent on Behalf of Ian Blachford

Dear Governors,

At the recent Board of Governors meeting on 26 June, I inadvertently overlooked the necessary referrals from the Nominations and Governance Committee. Hopefully you will all agree this was uncharacteristic of me – please forgive me, I have been somewhat immersed in the target operating model.

Please could you therefore respond, ideally, **merely saying approve**, for these straightforward items of business, and if so, I will get the minutes updated to reflect this part of business was conducted by email post the meeting:

FOR APPROVAL:

Item One: Term of Office Renewal Schedule/Independent Governor Vacancies:

The Committee considered the following recommendations:

- Mohit Dhingra to be approved to stand for a second term having completed his first term as a Governor as <u>at</u> July 2024 (noting that part of this was served as a coopted member of the Board).
- Kim Newell Chebator and Martin Pugh to be approved to stand for a full first term of a further two years having completed their first full year as a Governor as at July 2024.

Please note we also wish Ian Jenkinson to serve for a further 12 months as the co-opted member on the Sustainability and Resources Committee. Mike Herbert has now resigned from this role and we are in the process of identifying a successor.

<u>Item Two: Proposed Membership of Sub Committees 2024 - 2025 NG/62/05</u>

The Clerk to the Board and Chief Operating Officer introduced the update to the **Proposed Membership of Sub**Committees 2024-2025 NG/62/05.

 Jonathan Chapman and Juliet Oosthuysen welcomed the stability of proposed composition of Committees for the forthcoming academic year, noting this would strengthen the committees further.

The composition of the committees was approved for 2024 - 2025.

The composition of the committees is proposed to be the same as this year – and therefore no movements have been proposed. The composition is attached.

Finally, please note the calendar of committee meetings has previously been circulated – and is attached for further information. Sorry once again ...

Best wishes

Ian

Approval emails received from:

Colin Hughes (Chair)

Gemma Brierley

Jonathan Chapman

Mohit Dhingra

Chris Headleand

Kevin Gould

Baljinder Kuller

Josie Morris

Eleanor Morrissey

Kim Newell Chebator

Martin Pugh

Marta Vizcaya Echano