

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	P
Mohit Dhingra	External Member	A
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	A
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 (<i>minutes</i>)	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	<p>Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG132 Board of Governors meeting, 10 April 2024 BG/133/01 • Extraordinary meeting, BG132a 22 May 2024 BG/133/02 <p>The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meetings.</p>
2907	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Minute 2871 – Prevent – The OfS had confirmed that the prevent annual return had been accepted and there were no issues arising from this on 12th March 2024.</p> <p>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.</p>
2 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW	
2908	<p>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.</p> <p>Members and attendees commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>There were no further comments and the report was noted.</p>
2909	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 100%; min-height: 300px;"></div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] <p>The above reports were all approved.</p> <p>Information</p> <p>a) Minute 674 - Period Nine – Financial Outturn Forecast for 2023-2024 BG/133/14</p> <p>b) Minute 683 - Target Operating Model BG/133/15</p> <p>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.</p> <p>d) Minute 684 - Pension Update BG/133/17 [REDACTED]</p> <p>The above reports were all noted.</p>
4 FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL (marked below accordingly)	
2913	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>There were no comments and the update was noted.</p>
5 FOR INFORMATION	
2914	<p>The Students' Union Report BG/133/19 was introduced by the President of the Students Union, Olayemi Ajiteru who outlined key points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>There were no comments and the report was noted.</p>
2915	<p>*Academic Board minutes (unconfirmed): 19 March 2024 * BG/133/20 The Academic Board Minutes were noted.</p>
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	
2918	<p>Nominations and Governance Committee, 8 May 2024</p> <p>The referrals from the Nominations and Governance Committee were circulated by email and the following matters were considered:</p> <p>Approval</p> <p>a) Minute 707 – Term of Office Renewal Schedule/Independent Governor Vacancies BG/133/21</p> <p>b) Minute 708 – Proposed Membership of Sub Committees 2024 – 202 BG/133/21</p>

Both reports were approved.

Information

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

Noted.

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]
<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

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:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <u>at</u> 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.

Item Two: Proposed Membership of Sub Committees 2024 – 2025 NG/62/05

708	<p>The Clerk to the Board and Chief Operating Officer introduced the update to the Proposed Membership of Sub Committees 2024-2025 NG/62/05.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The composition of the committees was approved for 2024 – 2025.</p>
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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