



Minutes of the 19 May 2023 meeting

Present: David Lowen (Chair)

Harsh Bhatia, Martin Barkley, Dr Oliver Bray, Iain Cornish, Cielo Cartwright, Alan Gay, Helen Green, Rachel Hewitt, Stephen Magora, Jo Norry, Ashleigh Pinnock, Professor Peter Slee, Dr Andrew West, Nick Whitaker

In attendance: Dr David Ashton, Professor Phil Cardew, Phil Harrison, Kate Harvey (Secretary), Alison Kennell, Tracey Lancaster, Professor Silke Machold, Heather Paver, Caroline Thomas

Apologies: Qari Asim, Professor Christina Hughes, Professor Nicki Latham, David Morgan, Tori Pourzand, Shwetal Shah

Attendees apologies: Andrew Fern, Professor Chris Prince

** Present as indicated in the proceedings*

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Declaration of interest

084.2223 No declarations of interest were made.

Minutes

085.2223 The Board **agreed** that the minutes of its meeting on 22 November 2022 and 10 March 2023 were an accurate record.

Matters arising

086.2223 (a) It was confirmed that the Board had approved via OnBoard the appointment of Mr Iain Cornish as an independent governor which was effective from 26 April 2023. Mr Cornish was designated as Chair-Elect of the Board and would take up this role on 01 September 2023 when David Lowen stood down at the end of his final term.

(b) The Board noted that a change to the identity of the chair of the governing body was always a reportable event under the Office for Students (OfS) Reportable Events process. Following the Board of Governors meeting, the OfS would be notified of the forthcoming appointment.

- (c) The Board was also asked to approve the appointment of Iain Cornish to the Governance & Nominations Committee.
- (d) Dr Andrew West, who had chaired the search committee expressed his thanks to his fellow members Nick Whitaker, Cielo Cartwright, Jo Norry and Ashleigh Pinnock as well as Caroline Thomas, Registrar & Secretary, for her input. The support of Odgers Berndtson and the Governance Services team throughout the process and the contributions of colleagues taking part in the stakeholder panels was also noted.
- (e) It was also confirmed that the Board had approved via OnBoard the appointment of Professor George Lodorfos as a co-opted governor, effective from 19 May 2023 for an initial term of three years. Professor Lodorfos had also been appointed to the Finance, Staffing and Resources Committee.
- (f) At its meeting on 10 March the Board had approved minor updates to the Financial Regulations. It had also been agreed there would be one further amendment to be discussed at Finance, Staffing & Resources Committee on 31 March to reference the Sustainability Strategy in the section on procurement regulations and this was set out in the report for the Board's reference.

087.2223 The Board **resolved** to approve the appointment of Iain Cornish to the Governance & Nominations Committee.

Chair's Action

088.2223 No Chair's Actions were reported.

STRATEGIC MATTERS

Chair's Report

- 089.2223 (a) The Chair reported that he had stood down as Chair of the UCAS Board of Trustees and as Deputy Chair of the Committee of University Chairs, pending the end of his final term as a governor and Chair of the Board.
- (b) Governors would be contacted over the course of the coming weeks in order to arrange their annual review meetings for 2022/23.

Vice Chancellor's Report

Minute 090.2223 is exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

090.2223 (a)



REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Report of the Finance, Staffing & Resources Committee – 31 March 2023

Minute 091.2223 is exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

091.2223 (a)



092.2223

The Board **resolved** to approve proposed amendments to the Committee’s terms of reference which reflected the agreed new responsibilities for oversight of staff and student equality, diversity & inclusion governance.

Report of the Audit Committee – 28 April 2023

Minute 093.2223 is exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 43 (Commercial interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

093.2223

(a)



Report of the Senior Staff Remuneration Committee – 28 April 2023

094.2223 (a) Cielo Cartwright presented the report on behalf of the Chair, Professor Nicki Latham. The Committee had reviewed its suite of policies and Operating Framework for the annual review of senior postholders for the coming year. The Framework would be submitted to the meeting of the Board on 24 July 2023 for approval.

(b) Members had also reviewed the Committee's annual report, which was presented to the Board for approval prior to publication on the University's website.

095.2223 The Board **resolved** to approve the annual report of the Finance, Staffing & Resources Committee.

Report of the Chairs' Committee – 05 May 2023

096.2223 (a) The Chair reported that the programme for the away day session on 19 May 2023 had been discussed as well as the agenda for the formal meeting. The Chairs had received an update on the induction of Iain Cornish and plans for further governor recruitment.

EXCELLENT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Report of the Academic Board – 26 April 2023

Minute 097.2223 is exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

097.2223 (a)

Academic Assurance Report

Parts of minute 098.2223 are exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 43 (Commercial interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

098.2223 (a)

- (c) Work continued to build on the positive outcome of the Ofsted full inspection of Degree Apprenticeship provision in November 2022. The intention was to work towards Outstanding by addressing areas of development and maintaining good practice.
- (d) Governors welcomed the report and noted that Dr Andrew West had been in attendance as an observer.

Research & Innovation Update

Part of minute 099.2223 is exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

099.2223 (a) Professor Silke Machold, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation), reported that Research England had completed its review of Knowledge Exchange Funding with the outcomes and proposed changes to be implemented over the coming two years. The University would engage with the review and welcomed the continuation of current HE-BCI funding for the time being.

(b)

Students' Union (SU) Report

100.2223 (a) Ashleigh Pinnock, interim SU President and student governor, reported that the SU was engaging in a democracy review, to be facilitated by an external provider. The review would consider how the SU engaged with its members, understood their experiences and promoted the student voice. Recommendations would be considered by the Board of Trustees and implemented from the beginning of the 2024/25 academic year. It was proposed that the University's Governance & Nominations Committee be kept informed of developments.

(b) The outcomes of the SU's Big Student Survey were included as an appendix to note as part of the wider context of discussions. The SU would work with the University executive to look at the detail provided to inform further work to respond to the cost of living and the impact on students of working while studying. The Vice Chancellor proposed that in the 2023/24 academic year the Board hold an away day session on the student experience which would look at the outcomes of the National Student Survey, the International Student Barometer and the Big Student Survey.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

Financial and Capital Expenditure Update

Minute 101.2223 is exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 43 (Commercial interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

101.2223

GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

OfS Regulatory Update

Part of minute 102.2223 is exempt from publication under the provisions of Section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

102.2223 (a)

- (b) The Freedom of Speech Bill had been approved by Parliament and had received Royal Assent, though a Freedom of Speech Champion was still to be appointed by the OfS. The University was reviewing its current policy framework.

Safety, Health & Wellbeing Update

103.2223 (a) The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Resources) presented the report which was in the new format trialled at the Finance, Staffing & Resources Committee on 31 March, intended to provide increased assurance to governors. Updates on wellbeing would now be included.

- (b) David Morgan was thanked for his insights on reporting in other industries.

- (c) The University had launched a new Wellbeing Assessment following a successful pilot, which modernised and replaced the previous Stress Risk Assessment format.

OTHER BUSINESS

Schedule of meetings and business 2022/23

104.2223 The report was received without discussion.

Date of next meeting

105.2223 The next meeting of the Board would be held on campus at 09:30 on 14 July 2023 venue to be confirmed.

Other business

106.2223 As this was Ashleigh Pinnock’s final meeting before the end of her term as a governor, the Chair thanked her on behalf of the Board for her contributions and particularly the eloquent way she had represented and expressed the student voice during her tenure.

107.2223 The Vice Chancellor reported that the University had been shortlisted in seven of twelve categories in the annual HEIST Awards for higher education marketing. These included Best Low-Budget Initiative and Best Prospective Student Journey/Experience.

108.2223 No other business was raised.

Confirmed by the Board as a correct record and signed by the Chair:

Signed: _____ Date: _____