

## Board of Governors

### Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### 19/49 Attendance

##### 49.1 Present

|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr J Bateman OBE      | Independent Governor, Chair       |
| Mr C Arntzen          | Independent Governor              |
| Dr D Beech            | Independent Governor              |
| Mr S Devlin           | Co-opted 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              |
| 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              |

##### 49.2 In Attendance

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mr R Bonham       | Director of Finance & Resources                                |
| Mrs J Britton     | Director of Communications & Participation                     |
| Mrs A Cope        | Director of Human Resources                                    |
| Professor S Greer | Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost                               |
| Ms H Johnstone    | Head of Governance and Regulatory Affairs (Clerk to the Board) |
| Ms T Manning      | Vice President, Students' Union                                |
| Mrs J Newland     | Assistant Clerk to the Board                                   |



a structure that would maximise student engagement and empower students to enact change. Following research into other Students' Unions and consultation on maximising engagement, student-led networks have been set up, including the BAME Students' Network and the Mature Students' Network. The Pro Vice Chancellor Students added there had been a lot of support from students for the model.

53.2.2 The Board approved the Students' Union Revised Constitution.

## 19/54 Provost's business

54.1 The Provost's report [BG19/57]

54.1.1 The Provost highlighted three key areas from her report:

- the approach to teaching next year: the intention is to deliver face to face teaching as much as possible, supported by high quality online teaching. The University is taking stock of the move to online teaching and undertook a pulse survey of academic staff in May to assess how staff felt about the move. The next phase is to develop the skills and confidence of staff for the coming year and the Provost is part way through a series of 9 School meetings to discuss plans for learning and teaching in the new academic year and to hear concerns and ideas.

- *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

- digital poverty and hardship: the University has been working hard on a range of measures to help students not only with devices but also with the need for privacy and space in which to complete their studies. Members noted work to identify and prioritise those who need support.

54.1.2 *[NOT FOR PUBLICATION]*

54.1.3 Members raised questions in relation to what had been learnt from the arrangements put in place for students taking exams from home. Many students reported feeling very positive about the process and felt it had been less stressful than sitting in an exam room. The pandemic has led to creative discussions on how and why students are assessed.

54.1.4 The Board received the report.

54.2 Degree Outcomes Statement [BG19/58]

54.2.1 The Provost presented the Degree Outcomes Statement for approval. In November 2018 the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assurance (UKSCQA) published a report in response to political concerns that there was an unexplained increase in the proportion of the number of First and Upper Second class awards being made by UK HEIs. HEIs agreed to publish a statement with data and analysis on students' degree outcomes.

54.2.2 Members noted the University has seen a 6.4% increase in the proportion of First class Honours degrees awarded over the last 5 years, and a 4.2% increase in the proportion of First and Upper Second class degrees over the same period. This increase coincides with a move on the part of the University to become more selective in student recruitment, whilst also strengthening its commitment to widening participation in a period of growth. The rise was equivalent to that of the sector and remained below the sector average as a whole. The Chair congratulated the Provost on the improving outcomes.

54.2.3 The Board approved the statement.

54.3 Report of Academic Board [BG19/59]

54.3.1 The Governor observer on Academic Board presented the report of the Academic Board meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 and noted that the Heads of all Schools gave reports embracing the challenges of online

*Confirmed*

teaching. REF (Research Excellence Framework) 2021 was put on hold in March due to the Covid-006 Tw 0.m1d (u)5

*Confirmed*

55.4.3 The Committee received an update to the Covid-19 Risk Register with proposed changes to two risks. The Board approved the amendments to the Register.

