



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 APRIL 2005 at 1330 hrs at Newton Park

<u>Present:</u>	Mr P Bland Professor J Brown Cllr J Gay Mr A Harris Professor P Luna Mr D Mackintosh Professor F Morgan (Director)	Mr I Pillips (to Agenda item 10) Ms S Pirie (Chair) Mr M Roy Professor G Smith Ms M Toman Mr P Wilson Dr R Woodbridge
<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk) Mr J Brady Mr K Wright	Dr A Thomas Professor D Timms Ms K O'Flaherty (to Agenda item 10)
<u>Unable to attend:</u>	Mr I Ahluwalia, Mr J Amey, Mr P Parker	

04/27 MINUTES : 26 JANUARY 2005

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2005, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

04/28 MATTERS ARISING

04/22 International Activities

The Board noted Professor Coulby's confirmation that Thailand had been recognised as a potential market for student recruitment.

04/29 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

04/29 (a) Professorships

The Chair reported conferment by the Academic Board of honorific Professorships to two governors: the Director, Frank Morgan and to the Head of School of Music and Performing Arts, Geoff Smith.

Governors congratulated these and other new professors on their achievement.

04/29 (b) University Title Launch

The Chair reported on funding for an appropriate launch of the institution's new title. Professor J Brown suggested this might include a musical event at Bath Abbey. Following discussion, the Director undertook to bring forward proposals for the Board's consideration.

04/30 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Clerk referred to Paper G479 advising the Board of action being taken to fill impending vacancies.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors received Paper G479.

04/31 CO-OPTED MEMBER : PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' UNION

The Clerk referred to Paper G480 informing the Board of the election of a new President of the Students' Union.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G480, and
- b) noted the appointment of Mr Dean Copley as the President of the Students' Union and as a member of the Corporation w.e.f. 1 July 2005.

04/32 INSTRUMENT AND ARTICLES OF GOVERNMENT

The Clerk expanded on Paper G481 seeking approval to minor emendations to the institution's Instrument and Articles of Government consequent, primarily, upon university title.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G481;
- b) approved the revised Instrument of Government set out in Appendix A subject to approval by the Privy Council;
- c) approved the revised Articles of Government set out in Appendix B subject to approval by the Privy Council;
- d) instructed the Clerk to submit these revised documents and an electronic schedule of instructions to the Privy Council for approval, and
- e) requested the Clerk to bring forward a revised schedule of meetings of the Board of Governors.

04/32 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

04/32 (a) **University Title**

The Director reported upon the consultation exercise on change of name and responded to Governors' concerns over the objection lodged formally by the University of Bath to the proposed name 'Bath Spa University' approved by the Board in October 2004.

The Board reaffirmed its resolve to use the title previously agreed noting in particular, the need to retain the words 'Bath' and 'University'.

04/33 TOWARDS A TEACHING-LED UNIVERSITY

The Director referred to Paper G482 reporting on the definition and quantification of the institution's concept of a teaching-led university.

The Board noted the likelihood of its increasing involvement in setting the mission and academic direction of the institution, of assessing its own performance and of monitoring the work of the Academic Board and the Executive.

The Board considered and broadly endorsed the ten draft characteristics set out in Appendix A. In particular, Governors welcomed the proposal to promote and reward academic staff for excellence in teaching.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G482;
- b) noted the progress in the Executive's work to define and quantify the teaching-led university, and
- c) noted the importance of these matters in relation to emerging governance requirements.

04/34

BUDGET PROPOSALS 2005 / 06

Mr J Brady expanded on Paper G483 describing the major factors influencing financial planning and the preparation of the 2005 / 06 budget and enabling Governors to make suggestions and / or requirements in advance of the proposals to the Board on 29 June 2005.

The Board was advised that additional funding in 2005 / 06 from growth and tuition fees would be offset by increased staffing costs and that accordingly, a significantly smaller surplus was expected in the next financial year.

The Board also noted that degrees of freedom in recruitment targets had been greatly reduced bringing with it a higher risk of incurring financial penalties.

Mr J Brady emphasised that whilst the financial position in 2005 / 06 is tight, it should be viewed against a backcloth of substantial investment in buildings and student facilities.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G483;
- b) congratulated the Executive on sound financial management coupled with success in bidding for funds, and
- c) noted that the annual revenue budget 2005 / 06 would be presented to the Board for approval in June 2005.

04/35

HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY

The Director referred to Paper G484 informing the Board of the Human Resources (HR) Strategy that the University College has developed to assist with the achievement of its strategic objectives.

The Head of Personnel, Ms Karen O'Flaherty, expanded on her report and its relationship with the two key initiatives of university title and the development of a teaching-led university.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G484, and
- b) noted the HR Strategy and that a further report on implementation of the national pay framework will be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in January 2006.

04/36

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

The Director referred to Paper G485 presenting to the Board the institution's revised Equal Opportunities Policy, Mission Statement and Action Plan.

The Board was advised that the institution's record on equal opportunities had been honourable.

Ms K O'Flaherty confirmed that the Equal Opportunities Policy applied to both staff and students.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G485, and
- b) approved the revised Equal Opportunities Policy, Mission Statement and Action Plan.

04/37

RECRUITMENT 2004 / 05

The Director referred to Paper G486 reporting student recruitment figures for 2004 / 05 against HEFCE and TTA contracts.

The Board noted continued strong recruitment meeting the HEFCE contract and increasing the institution's income from TTA.

Dr A Thomas informed the Board that student applications for undergraduate entry in 2005 / 06 are up 30% on last year's figures. The challenge therefore is to avoid exceeding contracted numbers.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G486, and
- b) congratulated the Head of Marketing & Publicity on the quality of the latest Undergraduate Prospectus.

04/38

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Professor D Timms referred to Paper G487 describing the main provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the University College's legal obligations and the work of the Executive to ensure compliance.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors received Paper G487.

04/39

ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

The Board of Governors formally received Minutes of the following meetings:

Academic Board	:	11 January 2005
Audit Committee	:	27 October 2004
Policy & Resources Committee	:	27 October 2004

04/40

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 15.25 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Clerk to the Board of Governors
22 April 2005