

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### Minutes of the meeting held on 25 JANUARY 2006 at 1330 hrs at Newton Park

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <u>Present:</u>          | Mr I Ahluwalia<br>Professor J Brown<br>Mr D Copley<br>Mr M Croker<br>Mr A Harris<br>Professor F Morgan (Vice Chancellor) | Mr P Parker<br>Mr I Phillips<br>Ms S Pirie (Chair)<br>Mr M Roy<br>Ms S Talbot-Williams |
| <u>In attendance:</u>    | Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk)<br>Dr A Thomas<br>Professor D Timms  | Mr J Brady<br>Mr K Wright<br>Mrs J Parry (to Agenda item 6.1)                          |
| <u>Unable to attend:</u> | Mr J Amey<br>Cllr J Gay<br>Professor P Luna  | Professor G Smith<br>Ms M Toman<br>Dr R Woodbridge                                     |

#### 05/20 MINUTES : 26 OCTOBER 2006

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2006, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

#### 05/21 MATTERS ARISING

None

#### 05/22 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair introduced and on behalf of the Board extended a warm welcome to Ms Sarah Talbot-Williams (Independent Member) and Mr Mark Croker (Co-opted Member nominated by the Support Staff) as Governors of the University.

#### 05/23 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to Paper G507 inviting Governors to consider a Schedule of Meetings of the Board and its Standing Committees to June 2008.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors received Paper G507 and approved the Schedule.

#### 05/24 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE : TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Clerk referred to Paper G508 seeking approval to revised Terms of Reference for the Policy & Resources Committee consequent upon the Board's earlier decision to make that Committee responsible for reviewing the level of risk exposure throughout the University.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors received Paper G508 and approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Policy & Resources Committee set out in Appendix 1.

05/25

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Clerk referred to Paper G509 seeking the Board's approval of a framework for a self-assessment of its own effectiveness.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G509;
- b) approved the proposed framework for the Board's self-assessment, including the completion and return to the Clerk for analysis, of an anonymous questionnaire prior to initial consideration by the discussion groups in April 2006, and
- c) noted that a Statement of Primary Responsibilities based on the Articles of Government will be submitted to the Board in April 2006.

05/26

## **APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE PROVIDER**

The Clerk reported upon consideration by the Audit Committee earlier that day, of presentations made by companies wishing to provide the University's External Audit Service.

The Board of Governors endorsed the recommendations of the Audit Committee and approved the appointment of RSM Robson Rhodes LLP to act as the University's external audit service provider for a period not exceeding seven years commencing 1 August 2006.

05/27

## **VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

### **05/27.1**

#### **Newton Park Library Extension**

The Vice Chancellor introduced Mrs Julie Parry, Head of Library & Information Services, and invited her to give a presentation on the extension of Library and ICT resources at Newton Park.

The Board was advised of the main drivers of such expansion:

- increasing student numbers
- recommendations of the Institutional Audit 2003
- changing patterns of learning

The Board noted the following outcomes of the £1.3m investment:

- an increase in open access computers from 37 to 120
- improved ratio of computers per student
- improved disability access
- additional library space for bookstore, archives and information facilities as well as improved issue desk and security

Following discussion, the Board of Governors thanked Mrs Parry for her presentation and to her staff for their forbearance during building operations designed to ensure continuation of all Library services throughout the contract period.

### **05/27.2**

#### **Inauguration Event**

The Vice Chancellor reported on an outstanding event in Bath Abbey to mark Bath Spa's new status as a teaching-lead University. The event had received high praise from those several hundred people that attended including a long list of local

dignitaries, Councillors and senior professionals in the HE and FE sectors.

**05/27.3**            **Ofsted Re-inspection**

The Vice Chancellor updated the Board on the University's recovery plan in response to a failure in the Secondary Inspection 2004 / 05 and the Re-inspection programmed for February and May 2006. Professor Morgan further advised that the key groups involved are as focussed and as committed to resolving the position as is possible.

The Policy & Resources Committee had received a full report on progress and the Board noted that the outcome of the Re-inspection was expected to be published in July 2006.

**05/28**            **ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY : UPDATE**

The Vice Chancellor referred to earlier reports and proposals based on levels of expansion in student numbers requiring the development of a significant new campus. HEFCE's inability to guarantee additional student numbers had removed the need for such a development although the need for additional space for both teaching offices and student facilities remained.

Professor Morgan referred to Paper G510 reporting progress and providing a position statement with regard to the procurement of space to meet immediate needs and to underpin our known plans for the next 5 - 10 years.

Mr A E Dewberry expanded on his report and in particular, a range of feasibility studies and reviews of development potential at Newton Park, Keynsham and a site in Bath city centre.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a)        received Paper G510;
- b)        noted Management's action to meet the University's space needs;
- c)        noted that the Policy & Resources Committee had discussed these matters in detail earlier that day, and
- d)        encouraged Management to pursue the City centre site option.

**05/29**            **AUDIT COMMITTEE : ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND VICE CHANCELLOR 2004 / 05**

Mr J Brady expanded on Paper G511 presenting the Annual Report of the Audit Committee to the Board of Governors and Vice Chancellor 2004 / 05.

Following consideration the Board of Governors received Paper G511.

**05/30**            **ITEMS FOR RECEIPT**

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

|                              |   |                 |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Academic Board               | : | 8 November 2005 |
| Policy & Resources Committee | : | 29 June 2005    |
| Audit Committee              | : | 29 June 2005    |

The meeting closed at 1510 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry  
**Clerk to the Board of Governors**  
31 January 2006