

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Minutes of the meeting held on
25 APRIL 2007
at 1330 hrs at Newton Park**

Present:

Mr J Amey	Professor F Morgan (Vice Chancellor)
Professor J Brown	Ms S Pirie (Chair)
Ms C Bull	Mr M Roy
Mr D Croker	Professor G Smith
Mr A Harris	Ms M Toman

In attendance:

Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk)	Mr N Sammels
Mr J Brady	Dr A Thomas
Ms L Frater	Professor D Timms
Mr A Powell	Mr K Wright
Mr S McDonough	

Unable to attend: Mr I Ahluwalia, Cllr J Gay, Professor P Luna, Mr P Parker (Deputy Chair), Mr D Pickett, Mr I Phillips, Ms S Talbot Williams

06/32 MINUTES : 31 JANUARY 2007

Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2007, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

06/33 MATTERS ARISING

None

06/34 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

06/34.1 Appointment of Internal Audit Service

The Chair invited Mr J Amey, Acting Convener of the Audit Committee, to report the recommendation of that Committee which, at their meeting held earlier that day, had received presentations from three internal audit service providers.

Mr Amey advised the Board of Governors that the Audit Committee had unanimously recommended the appointment of Mazars as internal audit service providers to the University with effect from 1 August 2007.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) noted the report of Mr J Amey , and
- b) approved the appointment of Mazars as internal audit service providers to the University with effect from 1 August 2007.

06/35

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Clerk referred to Paper G554 informing the Board that the periods of office of the following independent Members of the Board would expire on 21st November 2007:

Mr Inderjit Ahluwalia
Mr Julian Amey
Professor P Luna
Mr Philip Parker
Mr Ian Phillips
Mr Micheal Roy

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received report G554;
- b) noted that, in accordance with the established procedures of the Board, the Clerk would invite nominations from Governors and University students and staff for consideration by the Nominations Committee in due course.

06/36

CO-OPTED MEMBER: PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS UNION 2007 / 08

The Clerk referred to Paper G555 informing the Board that:

- the approved composition of the Board provided for the co-opted membership of the named President of the University Students' Union during the period of his/her presidency
- under procedures approved by the Board and monitored by the Clerk, the election of three Students' Union Officers was concluded on 29 March 2007. Mr James Anderson had been elected President of the Students' Union for the year commencing 1 July 2007.

The Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G555, and
- b) noted the election of Mr James Anderson as President of the Students' Union 2007 / 08 and as a member of the Corporation with effect from 1 July 2007.

06/37

CO-OPTED MEMBER : B&NES' NOMINEE

The Clerk referred to Paper G556 inviting the Board to consider action to fill a vacancy for a Co-opted Member arising from the expiry of the term of office of Councillor Jonathan Gay on 1 April 2007.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G556,

- b) agreed that, having regard to the outcome of the local authority elections, the Vice Chancellor bring a recommendation for filling the vacancy to the June meeting of the Board, and
- b) requested the Chair to write formally to Councillor Gay expressing the appreciation of the Board of Governors for his services to the University.

06/38

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

06/38.1

Centre for Teaching and Learning : Update

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G557 updating the Board of Governors on the progress of Artswork, the University's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). In welcoming the exciting developments which the CETL funding awarded to the University in March 2005 had made possible, the Vice Chancellor invited Mr Adam Powell, Artswork Manager, and Ms Lydia Frater, Student Fellow Artswork Publishinglab, to explain the operation of the CETL and the benefits arising to students and to the University.

Mr Powell outlined the ways in which the six CETL labs, (Publishinglab, Performancelab, Fashionlab, Musiclab, Broadcastlab and Designlab), operated. Benefits to students, staff and the University included innovative and enhanced learning and teaching, increased employability for students in the creative industries, development of close working relationships with industry partners and professionals and inter-disciplinary working, internally and externally. The developing work of the CETL was facilitating pedagogic research and development, closer working relationships between BSU students of all disciplines and dissemination of information within the wider education community and the creative industries nationally and internationally. A key objective of the CETL was to ensure that, ultimately, all subjects taught at Bath Spa University benefited from this corporate initiative.

Ms Lydia Frater explained how her role as Student Fellow Publishinglab, a position made possible through CETL funding, had significantly enhanced her learning opportunities and her overall student experience. This included working with external bodies and sharing learning with fellow students and staff, elements of which would continue following completion of her degree course.

Following discussion, the Board:

- a) received Paper G557, and
- b) noted the progress of Artswork.

06/38.2

RDap Assessors

The Vice Chancellor advised the Board that assessors were due to visit the University pursuant to the application for Research Degree awarding powers submitted in late 2006 (Minute 06/19, 26 October 2006 refers). A decision on the application might be forthcoming towards the end of 2007.

06/38.3 **Accommodation Strategy**

The Vice Chancellor advised members of the latest developments in relation to the proposed South Quays development and also with regard to the coping strategy being developed to meet the short term accommodation requirements of the University from September 2009.

A planning application had been submitted to B&NES on behalf of the proposed Dyson School of Design and Innovation. This included development of the whole of the South Quays site including provision for flood compensation. The application was likely to be determined by the local planning authority within the statutory 16 week period. The longer term accommodation strategy for the University would be reviewed in the light of the outcome of this application.

Investigations into coping strategy options were continuing. A further report on these issues would be brought to the June meeting of the Board. The Vice Chancellor would advise members of any significant developments in the interim.

06/38.4 **Ofsted Report: PGCE Primary**

The Vice Chancellor circulated copies of the Initial Teacher Training inspection report provided to the University following formal Ofsted inspection earlier in the year.

Although the report was subject to formal confirmation, the Vice Chancellor had been delighted to note the provisional Ofsted findings (Grade 1 (Outstanding)) and the very positive and complimentary comments in relation to the management and quality of the course.

This was further evidence of the high quality of learning and teaching at BSU. An important ambition was to achieve similar findings for PGCE Secondary. Appropriate publicity would be arranged once the final report was available from Ofsted.

Following discussion the Board of Governors noted and welcomed receipt of the report.

06/39 **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2007 / 08**

At the invitation of the Vice Chancellor, the Director of Finance and Resources, Mr J Brady, expanded on Paper G558 which set out draft budget proposals for 2007 / 08.

The Paper had been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting held earlier that day. The draft revenue budget was currently being formulated. This would be presented to the June meeting of the Board.

Total income for 2006 / 07 was projected at £36 million, suggesting a budgetary surplus of £260,000. Major issues and uncertainties facing the University over the next three years were identified as

- recruitment of new students responsible for paying tuition fees

- payment of bursaries and scholarships to first and second year students
- the on-going impact of implementation of the nationally negotiated pay framework
- acquisition of a site for a new campus and subsequent development of academic space for 1,200 students
- the need to acquire nomination rights to additional student accommodation
- the need to secure additional academic accommodation in the short term consequent upon disposal of Somerset Place.

Following consideration the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G558, and
- b) noted that the detailed annual revenue budget would be presented for approval in June 2007.

06/40 STUDENT APPLICATIONS AND RECRUITMENT 2006 / 07

Dr A Thomas expanded on Paper G559 detailing the numbers of students who had applied to BSU for entry in 2007 / 08 and reporting provisional recruitment figures for 2006 / 07 for full-time degree and PGCE courses.

The Board noted that recruitment for 2006 / 07 was within the HEFCE target range and confirmed the projections reported to the Board in October 2006 (Minute 06/13 refers). In relation to applications, the University had, for the seventh consecutive year, outperformed the sector. Applications to BSU had increased by 26%. This compared to an average increase of 7% for the sector as a whole.

These figures, together with data developed against BSU performance indicators and independent indicators published in the Times Higher Educational Supplement, demonstrated the continued attractiveness to students of the University.

The Board of Governors received and noted Paper G559.

06/41 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

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

Audit Committee	:	25 October 2006
Academic Board	:	9 January 2007

06/42 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 1538 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Clerk to the Board of Governors
 25 April 2007