

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS****Minutes of the meeting held on  
27 JUNE 2007  
at 1400 hrs at Newton Park**

<u>Present:</u>	Professor J Brown Mr M Croker Mr A Harris Professor P Luna Professor F Morgan (Vice Chancellor) Mr P Parker (Deputy Chair)	Mr I Phillips Mr D Picketts Ms S Pirie (Chair) Professor G Smith Ms M Toman
<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk) Mr J Brady Mr S McDonough Mr J Anderson	Professor D Timms Professor N Sammells Mr K Wright
<u>Unable to attend:</u>	Mr I Ahluwalia, Mr J Amey, Ms J Bull, Mr M Roy, Ms Talbot-Williams	

**06/43 MINUTES : 25 APRIL 2007**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2007, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

**06/44 MATTERS ARISING****Schedule of Decisions : 25 April 2007**

The Clerk confirmed that he had invited nominations for the six Independent Governor places due to become vacant in November. The closing date for receipt of nominations was 6 July 2007.

**06/45 CHAIR'S BUSINESS****06/45.1 Professor A Davies - QAA Assessor**

The Chair welcomed Professor A Davies to the meeting. Professor Davies was observing the meeting in his capacity as a member of the QAA Assessors Group, as part of the process of considering the University's application for Research Degree Awarding powers.

**06/45.2 James Anderson - President elect of the Students' Union**

On behalf of the Board, the Chair welcomed James Anderson who had been elected as President of the Student Union with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

**06/46 VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT****06/46.1 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme**

The Vice Chancellor reported the award to Ms June Bianchi, PGCE Art, of a National Teaching Fellowship. The award recognised contributions to higher education teaching of national significance and was further evidence of the excellence in teaching standards at BSU.

### **06/46.2 Board Membership: Local Authority Representative**

The Vice Chancellor requested the Board of Governors to consider renewing the invitation to Bath and North East Somerset Council to nominate a member of their Executive Group of elected members to serve as a Co-opted Governor, following the retirement from the Board of Councillor J Gay.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors agreed that the Clerk invite Bath and North East Somerset Council accordingly.

### **06/46.3 Accommodation Strategy : Update**

The Vice Chancellor summarised recent developments regarding the proposed South Quays development and related matters, including investigations into possible alternative sites, contingency planning and securing, with effect from September 2007, of additional managed residential accommodation for 40 students.

At the meeting held earlier that day, the Policy & Resources Committee had received a detailed report on these issues and had authorised the Vice Chancellor, subject to prior discussion with the Chair and to early notification to members of that Committee of any actions taken, to take any appropriate action he felt necessary to further the interests of the University in these matters. The Board was requested formally to endorse the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) authorised the Vice Chancellor to act in these matters subject to prior discussion with the Chair and notification to P&R Committee of any actions taken, and
- b) noted that a progress report would be made to the October meetings of Policy and Resources Committee and the Board.

### **06/47 BUDGET 2007 / 08**

The Director of Finance and Resources referred to Paper G560, seeking approval for the budget 2007 / 08. The budget had been recommended for approval by the Policy & Resources Committee and had previously been discussed by the Board (Minute 06/39, 25 April 2007) and by Academic Board (Minute 6/30, 29 May 2007).

Following consideration the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G560, and
- b) approved the Budget for 2007 / 08.

### **06/48 STUDENTS' UNION BUDGET 2007 / 08**

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G561, recommending the level of block grant payable to the Students' Union (SU) for 2007 / 08, and invited the retiring President of the SU, Mr David Pickett, to comment on relevant aspects of the SU budget.

Following consideration the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G561, and
- b) approved the block grant for the Students' Union 2007 / 08 in the sum of £217,778.

**06/49 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2007 / 08**

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G562 reporting:

- progress towards achievement of the 15 actions identified in the 2006 / 07 Operating Plan, approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting in June 2006 (Paper G529, Minute 05/58 refers) and
- the Annual Operating Plan for 2007 / 08. This identified thirteen priorities for the year, including a new action of establishing a contingency plan for Art and Design provision.

Following discussion the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G562;
- b) noted progress made against the current year's operating plan, and
- c) agreed the Annual Operating Plan for 2007 / 08.

**06/50 REVIEW OF BSU PROVISION IN FE COLLEGES**

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G563 reviewing the current position of BSU: HE provision in FE Colleges and proposing a strategy for future development.

Following discussion the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G563, and
- b) approved the strategy for development of BSU HE provision in FE Colleges including, in particular, the goal of modest growth in the University's FEC based provision.

**06/51 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT : PROGRESS REPORT**

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G564 which

- reported actions being taken to develop the management structures and operational activities required in order to attain the corporate objective of minimising the impact of BSU activities on the environment;
- reported progress being made with the range of activities being undertaken, or which were planned, including development of an Environmental Management System (EMS), and which were essential to achieving EcoCampus/ISO 14001 accreditation; and
- sought the endorsement of the Board to a formal draft Environmental Policy Statement for BSU.

Following consideration the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G564, and
- b) approved and adopted the draft Environmental Policy Statement for the University.

**06/52 OFSTED : PRIMARY INSPECTION 2006 / 07**

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G565 advising the Board of Governors of the outcomes of the Ofsted Primary Inspection 2006 / 07.

The Ofsted Inspection report was very complimentary and had awarded a score of 1 (on a scale of 1 – 4 where 1 represented the highest score), thus confirming BSU PGCE Primary teaching as one of the very best in England.

Following discussion the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G565;
- b) noted the findings of the Ofsted 2006 / 07 Inspection of Primary teacher training, and
- c) placed on record the congratulations of the Board to the PGCE Primary team for their achievements in securing an Ofsted inspection report of such excellence.

**06/53**

#### **2008 RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

At the invitation of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Neil Sammells expanded on Paper G566 describing:

- the background to the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), the major changes made by HEFCE to the RAE since the previous (2001) exercise, including in particular the revised scoring mechanism and the “star” quality profile rating system, and
- the University’s strategy in relation to the 2008 RAE and the importance which the University attached to the provision of opportunities for University staff in scholarship and research across the curriculum.

Following discussion the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G566;
- b) noted the changes in the conduct of the 2008 RAE, and
- c) noted the University’s strategy for submission to the 2008 RAE.

**06/54**

#### **ITEMS FOR RECEIPT**

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

Academic Board	:	17 April 2007
	:	29 May 2007

**06/55**

#### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

The meeting closed at 15.54 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry  
**Clerk to the Board of Governors**  
28 June 2007