

BOARD OF GOVERNORS**Minutes of the meeting held on
25 JUNE 2008
at 1400 hrs at Newton Park**

<u>Present :</u>	Mr I Ahluwalia Mr J Amey Mr J Anderson Professor J Brown Mr A Harris Mr P Luna Professor F Morgan (Vice Chancellor) Mr P Parker (Deputy Chair)	Mr I Phillips Ms S Pirie (Chair) Mr M Roy Professor G Smith Ms M Toman Mr Van De Woestyne Cllr C Watt
<u>In attendance :</u>	Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk) Mr J Brady Mr S McDonough J Couzens-Smith	Dr A Thomas Professor D Timms Mr K Wright
<u>Unable to attend:</u>	Ms C Bull	

07/49 MINUTES : 30 APRIL 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2008, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

07/50 MATTERS ARISING

None

07/51 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**07/51.1 J. Couzens – Smith : President elect of the Students' Union**

On behalf of the Board, the Chair welcomed Joey Couzens – Smith to the meeting. Mr Couzens – Smith had been elected as President of the Students' Union with effect from 1 July 2008. In welcoming the President elect, the Chair expressed her appreciation, on behalf of the Board, to the retiring President, Mr James Anderson.

07/51.2 Resignation of Ms S Talbot - Williams

The Chair reported the resignation from the Board of Governors of Ms S Talbot – Williams due to increasing work commitments. The Board expressed its appreciation for the valuable support provided by Ms Talbot – Williams over a significant period in the history of Bath Spa University.

07/51.3 Application for Degree Awarding Powers

The Chair reminded members that at their previous meeting, the Board had noted that the QAA was to undertake a second visit and inspection in relation to this application (Minute 07/40.1, 30 April refers). The visit, which had included interviews with staff, students and Governors' representatives (Professor J Brown, Ms C Bull and Mr M Roy), had taken place on 23 May 2008.

At the invitation of the Chair, Professor D Timms reported on the latest position in relation to the application. The Privy Council would consider the recommendations of the QAA, together with the advice of the Minister for Higher Education thereon, on 17 July 2008, following which the Vice Chancellor would be advised formally of the outcome of the application.

07/52 STUDENTS' UNION BUDGET 2008 / 09

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G596, recommending the level of block grant payable to the Students' Union (SU) for 2008 / 09, and invited the retiring President of the SU, James Anderton, to comment on relevant aspects of the SU budget.

Following consideration the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G596, and
- b) approved the block grant for the Students' Union 2007 / 08 in the sum of £226,011.

07/53 BUDGET 2008 / 09

The Director of Finance and Resources referred to Paper G597, seeking approval for the budget 2008 / 09. The budget had been recommended for approval by Policy & Resources Committee earlier in the day and previously had been discussed by the Board (Minute 07/41, 30 April 2008) and by the Academic Board (Paper D326, Minute 07/27, 20 May 2008).

Following consideration the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G597;
- b) approved the students rents and licence periods 2008 / 09, and
- c) approved the Budget 2008 / 09.

07/54 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2008 / 09

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G598 reporting :

- progress towards achievement of the 13 actions identified in the 2007 / 08 Operating Plan, approved by the Board of Governors at its June 2007 meeting (Paper G562, Minute 06/49 refers)
- the Annual Operating Plan for 2008 / 09. This identified ten priorities for the year, including a new action of establishing an alumni function

Following discussion the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G598;
- b) noted progress against the current year's operating plan;

- c) noted that a new strategic plan for the next three years would be submitted to the Board of Governors in June 2009, and
- d) agreed the Annual Operating Plan for 2008 / 09.

07/55

ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

Note: Prior to consideration of this item, the Clerk informed the Board that, whilst the report contained specific reference to properties owned or to be leased from the local authority, he believed there to be no conflict of interest on the part of Cllr C Watt. Accordingly, Cllr Watt remained present throughout discussion of this matter,

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G599 advising the Board of Governors of progress in the procurement of teaching, office and residential accommodation to meet the University's needs in the short and medium term (Minute 07/42, 30 April 2008 refers).

Mr A E Dewberry expanded on his report with particular reference to:

- withdrawal from 18 – 20 Somerset Place and occupation of Riverside Court, Lower Bristol Road, Bath
- negotiations for lease of property at Dartmouth Avenue, Bath
- proposed developments and the planning application in respect thereof (due to be determined in July 2008), Sion Hill Campus
- Corsham Court
- Newton Park
- relocation of PGCE courses to Culverhay and South Down Schools
- securing of additional and replacement student residential accommodation

Following discussion the Board of Governors :

- a) received Paper G599, and
- b) noted the progress being made in the acquisition of appropriate teaching, office and residential accommodation.

07/56

STUDENT EVENT : "WE ARE SPA FESTIVAL"

The Vice Chancellor referred to Paper G600 describing the purpose and outcome of this Event, organised by the Students' Union to coincide with the previous meeting of the Board of Governors (Minute 07/42 30 April 2008 refers).

The Event had sought to celebrate student skills and attainment with particular regard to music and arts related subjects and had also provided an opportunity for students to register concerns in relation to their experience at Bath Spa University.

The Vice Chancellor had sought to ensure that any concerns raised through the Students' Union should be properly addressed and accordingly, had discussed the issues raised at the Event with student representatives. Of the six issues raised, three had now been satisfactorily addressed and two were currently under review pending receipt of further information.

However, due to accommodation and associated timetabling constraints, it had not been possible fully to resolve the remaining issue, (a longstanding wish for students to have Wednesday afternoons free of timetabled teaching

to enable them to participate in SU social and sporting events). Nevertheless, a range of actions had been taken which would enable those students who so wished to participate in Wednesday afternoon activities without damaging their course commitments. These arrangements represented the most that could be achieved given current accommodation constraints.

The Students' Union President, James Anderton, confirmed that the Students' Union was very satisfied with the response of the University to the issues raised by students. The position in relation to Wednesday afternoons was recognised and accepted.

Following discussion the Board of Governors received Paper G600.

07/57 QAA : INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT : UPDATE

The Vice Chancellor introduced Paper G601 advising the Board of Governors of the outcomes of the QAA Institutional Audit 2008.

The 2008 Institutional Audit report was very positive and reflected great credit on colleagues. The report constituted a resounding success for the University and was an excellent foundation on which to build BSU academic developments over the next six years.

Following discussion the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G601, and
- b) noted the findings of the QAA Institutional Audit 2008.

07/58 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

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

Policy & Resources : 30 January 2008

07/59 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 15.15 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Clerk to the Board of Governors
26 June 2008