

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 APRIL 2009 at 13.30 hrs at Newton Park

Present:

Mr J Amey	Professor F Morgan (Vice Chancellor)
Ms C Bull	Mr P Parker (Deputy Chair)
Mr J Cozens-Smith	Mr I Phillips
Mr A Harris	Mr M Roy
Ms L Ludwell	Ms M Toman
Revd E Mason	Cllr C Watt
Professor T Middleton	

In attendance:

Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk)	Dr A Thomas
Mr O Bankole	Professor D Timms
Mr J Brady	Mr S McDonough
Mrs C Puddicombe	Mrs A Stone
Professor N Sammells	Mr K Wright
Mr W Cole (from agenda item 8 – Minute 08/42)	

Unable to attend: Mr I Ahluwalia, Professor J Brown, Professor P Luna, Ms S Pirie (Chair)

08/30 MINUTES : 28 JANUARY 2009

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2009, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

08/31 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 08/24.2 Disciplinary Appeals Committee

The Vice Chancellor reported that, pursuant to Minute 08/24.2 (appointing a Disciplinary Appeals Committee to consider an appeal against dismissal submitted by a member of staff), that Committee had upheld the dismissal. This concluded matters insofar as the University's internal disciplinary proceedings applied.

08/32 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed Revd E Mason to his first meeting of the Board of Governors.

08/33 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE : MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk referred to Paper G619 recommending the appointment of Ms Caroline Bull as a member of the Policy and Resources Committee consequent on the vacancy arising following the resignation from the Board of Ms Sarah Talbot-Williams.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received report G619, and
- b) approved the appointment of Ms Caroline Bull as a member of the Policy and Resources Committee with immediate effect.

08/34 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Clerk referred to Paper G620 advising the Board of Governors that the periods of office of the following Independent members of the Board would expire on 21 November 2009:

Ms Caroline Bull	Ms Stella Pirie
Mr Ian Phillips	Mr Mike Roy

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received report G588, and
- b) noted that, in accordance with the established procedures the Clerk would invite nominations from Governors and University students and staff for consideration by the Nominations Committee in due course.

08/35 CO-OPTED MEMBER: EDUCATION

The Clerk referred to Paper G621 informing the Board that Section 3(4) of the Instrument of Government required the Board to have within its composition one Co-opted Member “who has experience in the provision of education”, a position currently held by Mr Andrew Harris whose term of office as a co-opted member will expire on 21 November 2009.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G621, and
- 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 Board’s Nominations Committee in due course.

08/36 CO-OPTED MEMBER: PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS UNION 2009 / 10

The Clerk referred to Paper G622 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 18 March 2009. Mr Joey Cozens-Smith had been re-elected President of the Students' Union for the year commencing 1 July 2009.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- received Paper G622, and
- noted the re-election of Mr Joey Cozens-Smith as President of the Students' Union 2009 / 10 and as a co-opted member of the Corporation for the year commencing 1 July 2009.

08/37 CHAIR'S ACTION : STANDING ORDER 33

The Clerk referred to Paper G623 advising the Board of Governors of action taken by the Chair under Standing Order 33, which enables the Chair to deal with any function of the Board in the intervals between Board meetings where a delay in such action would be seriously detrimental to the interests of the Corporation or to the interests of any student or employee of the University. The Clerk was required to report all such actions to the next available meeting of the Board.

In this instance, the Chair had approved signing of a contract between the University and UNITE the effect of which was to secure additional nomination rights for BSU first year students arriving in September 2009. It was essential that the contract be signed at the earliest opportunity in order to ensure that the new accommodation was made available and marketed to students in a timely manner. Full details of the nominations agreement had been reported to and noted by the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held earlier that day.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- received Paper G623, and
- noted the action taken by the Chair under Standing Order 33.

08/38 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to Paper G624 setting out a revised schedule of meetings for the period June 2009 – November 2011 and including a proposal to convene meetings of the Audit and Policy & Resources Committees concurrently.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- received Paper G624, and
- approved the revised Schedule of Meetings including the arrangement for concurrent meetings of Audit and Policy & Resources Committees.

08/39 VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Vice Chancellor had no issues to report.

08/40 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2009 / 10

Introducing Paper G625, the Vice Chancellor referred to his recent letter to Governors which set out the financial position of the University. The timely actions being taken now to address forecast financial deficits would enable the University to move forward and continue to encourage new and innovative developments whilst at the same time protecting the financial health of the institution.

The Policy & Resources Committee, following consideration of Paper G625 earlier that day, had expressed its satisfaction with the actions being taken to achieve financial objectives.

At the invitation of the Chair Mr J Brady, Director of Resources, expanded on Paper G625.

During the ensuing discussion the Board of Governors noted:

- the major factors which would influence preparation of the 2009 / 2010 budget including the significant financial changes impacting BSU during 2009 / 2010. Timely and appropriate responses were being taken and / or proposed to address these changes, including the freezing of a number of vacant posts
- the opportunity provided by the paper for the Board of Governors to make suggestions and / or requirements in advance of detailed budget proposals which would be presented to the Board at their meeting in June 2009
- the changing situation in relation to student rents which would result in a net loss of rent income notwithstanding that additional nomination rights had been secured. The adverse impact on student finances arising from the increase in rent and the proposed increase in the licensing period for student lets was acknowledged. This was regrettable but, in the circumstances (including the high level of market rents in the Bath area), was unavoidable

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G625;
- b) noted that the detailed annual revenue budget would be presented to the Board for approval at the June 2009 meeting, and
- c) approved the proposed 2009 / 2010 student rents and revised licence periods as set out in Appendix B.

08/41 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

At the invitation of the Vice Chancellor, Mr S A McDonough, Corporate Services Manager, gave a presentation supporting Paper G626 which described progress in the implementation of the University's Environmental Policy. The Board noted in particular:

- significant achievements by the University in developing environmental management and in particular in meeting improved environmental performance standards as required by the EcoCampus programme
- revised environmental targets for 2009 / 2010 including attainment of EcoCampus Gold and Platinum accreditation as a pre-requisite to achieving a key strategic objective of the University : ISO 14001 accreditation
- the increasingly regulatory nature of environmental management and the developing requirements on the higher education sector to become an exemplar of sustainability

- the proposal, within financial constraints, for investment in resources (finance, plant and expertise) to achieve targets in environmental performance and the significant business and financial benefits which would arise from, and offset, this investment
- the increasing interaction with, and support from, students in the development of the University's Environmental Policy in general and in relation to EcoCampus accreditation in particular.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- received paper G626, and
- noted the progress made towards achievement of the key strategic objectives of EcoCampus/ISO accreditation (including the specific actions detailed in Table 1 of the Paper and the intention to seek EcoCampus Gold accreditation during the current year).

08/42 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRESS REPORT

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr A E Dewberry Deputy Vice Chancellor, referred to Paper G627, summarising significant actions and developments in relation to Health & Safety management across the institution over the previous year and including relevant accident statistics for the period.

Following discussion the Board of Governors:

- received Paper G627, and
- noted the proposed implementation of the Health & Safety Action Plan.

08/43 RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE (RAE) : FINANCIAL OUTCOME

The successful outcome for the University of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) was noted by the Board of Governors at their meeting held on 28 January 2009 (Paper G616, Minute 08/25 refers).

At the invitation of the Chair, Professor D Timms Deputy Vice Chancellor, expanded on Paper G628 which provided detailed information on the financial effects of the RAE 2008, including comparisons with the outcomes of the RAE 2001 and the implications of this in terms of increased research income from HEFCE and the future research ambitions and activities of the University.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- received Paper G628, and
- noted the financial outcomes of the 2008 RAE.

08/44 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

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

Policy & Resources Committee	:	5 November 2008
Audit Committee	:	5 November 2008
Academic Board	:	1 July 2008
		7 October 2008

08/45 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Board of Governors noted the oral report of the Clerk regarding:

- a) the arrangements for the June 2009 meeting of the Board which would include lunch for all Governors at 1230 hrs, and
- b) the resignation of Mr S McDonough , Corporate Services Manager and Deputy Clerk to the Board who was attending his final meeting of the Board following his appointment as Clerk to the Board of Governors, University of Central Lancashire. The Board noted with thanks the contribution made by Mr McDonough to its work over the past 4 years.

The meeting closed at 15.15 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Clerk to the Board of Governors
23 April 2009