

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 JUNE 2009 at 1400 hrs at Newton Park

<u>Present :</u>	Mr I Ahluwalia Mr J Amey Ms C Bull Mr J Cozens-Smith Mr A Harris Professor P Luna Revd E Mason	Professor T Middleton Professor F Morgan (Vice Chancellor) Ms S Pirie (Chair) Mr M Roy Ms M Toman Cllr C Watt
<u>In attendance :</u>	Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk) Professor D Timms Mr J Brady Ms A Stone Mr D Hamilton (agenda item 12)	Dr A Thomas Professor N Sammells Mr K Wright Mrs C Puddicombe Mrs J Conibere
<u>Unable to attend:</u>	Professor J Brown, Ms L Ludwell, Mr P Parker, Mr I Phillips	

08/40 **MINUTES : 22 APRIL 2009**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2009, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

08/41 **MATTERS ARISING**

None

08/42 **CLERKS BUSINESS**

Committee of University Chairs : Guide for Governors 2009

The Clerk confirmed that a copy of the latest edition of the CUC Guide had been sent to every Governor. The Board noted that there were no amendments to this Guide that required the Board to take action or on which to express an opinion.

08/43 **VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Investors in People

The Vice Chancellor informed the Board of a successful outcome to the recent review of the University's Investors in People Award.

Meetings with Staff

The Vice Chancellor expanded on his programme of meetings with small groups of staff across the University to discuss among other things, the institution's strengths and weaknesses, its financial position and its accommodation strategy.

The Board was advised of the need to reassess the University's corporate objectives in the light of changing economic circumstances, possible political changes in 2010 and to reflect the maturation of the institution including the recent acquisition of research degree awarding powers. The latter has prompted a review of the notion of a 'Teaching-Led' university and the institution's research strategy. This coupled with the possibility of less emphasis on inclusivity, required the University to reposition itself appropriately to meet a new higher education environment.

08/44 STUDENTS' UNION BUDGET 2009 / 10

Mr J Brady referred to Paper G629 recommending the level of block grant payable to the Students' Union for 2009 / 10.

The Vice Chancellor emphasised the important role played by the Students' Union in the provision of services to students and to the comprehensiveness of the student experience.

The President of the Students' Union, Mr J Couzens-Smith, expanded on the SU proposals including the recent development of a fitness centre at Newton Park.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G629, and
- b) approved a block grant of £228,271 for 2009 / 10.

08/45 BUDGET 2009 / 10

The Vice Chancellor referred to Paper G630 seeking approval to the University's Budget 2009 / 10 which incorporated proper resources not only to maintain course quality but also to support development and innovation.

Mr J Brady expanded on his report noting that this budget was based broadly on previous projections but now incorporated an additional recommendation to allocate £3.565m of HEFCE capital funding to finance the major redevelopment of the Sion Hill campus due to be completed in September 2009.

The Board noted that the budget proposals had been fully endorsed by the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting earlier that day.

The Vice Chancellor advised the Board that the timing of required savings over a period of years would allow the institution to review its structure and strategies in a very positive and forward looking manner.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G630;
- b) approved the Budget 2009 / 10 described in Appendix A pages 1 and 2, Column E, and
- c) approved the allocation of £3,565,000 from HEFCE funding to finance the capital elements of the Sion Hill development and the postgraduate and research centre at Corsham Court.

08/46 STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 / 10 TO 2011 / 12

The Vice Chancellor outlined the University's general strategy and reminded the Board of the need to submit a 3 year Strategic Plan to HEFCE.

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper G631 detailing the draft Strategic Plan for 2009 / 10 to 2011 / 12.

The Board considered several aspects of the plan including the role of international students, the potential for 2 year degree courses and links with the local and regional economies.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G631;
- b) noted the need to strengthen references to international students and the University's contribution to the local and regional economies;
- c) requested a report to the January 2010 meeting on research and undergraduate provision following consideration by the Academic Board, and
- d) delegated authority to the Vice Chancellor to sign off the final version prior to submission to HEFCE.

08/47

ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

The Director of Estates, Mrs C Puddicombe, referred to Paper G632 reporting progress made with regard to the University's Accommodation Strategy with particular reference to the potential for major redevelopment of the Newton Park campus.

Following two days of intensive workshop activity involving senior staff, Ms C Bull and senior representatives of key stakeholders (Duchy of Cornwall, Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, English Heritage and Bath & North East Somerset Council as local planning authority), substantial progress had been made in identifying the core opportunities and constraints to development.

These had been refined at a further meeting with the Prince's Foundation and broad agreement had now been reached on the siting and capacity of both additional academic and student residential accommodation.

The Vice Chancellor, whilst welcoming the progress made, reminded the Board that work to date and the further development of options had cost implications which would need to be monitored very carefully.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors received Paper G632.

08/48

BSU STANDING IN NEWSPAPER LEAGUE TABLES

The Vice Chancellor reminded the Board that the University is assessed by reference to a range of data and indicators developed by independent external agencies such as HEFCE, HESA, Ofsted, etc. National newspapers then perform a summarising exercise in drafting national league tables which are important in of marketing the institution and student recruitment.

Dr A Thomas expanded on Paper G633 describing BSU's position in the major published league tables.

Following discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G633;
- b) noted that the University's position remains consistently at about half way on lists of all universities and firmly in the upper quartile of teaching-led universities, and

- c) noted that a further report on BSU's performance against its peers will be made in the November cycle.

08/49 WIDENING PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Mr D Hamilton referred to Paper G634 informing the Board of the request from HEFCE for the submission of a widening participation strategic assessment by 30 June 2009. The University's draft response was tabled for consideration by the Board.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G634, and
- b) authorised the Vice Chancellor to sign off the final submission to HEFCE.

08/50 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

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

Policy & Resources	:	28 January 2009
Audit Committee	:	5 November 2008
Academic Board	:	7 October 2008
		10 March 2009

08/51 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 15.35 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Clerk to the Board of Governors
25 June 2009