

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held on

30 JUNE 2010

At 1400 hrs at Newton Park

Present:

Mr I Ahluwalia
Revd Prof J Brown
Ms C Bull
Mr J Cozens-Smith
Mr A Harris
Ms L Ludwell

Professor T Middleton
Professor F Morgan (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr I Phillips
Mrs S Pirie (Chair)
Mr M Roy

In attendance:

Dr A Thomas (Clerk)
Mr D Hamilton (Deputy Clerk)
Mr O Bankole (Item 09/52)
Mr R Bidgood
Mr J Brady

Mrs C Puddicombe
Professor N Sammells
Mrs A Stone
Professor S Ward (Item 09/55)
Mr K Wright

Apologies:

Mr J Amey, Professor P Luna, Revd E Mason, Mr P Parker, Ms M Toman, Cllr C Watt

The Chair welcomed Dr Alun Thomas and Mr D Hamilton to their first meeting in their respective roles as Clerk and Deputy-Clerk to the Board.

She also welcomed Mr R Bidgood as the incoming President of the Students' Union and thanked Mr J Cozens-Smith as the outgoing President.

09/45 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2010, which had been circulated, were accepted.

09/46 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that appear elsewhere on the agenda.

The Vice-Chancellor referred to 09/35 and the 'Possible visit of Million + spokesperson' He would issue an invitation probably after government announcements concerning higher education. He suggested that UUK may be a better body to approach than Million +.

09/47 CLERK'S BUSINESS

09/47.1 Chair Appointment

Mrs S Pirie vacated the Chair and the room. The Clerk took the Chair to conduct paper G664 and the appointment of a Chair to the Higher Education Corporation.

Following discussion the Board agreed unanimously to recommendation a) and the suspension of standing order 32(f) for purposes of this appointment only.

The Board then unanimously elected Mrs S Pirie to the Chair of the Higher Education Corporation for a period of three years to 31st August 2013.

Mrs S Pirie retook the Chair

09/48 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Board agreed to defer a verbal report on the discussion that had taken place that morning in Policy and Resources Committee with Mr B Ross from the Duchy of Cornwall to the next agenda item.

09/49 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the following:

09/49.1 Nominations Committee

The Vice-Chancellor referred to progress on Governance arrangements since paper G655 was discussed at the Board's previous meeting on 28th April 2010. Earlier today a group of Governors had met and agreed to serve as a Nominations Committee. The five members are:

1. Revd E Mason
2. Professor T Middleton
3. Mr I Phillips
4. Mrs S Pirie
5. Mr M Roy

Professor F Morgan (Vice-Chancellor) will be in attendance as will be Dr A Thomas (Clerk to Governors)

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the terms of reference of the Nominations Committee, the backcloth of the audit of Governor's skills, and the need to conclude and legitimise arrangements at the next meeting of the Board in November 2010.

09/49.2 Appeals Against Dismissals Including Redundancy

The Vice-Chancellor introduced Paper G672, which had been tabled.

He informed the Board that in current financial conditions the university was experiencing a number of appeals against redundancies. As redundancies are classified as dismissals within current procedures any appeal is heard by a sub committee of Governors. There were a number that needed to be heard in the near future and a panel had been established to hear two of them.

The panel would be:

Mr M Roy
Mr A Harris
Professor F Morgan (Vice-Chancellor)

In the view of the Vice-Chancellor such appeals were likely to become more frequent and he was mindful of the demands this could place on Governors under the present system. He therefore invited them to consider how they would wish to proceed informed by Paper G672.

Following discussion Governors resolved to amend proposal 3.1 in Paper G672 to read:

"The Board delegates authority to the Vice-Chancellor to convene an Appeals Panel that will seek to include one Governor who is financially independent of the university and a member of senior staff who was not involved in the decision to dismiss, to hear the appeal"

09/49.3 Strategic Board Discussions

The Vice-Chancellor spoke of the value to the Board of having more time with senior officers to discuss matters of strategic development for the university. The Board had welcomed previous sessions and he considered it was timely to repeat. Discussion at the Board concurred with this view and it was suggested by Revd Prof J Brown that consideration be given to a seminar preceded by dinner the night before.

The Vice-Chancellor agreed to produce a proposed agenda and consult further with Members of the Board.

09/49.4 Meeting with Mr B Ross from the Duchy of Cornwall

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the meeting with Mr B Ross who had been invited to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at 10 a.m. prior to this meeting of the Board. The Vice Chancellor outlined the position of the Duchy of Cornwall with regard to developments at Newton Park.

He confirmed that the university will continue to invite the Duchy of Cornwall to all future consultation meetings along with other stakeholders in the development.

09/50 NEWTON PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mrs Carolyn Puddicombe presented paper G665. She reported on progress with regard to both academic purposes and student residential accommodation. In addition approval was being sought for the arrangements for the submission of the detailed planning application for the first phase of academic development.

In particular she referred to the work of university 'User Groups' and their involvement in discussions about the design specifications. A variety of display boards and models illustrated the progress of the development.

A concern for the Environment is central to our proposals and an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the planning application.

The Board discussed the implications for the university's cashflow and the level of risk associated with the proposed developments. Subsequently they received the report and agreed to the recommendation to delegate the decision on the timing of the submission of the planning application to the Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Governors.

09/51 BUDGET 2010/11

The Vice-Chancellor introduced Paper G666 whose purpose was to seek approval for the 2010/11 university budget. He said it is a vigorous strategy that is proceeding well yet remains challenging. There is more that we have to learn about the new government's financial policies and that will not be more apparent until the autumn statement. In addition, the Browne Independent Review into higher education funding and student finance has yet to conclude its work and that is very likely to provide further information about the future movement of fees for students.

The Vice-Chancellor said it was important that we retained a proper balance between financial management and innovation for the future. Of greater importance will be the need to refer with increasing frequency to changes in our external environment.

Mr Brady continued by outlining the key features in the paper.

He drew particular attention to the benefits in these times of the 215 additional student places secured from a bid prepared by Dr Thomas. This had secured an additional £2.8 million and had the potential to secure up to £4.5 million.

The Board approved the budget 2010/11 with the relevant appendix.

09/52 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2009/10.

Mr Bankole joined the meeting and was invited by the Chair to present Paper G667. He reported that the university was making significant progress in environmental activities and had recently achieved a very good 11th place ranking out of 133 in the Times Higher Green League. In addition, progress was continuing to achieve Platinum ECOCampus/SO 14001 certification.

He reported that there was still potential for the university to improve upon recent achievements.

The Board conveyed a vote of thanks to Mr Bankole and his colleagues, received the paper and noted the recommendations.

09/53 CARBON REDUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Mrs Carolyn Puddicombe spoke to paper G668 and reported on the preparation of the Carbon Reduction Plan and sought endorsement from the Board for the Carbon reduction Policy Statement which aims to achieve BS16001.

In addition, she informed the Board that in January 2010 HEFCE was involved in setting targets for reductions in higher education's carbon footprint and that the implementation of a carbon management plan will be a mandatory requirement of the forthcoming capital investment framework due for publication in the Summer of 2010.

The Board approved the recommendation in the Paper.

09/54 STUDENTS' UNION BUDGET 2010/11 AND CHANGES TO THE STUDENTS' UNION CONSTITUTION.

Dr Thomas introduced Paper 669 with Mr J Cozens-Smith the Students' Union President. Mr J Cozens-Smith reported that the budget had been scrutinised and variations in spend accounted for. He re-affirmed that the Students' Union was looking to provide further efficiencies across the coming financial year. He confirmed that it will not cross subsidise any commercial services.

He explained that the changes to the Constitution were required to comply with the Charities Act 2006. Amongst other things, this required the Students' Union to

register and appoint external trustees. The revised constitution is based on National Students' Union best practice and legal advice has also been taken.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Mr J Cozens-Smith and his colleagues for their reasonable and businesslike approach to the affairs of the Students' Union. He extolled the considerable added value they bring to the student experience at the university.

The Board recorded their thanks to the officers of the Students' Union and accepted the papers' recommendations.

09/55 UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP OF ACADEMIES

Professor S Ward joined the meeting and was invited by the Chair to present Paper G670. He explained that the purpose of the developments was to contribute to the community and enhance partnerships with local schools. In particular, he spoke to the developments with the Diocese of Salisbury and Bath and North East Somerset Council.

The Board discussed how proposed changes in government policy might effect the development of academies and with particular concern to those outlined in this paper.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke of the importance of the university being engaged with mainstream government initiatives in this sector of education and the need to recognise the distinction between business partnerships and those with schools.

The Board noted and approved the two recommendations in the paper.

09/56 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

Paper G671 was introduced by Dr Thomas. He drew the Board's attention to good progress in all areas other than student employment. The Board discussed the extent to which this will be enhanced by the changes made to the modular scheme and the possible implications funding implications.

The Board noted this year's progress and agreed the action plan for next year.

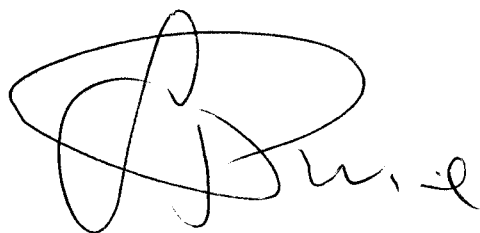
09/57 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE :	27 JANUARY 2010
ACADEMIC BOARD :	9 MARCH 2010

09/58 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

The meeting closed at 16.00 hrs



Mr D Hamilton
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Governors
8 July 2010