

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held on

27th April 2011

At 13 30 hrs at Newton Park

Present:

Mr I Ahluwalia
Mr R Bidgood
Revd Prof J Brown
Ms C Bull
Mr A Harris
Professor P Luna
Revd E Mason

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

In attendance:

Dr A Thomas (Clerk)
Mr D Hamilton (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs A Stone
Mr K Wright

Mrs C Puddicombe
Professor N Sammells
Mr J Brady

Apologies:

Ms L Ludwell

10/30 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2011, which had been circulated, were accepted.

10/31 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

10/32 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair introduced paper G700 which provided the Board with an update on the recruitment of the new Vice-Chancellor.

Governors noted the progress made so far.

10/33 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Vice-Chancellor referred to a number of significant areas concerning the future of the University:

The Budget

Industrial Action

Tuition Fees

Newton Park Developments.

10/33.1 The Budget

The Vice-Chancellor referred the Board to Paper G695 on the Budget Proposals 2011/12. He emphasised the importance of the paper.

10/33.2 Industrial Action

At the Vice-Chancellor's invitation Mrs A Stone reported to the Board. In particular she referred to the one day of strike action taken by the UCU on 24th March 2011. This action was prompted by their concerns about job protection and changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

10/33.3 Tuition Fees

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the decision of Policy and Resources Committee to set a fee of £9,000 for undergraduate courses at the University from the start of the academic year 2012-13. This fee had been set with regard to, amongst other things, current market conditions, bursaries and fee waivers.

Governors discussed the decision and were in particular concerned about support for poorer students, the importance of investing any additional income in improved facilities, and how the current market equilibrium may be affected in the longer term should there be an increase in the aggregate supply of places to the sector.

10/33.4 Newton Park Developments

In his update to the Board the Vice-Chancellor referred to the discussion at Policy and Resources Committee prior to this meeting. It had noted and assessed the significance of the decision of Bath and North East Council to withdraw the University's application for its Newton Park Developments immediately prior to consideration at the Council's Planning Committee on 13th April 2011.

10/34 CLERK'S REPORT

10/34.1 Independent Members

Dr Thomas presented Paper G693.

The Board noted the recommendation for the appointment of Independent members.

10/34.2 Co-opted Member: President of the Students' Union 2011-12

Dr Thomas presented Paper G694.

The Board noted the re-election of Mr Richard Bidgood as President of the Students' Union 2011-12 and his renewed membership as a member of the Corporation w.e.f 1 July 2011 and offered their congratulations.

10/35 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2011/12 – CONFIDENTIAL PAPER

The Vice-Chancellor introduced Paper G 695 which had also been received by the Policy and Resources Committee immediately prior to this meeting and invited Mr Brady to speak to the substance of the proposals.

Mr Brady reported that the budget is one that meets the strategic plans of the University and in particular enables continued promotion of the research strategy. He informed the Board that it provides flexibility and is a comfortable budget.

The Board were concerned that the University was mindful of the likelihood of increasing financial pressure upon students and how this might be ameliorated by rent charges set for accommodation by the University. This included further consideration of means to raise commercial income from periods when students were not in residence.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the Board of past and current constraints on realising such income whilst the University's estate had been subject to considerable development but agreed that it was an area that required further consideration by the University and that a further report would be provided for the Board.

The Board received the report, noted that a detailed annual revenue budget will be presented for approval in June 2011 and approved the proposed 2011/12 arrangements for student rents.

10/36 STUDENTS' UNION CODE OF PRACTICE

Dr Thomas presented Paper G696 and informed the Board that its purpose was to demonstrate conformity with the Education Act of 1994.

The Board agreed the Student's Union Code of Practice and noted that a report covering adherence to the Code of Practice will be brought to the Board annually henceforth.

10/37 REVIEW OF BOARD'S EFFECTIVENESS

Dr Thomas presented Paper G697 and reported on the results of the questionnaire circulated to Board members on 9th February 2011. Whilst the responses demonstrated a high degree of overall satisfaction they had also identified certain areas capable of improvement.

The Board engaged in a long and full discussion about its own effectiveness prompted by the report. In particular the Board was concerned to determine the means to encourage fuller discussion at its meetings. In this consideration the Board took account of the effectiveness of the work of its committees and the very competent papers it received from the Vice-Chancellor and his officers.

From a range of proposals the Board found particular merit in having one paper for each meeting listed as 'for discussion' and for suitable training courses to be circulated to members.

The Board noted the report and action being put in place to address induction, training and member's involvement.

10/38 HEFCE ASSURANCE REVIEW

Dr Thomas presented Paper G698.

He reported that in response to the HEFCE Assurance Review of September 2010 Ms Fisk had been co-opted as an additional member of Audit Committee.

The Board noted the appointment.

10/39 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRESS REPORT

Dr Thomas presented Paper G699.

The Board were presented with a summary of significant actions and developments over the past year with supporting relevant accident statistics. The report was encouraging with accidents at the University in 2009/10 at a five year low.

The Board received the report.

10/40 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

MINUTES:

POLICY & RESOURCES: 3 NOVEMBER 2010

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 3 NOVEMBER 2010

ACADEMIC BOARD: 18 JANUARY 2011

10/41 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Members were asked to note the Board dinner on 28 June 2011 followed by Board meetings at their normal time the following day.

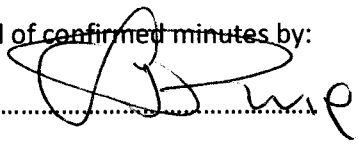
It was proposed that Ms Fisk be invited to the dinner.

The meeting closed at 15.00 hrs.

Mr D Hamilton
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Governors
5th May 2011

Signed as record of confirmed minutes by:

Mrs Stella Pirie
Convenor



Date: