

Mr Peter Nixon
Professor Ken Sloan
Mr Clive Beer
Ms Jess Millbank
Mrs Emma Foulkes
Mr Ken Greetham
Mr Mark Griffiths
Mrs Yvonne Hawkins
Mrs Debbie Winstanley
Ms Liz Salter
~~Mr Ben Shipston~~
Ms Barbara Bray

Chair
Vice-Chancellor

SU President

Dr Catherine Baxter
Jo Horsburgh
Mrs Liz Furey
Prof Michael Lee
Mrs K Baker
Dr Simone Clarke
Mr Ian Rowley
Annabel Porter

University Secretary & Clerk to the Board
Chief Operating Officer
Chief Financial Officer
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Deputy University Secretary
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education and Students)
Chief Global Impact Officer
Governance & Executive Projects Manager

Sebastian Soneyra
Libby Leech

Board Observer
Staff Observer

Noted: that sound progress was being made to address actions arising from the 2022 Effectiveness Review. Prior to the next meeting, members were content that a summary report would be prepared confirming the status of all actions with a view to seeking the Board's confirmation that all actions can be agreed to have been addressed appropriately ahead of the next Corporate Governance Statement which is due to be prepared for Year Ended 31 July 2023 and which will form part of the annual submission to the OfS in December 2023.

Received:

- i. an oral update from Professor Sloan on recent developments of note, including updates on the Pathology Project and the Station Quarter Project.
- ii. a presentation from Jo Horsburgh, (Chief Operating Officer) on the activation of Harper 2030.

Noted:

- i. that the University was delighted to have been voted Number One for "Best Career Prospects" at the recent What Uni Student Choice Awards. This is particularly pleasing as the award is determined by student votes. The University had also performed well in the other categories, including 17th in the University of the Year. This feedback showed that the University is performing in the upper quartile based on student feedback.
- ii. that a proposal had been shared with the Finance & General Purposes Committee regarding the development of the Pathology Project at Ni Park. Approval of total combined investment by the University and Telford & Wrekin Council of up to £16m was now being sought, as well as the formation of a sub-group of the Board in order to approve urgent agreements ahead of the next meeting as necessary. Members were supportive of the proposal and noted that the development would create important and much needed teaching, research and commercial opportunities.
- iii. that the Station Quarter project was at an earlier stage of development than the Pathology Project, but is progressing well.
- iv. that the scale of the financial commitment for Station Quarter was approx. £200k p/a in rental costs, for an initial five-year commitment. To make this financially viable, after the rent-free period expired, the University would need to increase student numbers by approx. 16%.
- v. that there is an ongoing mandate for industrial action from the University and Colleges Union (UCU) for Action Short of Strike, most likely to take the form of an Assessment and Marking Boycott. The level of participation of University staff is currently unclear, but appears minimal

ii.

Received: a report on the meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee held on 23 February 2023.

Noted:

- i. that honorary degrees are now the sector norm, rather than fellowships.
- ii. that support was sought from members for seven candidates to be invited to consider accepting honorary awards, and that this should remain confidential until a formal announcement could be made.
- iii. that in addition to honorary degrees, a proposal was made to consider awarding V-C's medals for outstanding achievements where appropriate, with selection criteria less stringent than those for honorary degrees.

Agreed:

- i. to endorse the proposal to introduce V-C's medals in line with C (iii) above.
- ii. that the seven candidates for Honorary Awards can be approached without further reference to the Board as set out in the agenda paper.

Received: an oral update from the University Secretary of the Nominations Committee meeting earlier in the day of 27 April 2023.

Noted:

- i. that a minor change to the selection criteria had been agreed, to include an emphasis on seeking individuals with digital/ IT specialist skills.
- ii. that Professor Mark Ormerod was coming to the end of his term in July 2023 and that arrangements were underway to secure a replacement Board member with HE/ academic expertise. The Nominations Committee had considered two potential candidates and had agreed to approach both of them to secure interest. Further details would follow by circulation if either or both candidates were interested. External advertising for replacement of other members approaching the end of their term would be considered in April 2024.
- iii. that the Committee was actively seeking to co-opt an additional student representative in line with the recommendations from the Board, with a view to securing a Postgraduate (research) representative to serve a two-year term.
- iv. that the Committee was planning succession for second Vice-Chairs and hoped to be able to update the Board with suggestions at the November meeting.
- v. that plans to review existing committees in line with the new Strategic Pillars would commence with the roll-out of the new Strategy.
- vi. that should the plans to approach two candidates with HE expertise and a PGR student member be successful then the Board would be at its maximum capacity during 2023/24.

Agreed: that the recommendations made by the Committee, with respect to new members, and second vice-chairs as set out above are supported and should be progressed.

Post meeting note: A special meeting to discuss generative AI will be hosted at the University at 15:00 on 6 July 2023.

Noted:

- i. that Debbie Winstanley had recently attended an event hosted by the Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies, with the Princess Royal in attendance, which had been very informative regarding food production and regenerative farming.
- ii. that Professor Jonathan Wastling would be leaving Keele to take up a new opportunity at Brunel and that thanks from the Board were extended to Professor Wastling.
- iii. that Liz Stephens (EA to V-C) and Samantha Vinall (EA to COO and University Secretary) would both be leaving to pursue new opportunities elsewhere. Members extended thanks to LS and particular thanks to SV for her support and assistance to the Board.
- iv. that this would be the final meeting for Jess Millbank as her term as President of the SU would be ending in June 2023. Members wished to thank JM for all her support and hard work. JM extended her thanks to the Board, and particularly to Debbie Winstanley for her support over the last year.

Members were reminded to submit their expenses within three months of being incurred, and that expenses older than six-months would not be paid. All members were asked to ensure they submit their final claim for 2022/23 no later than 15 July 2023 to meet year-end requirements.

Received: an updated report from the Deputy University Secretary on the key risk areas monitored by the Board of Governors.

Agreed: that Members had no issues to raise.

Received: a report on the meeting of the Development Trust held on 7 March 2023.

Agreed: that Members had no issues to raise.

Received:

- i. an Academic Overview Report 2021/22
- ii. an agreed Equality enhancement plan 2022/23
- iii. a progress report on the Access and Participation Plan (APP) 2021/22

