

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held onth1 May 2018

1. APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES

- 1.1 For a record of attendance and apologies, please see attached list.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed Lucy Conn, President of the Students' Union Designate and Harrison Jarrett, Vice President Designate who were attending as observers to the Board prior to taking up their new posts in June 2018. The Board resolved to record their thanks to Jade Haley, outgoing President of the Students' Union, for her outstanding contribution as a member of the Board of Governors over the past two years.
- 1.3 The Chair welcomed Pa Glover, Interim Clerk to the Board

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 No declarations of interest were reported

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2018 were approved as an accurate record (BG17/42)
- 3.2 Policy on Gifts, Hospitality and Bribery Prevention
- 3.2.1 It was reported that the Vice Chanc

4.3.3 Other areas of discussion included

- (i) concerns about mental health issues amongst students, which the Chair noted was a core area of focus for both Worcester Students' Union and

Frameworks (TEK, REF and KEF). academic restructure would be followed by a review of the professional infrastructure.

5.7.3 Staff had identified with the rationale for change, and had responded positively.

5.8 Student Experience and Student Engagement

5.8.1 The Pro Vice Chancellor (Students) reported that the University had risen four places in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey, a rise of 23 places over two years. The university had risen by 2 places in the What University Student Choice Award.

5.8.2 The 2018 National Student Survey (NSS) results would be published in summer. There had been good engagement with the Students' Union and the University, with 8.4% response rate, as compared to 70.29% nationally and 76% in 2017.

5.8.3 The Students' Union (SU) had also performed very well nationally being in the top 10 most improved Students' Unions in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey, and up 31 places in 'Whatuni Guide' .

6. REPORT FROM THE STUDENTS' UNION

6.1 The Board received for information and discussion the report from the President of the Students' Union (BG17/44)

6.2 There had been much good engagement with the student community, as shown by the increase in numbers of students who had been reached through the 'Out and about' initiative. The response to the 'Register to Vote' campaign and the success of the Student Choice Awards. The increased engagement in the Elections gave a strong mandate to the incoming officers, with engagement rates from placement students being particularly pleasing. A strong team of Student Representatives had been appointed.

6.3 There had been a positive atmosphere at the University fixtures. The pilot of a national campaign which aimed to get men talking about mental health had been launched at the Arena on 18 April.

6.4 The SU had arranged activities in support of Mental Health Awareness Week, and was providing support to students in particular during the exams assessment period.

6.5 There had been a disappointingly low level of registered student volunteering in response to opportunities promoted by the SU. However it was acknowledged that some internal volunteering was not recognised in the reported figures, and some hours might not yet have been logged. Work to address the downturn was underway, including increasing the number and quality of volunteering opportunities.

6.6 The annual Raise and Give (RAG) fundraising total had now risen to £12,700.

6.7 The Board of Trustees of the SU had approved key performance indicators (KPIs). Having improved its performance, the Union was now aiming to think longer term and more strategically. The first annual 'Big Survey' had been launched to find out how the SU could improve further and support as many students as possible. The outcomes will inform future KPIs.

6.8 The SU Board was seeking to recruit an external member with financial expertise.

- 7.3 Two enduring commitments had been identified, which could be articulated as a commitment to 'The Whole Person' drawing together the themes of inclusivity, the character of the University community, making the most of rich human potential, and 'learning to learn'; and the University's strength in delivering a 'Triangle of Professional Education', with the two base points being academic staff and professional mentors, supporting carefully selected, ambitious students to develop their capabilities.
- 7.4 The University had evidenced success in delivering 'a fair deal', as shown, for example, by being the best university for equal pay, and being in the top ten for graduate employment.
- 7.5 A further notable strength was the University's excellence in public engagement.
- 7.6 The Board was invited to consider whether these existing commitments and strengths remained fit for the future, in the context of imagining what the University would look like in 2023. The Board was invited to discuss two central strategic ideas:
- (i) the Student Benefit - the University's commitment to students, which was at the heart of everything that the University does; and
 - (ii)

- 8.3 As part of the registration process, the University was required to submit information about the membership of the Board. Governors would be asked to provide the required information, and to confirm in writing their consent to personal data being submitted to the OfS.
 - 8.4 The Board approved the establishment of a Review Group with delegated authority from the Board to review and grant formal approval of the University's OfS submission, with membership to be as set out in section 2 of paper BG17/45. Final editing and submission would be the responsibility of the Vice-Chancellor.
9. FORMAL APPROVAL ITEMS
- 9.1 Board Communications
 - 9.2 The Board approved

- 11.4.2 The Chair reported that the Nominations Committee had received five excellent applications from non-academic members of staff for the vacancy for a Co-opted Governor, as a result of which the Nominations Committee recommended that two appointments be made, noting that the resulting increase in the number of Co-opted Governors was permissible within the Board membership requirements as set out in the University's Instrument of Government.
- 11.4.3 The Board approved, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the appointment of Dr Sarah Pittaway and Mr Marc Scriven as Co-opted Staff Governors, from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2022.
- 11.4.4 The Board further approved that Dr Pittaway and Mr Scriven be invited to attend the meeting of the Board to be held on 9 July 2018 in an observer capacity.
- 11.5 Remunerations Committee
- 11.5.1 The Board resolved that consideration of the annual report of the Remunerations Committee of 2017/18 (BG 17/53) be reserved to members of the Board only, with the Director of Human Resources being in attendance, noting that the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive would not be present for this item.
- 11.6 Academic Board
- 11.6.1 The Board received an oral report from the Deputy Vice Chancellor on the meeting held on 4 April 2018.
- 11.6.2 The primary focus of the meeting had been the academic restructure.

