



## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022 at 13.00 hrs  
Room 1.11, Main House, Newton Park campus**

### Present:

Mr J Glasspool (Chair)	Ms J Luxford
Ms E Casey*	Ms V Nawthe
Mr A Durbacz	Professor S Rigby (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr S Egan	Mr S Shah
Ms M Evans	Dr E Wakelin
Ms S Lane	Ms A Workman

### In attendance:

Mr D Newman (University Secretary)  
Professor G Andrews (Provost)  
Mr J Gulrajani (Head of Data Improvement & Data Insights) – for item 10  
Mr R Jordan (Director of Estates) – for item 20  
Ms P Slater (Head of Academic Governance and Policy) – for items 12, 13 & 14  
Mr J Strachan\* (PVC Research and Enterprise) - for item 9  
Ms J Stocks (Chief Financial Officer)  
Ms J Conibere (Senior Chancery Administrator – Minutes)  
Ms K Lee (Observer)

\* attended virtually

## **22/22 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed governors to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair also specifically welcomed: the two new governors, Antony Durbacz and Sanjay Shah, to their first Board meeting; Jo Stocks who was attending her first meeting as Chief Financial Officer following the retirement of Paul Fox; and Kath Lee the new Governance Manager who would take up the role in January.
- 1.3 Apologies had been received from Dr J Brasted, Ms C Stott, M S Riad, Ms F Fryer, Ms S Harris, Mr N Sturge and Ms S Henriksen.

## **22/23 DECLARATION OF NEW INTERESTS**

- 2.1 There were none noted.

## **22/24 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 3.1 The Board **APPROVED** the minutes from the meeting held on 28 September 2022 as a true and accurate record.

## **22/25 MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 There were no new matters arising; those noted on the schedule of actions had either been completed or were due to be considered as part of the agenda for today's meeting.

## **22/26 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

- 5.1 The Chair commented on the shape of today's meeting agenda and emphasised the hard work undertaken by the senior management team, Students' Union, and staff over the past year reflecting on the challenges ahead.
- 5.2 The Board **APPROVED** the consent agenda.
- 5.3 It was noted the external auditors, Grant Thornton, were not in attendance but available virtually to comment on their report if governors had any urgent or significant issues to raise.

## **22.27 APPOINTMENT OF STAFF GOVERNOR (Paper G1264)**

- 6.1 As noted at the September meeting of the Board of Governors, Professor Jermaine Ravalier resigned as Staff Governor (Academic). The University Secretary reported that a process to invite Expressions of Interest from members of the Academic Board had been undertaken, with interest received from Professor Sabbir Ahmed to the vacant Staff Governor (Academic) role. The Board **AGREED** his appointment which would take effect immediately for a term of 3 years.

## **22.28 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (Paper G1265)**

- 7.1 Following the resignation of Joy Luxford, the Board was invited to approve the appointment of a new Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors. The Board warmly **APPROVED** the appointment of Dr Wakelin as Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors to take effect from the 16 December 2022.
- 7.2 It was noted the Deputy Chair is an ex officio member of the Remuneration Committee and the Nominations and Governance Committee and Dr Wakelin would automatically join the membership of those committees.

## **22.29 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE (Paper G1266)**

- 8.1 The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the new governors. A brief outline of the paper was given where it was emphasised it was important to see the diversity of what the University does.
- 8.2 A summary of the external environment was provided. Governors were informed that FE Colleges had been moved into Academy School status after the ruling about funding from the Office for National Statistics. The Board were provided with clarity with regards to concerns that the University might fall under the same funding restraints and the impacts it could have on future relationships with FE and colleges.
- 8.3 The relationship with Office for Students had improved. The University continues to work with them in response to their concerns about admissions and partner providers.

- 8.4 The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) submission was due in January 2023 with the University aiming for an overall Silver award status.
- 8.5 An update was provided on the 3 days of strike action by UCU and Unison. It was noted that, overall, the disruption of learning had caused mild disruption with no significant loss for students. It was noted the University's work with Unison had highlighted that the bottom of the pay spine was being squeezed with the lower pay grades being badly affected by inflation and the cost of living. The University was struggling to fill posts at these grades and was working on a proposal to remediate this and would seek the Board's approval in the future to raise the pay grades at a likely cost of around £0.5m annually which would be factored into future budgets.
- 8.6 PGCE recruitment was slightly lower than last year but had been offset by increases in students on the Teach First programme and notably an increase in international students. It was too early to estimate the application numbers for 2023/24 entry but the news on recruitment was positive.
- 8.7 It was reported that financially the University was in a good position. The difficulties to recruit staff, expected costs for inflation, increased energy bills, pay costs and targeted financial support for students in semester 2 were noted.
- 8.8 An update on the status and position with the local authority regarding the planning permission for the development at Locksbrook was provided. It was noted the council's position had shifted towards industrial use and the University was working with them to determine a way forward regarding this.
- 8.9 In relations to partnerships, the feedback from the OfS had been positive. Governors were informed the University was continuing to make good progress, engaging with, and monitoring its educational partners.
- 8.10 The Board was informed the University was looking at its longer-term plans to develop other areas of income. [Redacted: FOI Exemption Section 43: Commercial Interests]
- 8.11 The Government's capping of fixed fees were noted, along with the University's flexibility of options. Growth and the cultural aspects were highlighted as areas for discussion at future board meetings.

[John Strachan joined the meeting]

## **22/30 REVISED RESEARCH STRATEGY (Paper G1267)**

- 9.1 Professor Strachan addressed the highlights of the revised research strategy where he demonstrated below the areas of change from the previous strategy. The following key areas were highlighted and followed with discussion.
- 9.2 It was noted the revised research strategy centres around the distinctiveness of BSU research and there was a need to focus and finesse on what the University does well. The Strategy would build on the research strengths of REF 2021, aim to enhance the reciprocal relationships between research, innovation, professional practice and teaching to ensure research and knowledge exchange activities are driven by the demands and help to drive and support the curriculum.
- 9.3 The operational plan demonstrates the University Wide Research Themes - Cultural and Creative Industries, The Story Society and the proposed new theme to support the Creative Quarter developments of Fashion and Global Sustainability at Locksbrook.

- 9.4 There was a priority to support the research on the University's areas which had achieved a majority of 3 and 4\* rated research in REF 201. It was noted there had been lengthy discussions with colleagues and collaboration to work towards ensuring a better REF. It was recognised there would be some difficult conversations for some areas. Widening global reach and the uncertainty of European affiliation following Brexit were noted.
- 9.5 The governors welcomed the Revised Research Strategy, noting it was well thought through and focused. The following comments were noted:
- 9.6 With the emphasis for the research culture high on the agenda it was important to be clear about the support on research career developments, diversity and integrity strains. With regards to reduction in support for some areas, attention to the PhD's recruitment was noted and in relation to finances and the new centre for fashion and sustainability to consider setting targets and the expectations to bring in funding to ensure self-sustaining. Preparations for the next REF with thoughts around who would be on the panel were made.
- 9.7 Consideration to look at the next stage and demonstrate operationally being successful. Thoughts around the plans, the KPI's and external body engagement. Addressing how it is operationalised and challenged, being mindful of financial investment.
- 9.8 The key reasons behind those areas of exceptional performance were discussed with collaboration from other institutions and providers noted.
- 9.9 The Board recognised the key messages and focus within the Revised Strategy and provided its endorsement to APPROVE the Strategy.

[John Strachan left the meeting]

[Josh Gulrajani joined the meeting]

## **22/31 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (PaperG1268)**

- 10.1 The Vice-Chancellor outlined the background to the discussions which had previously taken place with governors to identify the KPI's of which 8 were outlined for review and approval. The following update was given with comments and discussions noted.
- 10.2 It was reported that attached to the future updates from the Vice-Chancellor the governors would receive, on a quarterly basis, a copy of the data from the management information dashboard which would expand on the narrative and offer a good overview of the key drivers.
- 10.3 There was discussion in relation to the KPI relating to Student Progression and where it was noted the University had scored less well. There were comments on the difficulties of measuring lag indicators due to delays in data and this was work in progress. It was noted the University was aligning itself with the measures set out by the Office for Students conditions of registration.
- 10.4 Through the introduction of the new curriculum and portfolio, new courses had been designed with partners and industry and designed with good outcomes in mind. The data however would not be available until 2024 and as such was not included in this matrix.
- 10.5 With regards to employability it was confirmed the University was looking at mentoring and coaching to support graduates. Thoughts around early indicators for alumni mentoring was mentioned and it was confirmed the University already has some career mentoring programmes and departmental plans in place.
- 10.6 The Board and management discussed the options of reviewing yearly and challenging ambitions. It was recognised not all data would be available, but some might provide an early

insight. A need to use the numbers well, to be creative and realistic to keep on track was confirmed.

- 10.7 Financial indicators with partnership contributions and bottom-line surplus/deficits were noted. Clarification was provided in relation to the operating cashflow where the current year 2022/23 Plan [Redacted: FOI Exemption Section 43: Commercial Interests].

This was correct and was due to the improvements in partnerships, enrolment and BSU recruitment. The value of this exercise has demonstrated the assumptions behind the growth and cash flow, observing the need to review to ensure the right matrix and continuation to report against progress.

- 10.8 Thoughts to consider around the measures due to pension benefits, deficits and surpluses, reserves and understanding and setting targets, where the extent of work being undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer was noted.
- 10.9 The Board welcomed the progress made and APPROVED the key performance indicators for the University for the period 2022-25.

[Josh Gulrajani left the meeting]

## **22/32 UNIVERSITY RISK REGISTER (Paper G1269)**

- 11.1 The University Secretary presented the paper and informed the Board it had been considered by the Audit Committee at its November meeting.
- 11.2 The Board were asked to review and note the updated University Risk Register and were informed of the high level of engagement which had been shown by risk owners in the latest updates to the document.
- 11.3 Net risk scores had increased in relation to 3 separate areas: partnerships, reputation and OfS compliance. This largely was a reflection of the findings of the recent independent audit. Risk descriptors had also been finessed, including to reflect a slight change in direction for the partnership risk to reflect the focus on effective partnership management rather than on partnership growth at this time.
- 11.4 The Board was assured that the University was taking steps to manage insofar as possible the risks in relation to the cost of living, with appropriate mitigations in place.
- 11.5 The Audit Committee would review the early warning mechanisms in February and the Chair of Audit Committee commended the process and oversight of the management of the risks.
- 11.6 There was discussions around the risk relating to student accommodation and if there was enough capacity. Consideration to international students and for all year levels was discussed. Reference was made to the future plans for the demolition of buildings, the growth of student numbers and expansion. It was noted nomination agreements and plans were in place. It was AGREED that a further discussion around the mitigation of these specific risks would be appropriate.

### **ACTION: University Secretary/PVC Student Experience/Chair of F&I Committee**

- 11.7 It was noted that the SU President would be leading a Board Awareness Session in January which would be a further forum in which student accommodation and cost of living issues could be discussed.
- 11.8 The Board of Governors REVIEWED and NOTED the updated University's Risk Register.

## **22/23 COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENGLAND (Paper G1270)**

- 12.1 The Board of Governors considered the contents of the paper and the OfS Compliance Tracker, introduced by the University Secretary.
- 12.2 The purpose of the paper was to provide governors with information about the ownership and sources of assurance regarding the University's compliance with the Regulatory Framework for Higher Education in England, published by the Office for Students.
- 12.3 Two areas to note were highlighted: a summary of the Reportable Events made by the University to the OfS during 2021/22; and the Appendix which set out the sources of assurance regarding the University's alignment with the Regulatory Framework for Higher Education in England published by the OfS. It was noted the paper had been received by Audit Committee who had been invited to consider the sources and had raised no concerns.
- 12.4 The Board of Governors NOTED the update.

[Pearl Slater joined the meeting]

## **22/24 ANNUAL REPORT ON QUALITY ASSURANCE (Paper G1271)**

- 13.1 The University Secretary briefly introduced the paper before handing over to the Head of Academic Governance and Quality, Pearl Slater, who provided governors with a presentation. It was noted that the report had been considered by the Academic Board and the Audit Committee. The significance of the report was also noted in respect of the governing body's obligations under Condition E3 of the Office for Students Conditions of Registration to ensure the provider's compliance with all of its conditions of registration.
- 13.2 The summary covered the top-level areas as highlighted below and it was agreed that the presentation slides would be circulated to members for reference after the meeting.

### **ACTION: Senior Chancery Administrator**

- Completion of the new approach to quality project – a risk-based framework for quality assurance. It was noted a key purpose of this project was to ensure the University's quality assurance processes were aligned to how the OfS regulates universities and this was now mostly complete.
  - Establishment of a metrics-based programme review process – condition B3 and the UUK framework. An area around student outcomes with a set of KPIs for programmes was identified where it was indicated these were nearing completion for undergraduates and plans were in place to shortly roll out for partnerships.
  - The objectives for 22/23 included the Academic Standards Working Party looking at conditions B4 and B5 to embed across the University's quality assurance framework.
  - Partnership management an analysis of how partnerships are managed in respect of quality and standards with objectives set.
- 13.3 It was recognised a high level of time was spent on managing educational partnerships and it was noted additional resource was being made available to the Academic Governance and Quality team to assist in this area.
- 13.4 The Chair noted the importance of this topic and reminded governors that it identified the close relationship between the Board and the Academic Board. An invitation was extended to all governors to attend Academic Board as an observer. It was AGREED an update and information session on academic quality would be scheduled as a Board Awareness Session in 2023.

**ACTION: University Secretary**

- 13.5 The Head of Academic Governance and Policy was commended by the Board and Vice-Chancellor for the progress made and it was recognised the University was in a good position for the future in this important area.

## **22/35 DEGREE OUTCOMES STATEMENT (Paper G1272)**

- 14.1 The Head of Academic Governance and Quality introduced the paper.
- 14.2 It was noted the paper presented an annual update to the externally published Degree Outcomes Statement required as part of the Statement of Intent published by the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment. It was not a regulatory document but required for transparency and publication on the website.
- 14.3 The Board was informed that the Statement presents final classifications for graduates achieving Level 6 awards. The Statement outlines the institutional degree classification profile, assessment and marking practices, academic governance, classification algorithms and teaching practices and learning resources.
- 14.4 There was discussion regarding the topic of degree inflation and the undergraduate framework to ensure classification of degrees and their alignment within the sector. It was recognised that during the pandemic and due to the no-detriment policy more 1<sup>st</sup> and 2.1 classifications had been awarded.
- 14.5 The data presented regarding the BAME gap was discussed where it was recognised to have had very little change since 2017. It was noted it was the University's ambition to address this but unfortunately circumstances and the pandemic had halted progress and there was still work to do in this area.
- 14.6 The Board APPROVED the report.

## **22/36 PROGRAMME REVIEW STATEMENT**

- 15.1 The background, principles of the framework, core and contextual metrics were summarised to the Board. The framework outlines the requirement for Institutional Programme Review Statements as part of ensuring processes for programme reviews are transparent and demonstrate alignment with the new Framework's principles and metric requirements.
- 15.2 It was recognised as a regulatory requirement and was a public document for publishing on the University's website.
- 15.3 The report was APPROVED.

[Pearl Slater left the meeting]

## **22/37 ANNUAL STATEMENT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY (Paper G1274)**

- 16.1 The University Secretary introduced the paper and the accompanying annual statement on modern slavery and human trafficking for the year ended 31 July 2022.
- 16.2 The summary and background of the report was noted with a reminder to the Board of Governors of the requirement of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 as it applies to Bath Spa University.
- 16.3 Key areas were highlighted: Outlining the University's response to sustainable procurement and the disclosure retirement focuses on the supply chain transparency that requires the University

to produce a statement for each financial year, setting out the steps taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in the University or any of its supply chain.

- 16.4 In response to a query from governors regarding the University's 'Fair Trade University' status, the University Secretary agreed to amend the wording in the statement to reflect that this was something the University was currently working towards.
- 16.5 Subject to the above amendment, the Board of Governors APPROVED the statement for signature by the Chair of the Board and publication on the University's website.

**ACTION: University Secretary**

## **22/38 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **17.1 Annual Report of the Remuneration to the Board of Governors**

- 17.2 The Board considered and NOTED the report and endorsed the Committee's principles that govern the approach to remuneration. The Board APPROVED the appointment of Alice Workman to the Remuneration Committee in succession to Jacqui Brasted.

- 17.3 The Board APPROVED the Terms of Reference and noted Emma Wakelin would automatically become a member of the committee in her role of Deputy Chair of the Board.

### **17.4 Annual Report of the Audit Committee**

- 17.5 The Chair of Audit Committee spoke to the paper. He noted the following from recent discussions at the Audit Committee meeting:

- No concerns were raised by the internal auditors for the reviews undertaken, with only one exception which related to educational partnerships where limited assurance was provided.
- There had been discussions with the external auditors around the internal controls and the statement for inclusion in the Annual Report. Following this meeting a satisfactory conclusion had been reached.
- The internal audit annual report, audit strategy and plan and progress report had been received.

- 17.6 The Board were satisfied with the responses provided by the University to the OfS in relation to the BDO review, noting the relevance of this to the statement of internal control in the draft annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2022.

- 17.7 The Board NOTED the annual report of the Audit Committee and AGREED the terms of reference and the changes of membership. With immediate effect, Dr Wakelin would step down from the Audit Committee and Sanjay Shah was appointed to succeed her. The Board also noted that Sue Lane would stand down from the membership of Audit Committee at the end of its next meeting; this would reflect a more distributed spread of governors' committee memberships.

### **17.8 Financial Portfolio Committee and Finance & Infrastructure Committee (Joint Update)**

- 17.9 The Board were updated on the recent discussions at Finance & Infrastructure Committee where it had agreed to absorb the work of the Financial Portfolio Committee moving forwards.

- 17.10 The respective Chairs and members of F&I Committee and FP Committee confirmed there was general agreement to the proposal and that careful analysis and planning of future agendas for F&I Committee would be put into action to help manage the expanded remit. Capacity and expertise would be kept under review to ensure the effectiveness of this new arrangement. The



co-opted member of FP Committee, John Cutts, would now step down but had expressed his willingness to continue to be available to offer advice if required and the Chair thanked the members of the Financial Portfolio Committee for their contribution.

- 17.11 The Board APPROVED with the immediate disbandment of the Financial Portfolio Committee and APPROVED the revised Terms of Reference for the F&I Committee.

- **REVIEWED AND AGREED** the letters of support to those companies
- **NOTED** the draft accounts for the subsidiary company Summix LRB Developments Ltd
- **NOTED** the Financial Performance Report (slide pack) for the year ended 31 July 2022 which includes explanation of significant variances between the budget for the year ended 31 July 2022

## **22/39 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022 (Paper G1279)**

- 18.1 The Chief Financial Officer noted the update to the Board would focus on the financial performance rather than the compliance within the report.
- 18.2 The CFO noted that the issues that had been flagged around internal controls by the BDO audit and the subsequent discussions on the statement of internal controls were in relation to controls in the student recruitment and admissions process and not directly concerned with any financial control. However, there were obvious potential knock-on effects in terms of tuition fee recognition which the external auditors had focused attention on in their process
- 18.3 The draft financial statements and assumptions had been reviewed by Audit and Finance & Infrastructure Committees and were recommended to the Board. The external auditors concluded the accounts provided an unclassified opinion with a true and fair view.
- 18.4 The Board were informed the Directors of the subsidiaries had met with the recommendation to submit for approval. Summix accounts were noted as still in draft but were included and an update would be provided in the New Year.

**ACTION: Chief Financial Officer**

- 18.5 An updated presentation was shared with the Board which provided a detailed summary of the University's financial performance for 2021/22.
- 18.6 There was discussion in relation to the big increase in debtors and creditors. It was noted this was largely due to the increase in students recruited via partnerships and also BSU London. The big 3 partners and BSU London all had a June intake – being only one month prior to year-end initiating a large amount of income deferrals and also debt not having cleared from the debtor's ledger due to it being so close to the year end. The majority of the debtors position related to students registered with the student loan company and this debt is considered almost risk free in terms of bad debt. However, a significant share of the increase relates to debt being owed by students who are self-funding not via the SLC and this was of a greater concern. The CFO confirmed there were mitigations in place, but the position would need regular monitoring and liaison with registry in terms of attendance records in order to ensure the debt reported was genuine. It is thought likely a large amount of the debt showing as being from self-funding students would either end up coming from the SLC once students had their SLC loan applications accepted or that the students had not proceeded in full with their enrolment and would be withdrawn at some point. Finance is working closely with Director of Partnerships, Director of BSU London and PVC Academic Planning and sharing month-on-month aged debt reports in order to manage the position.

- 18.7 The CFO confirmed that the bad debt provision included in the 21/22 year end statements, had doubled year on year to over £0.8m in order to recognise this situation and increased risk and that the amount was based on the aged debt analysis.
- 18.8 The Board appreciated the levels of detail and the segmental activities which were taking place and would better inform the reporting process.
- 18.9 The CFO's presentation then moved on to look at predicted outturn for 22/23. With a high level of uncertainty noted for this time of year and therefore a range of outcomes presented but the expectation would be favourable to the £2.8m budgeted deficit position.
- 18.10 The Chair of F&I noted that as well as the items noted in the CFO's Q1 range of predicted outturn, there was also the potential upside [Redacted: FOI Exemption Section 43: Commercial Interests].
- 18.11 Clarification was provided on the inflation assumptions included in the non-pay budget. The CFO noted that a provision of c £1m had been included but the impact of inflation on non-pay had not started to bite as yet. A small provision had been included related to energy costs – being smaller because the majority of 22/23 utility commodity had been forward purchased and therefore prices already known. It was felt that 23/24 would be more of a challenge.
- 18.12 Clarification was sought as to whether there was any inflationary pressure being felt on lease costs and the CFO confirmed these costs were relatively low proportionally at BSU and the largest one at BSU London was not yet feeling that pressure.
- 18.13 The Board commended the Chief Financial Officer on the quality of the paper and welcomed further updates and progress on the segmental analysis.
- 18.14 The Board confirmed it had:
- **CONSIDERED** the report of the auditor (Audit Findings)
  - **REVIEWED AND AGREED** the BSU Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022
  - **CONFIRMED**, in accordance with FRS 102, that the accounting policies were appropriate
  - **CONFIRMED** the statement of internal control wording was appropriate.
  - **REVIEWED AND AGREED** the Letters of Representation
  - **NOTED** that the accounts for the subsidiary companies Bath Spa U Ltd (BSUL) and Bath Spa Venues Ltd (BSV) had been approved by their own Boards, and form part of the University's consolidated accounts;
  - **REVIEWED AND AGREED** the letters of support to those companies
  - **NOTED** the draft accounts for the subsidiary company Summix LRB Developments Ltd
  - **NOTED** the Financial Performance Report (slide pack) for the year ended 31 July 2022 which includes explanation of significant variances between the budget for the year ended 31 July 2022

**The 21/22 Annual Report and Financial Statements could now be signed and would now be lodged with the OfS and published on the university website.**

**ACTION: Chief Financial Officer**

## **22/40 TUITION FEES PROPOSALS 2023/24 (Paper G1280)**

- 19.1 The Board of Governors were presented with the proposed tuition fee rates for the 2023/24 academic year with the recommendations set out in the paper. They were also asked to note these had been submitted to the Office for Students in line with their deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

- 19.2 The paper reflected the proposed inflation increase had been set at 4.5% based on the CPI inflation rate for Education, where the latest figures in September 2022 was 4.3%.
- 19.3 It was noted these fees did not relate to the home undergraduate fees as those were fixed by government but related to postgraduate and international students.
- 19.4 There was discussion around the longer-term vision with regards to offering students choice in how they fund their studies (where loans were sought) and whether offering an alternative to the SLC loan in the form of a loan from an independent loan company might be something for BSU to explore in the future.
- 19.5 The Board APPROVED the tuition fees for the 2023/24 academic year.

[Alice Workman left the meeting]  
[Richard Jordan joined the meeting]

## **22/41 STUDENT ACCOMMODATION RENT REVIEWS (Paper G1281)**

- 20.1 The Board was asked to note the contents of the paper and agree to the recommendations set out below:
- A 5% increase in rents across the University owned accommodation
  - Not freezing rents, nor to topping up rents to meet differences in rent increase of other providers
  - Further consideration for a low-income accommodation bursary
- 20.2 Following discussion, there was agreement to the proposed recommendations. The University agreed to work with the Students' Union to establish a scheme which would provide students with financial support in respect of accommodation. The Board AGREED with the Vice-Chancellor's suggestion that this should be explored further, looking at other initiatives from peer groups and comparisons from within the sector.

**ACTION: Vice-Chancellor/PVC Student Experience**

- 20.3 It was noted that the Chair of the Board would also liaise with the President of the Students' Union to discuss further the comments raised today.

**ACTION: Chair of Governors/SU President**  
[Richard Jordan left the meeting]

## **22/42 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 21.1 The Honorary Awards paper G1282 was NOTED. The Board suggested that the Turner Prize recipient referenced in the Vice-Chancellor's report should also be considered for an Honorary Award from the University.

**ACTION: Vice-Chancellor**

- 21.2 The Board AGREED to provide the Letter of Support for Bath Spa Students' Union as outlined in Paper G1283.

## **22/43 MEETING EVALUATION**

- 22.1 The Chair invited governors to comment on the effectiveness of today's meeting. It was noted that the volume of papers in today's board pack was particularly high, but that this had been necessary for statutory and regulatory purposes. Governors commended the chair for his effective leadership of the meeting.
- 22.2 Further consideration would be given to ways in which the agenda could identify items which had already been considered in committee.

**ACTION: University Secretary / Governance Manager**

- 22.3 The next Board Awareness Session was scheduled to be held online on 10 January 2023 with a presentation from the President of the Students' Union. The next Board meeting was due to be held on 15 March 2023.

**22/44 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 23.1 The Chair led governors in expressing gratitude to Joy Luxford for over four years of service to the Board, commenting on her valued and impactful contributions to the University over this time. Joy Luxford conveyed her best wishes to governors and staff for the future.

[The meeting ended at 16.25 hrs]

Jane Conibere  
Senior Chancelry Administrator

(Signed as a record of confirmed minutes)

[Redacted: FOI Exemption Section 40: Personal data]

Jonathan Glasspool, Chair  
Date: 15 March 2023