

Agenda Item:	5i
Item Code:	BG22/99
Categorisation:	CONFIDENTIAL
Committee:	Board of Governors
Meeting Date:	24 April 2023

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING

27 February 2023 in room 304, Sandyford Building, City Campus West.

UNCONFIRMED SUMMARY MINUTES

Contact Georgina Bailes, georgina.bailes@northumbria.ac.uk, Secretary to the Board of Governors, with any queries about these Summary Minutes.

Present: Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods (Chair), Craig Apsey, Dr Birju Bartoli, Liv Bird, James Bromiley, Dr Laura Brown, Emma Collier, Helen Fairfoul, Dr Stuart Fancey, Sophie Haagensen, Katherine Fawcett, Peter Judge, Hassan Kajee, Professor Andy Long, Professor James McLaughlin [from BG22/57], Professor Libby Orme, Amy Rice-Thomson, Helen Thorne.

Apologies: Sally Pelham, Simon Corbett

Secretary: Georgina Bailes, Richard Elliott (Assistant Secretary).

In attendance: Professor Louise Bracken, Jane Embley, Professor Tom Lawson, Professor George Marston, Dan Monnery, Simon Newitt [to BG22/63], Professor Jon Reast [to BG22/57], Rachael Savidis [BG22/67], Professor Graham Wynn.

MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING

Vice-Chancellor's Report [BG22/56]

The Board of Governors considered an update on international, national, regional and local sector and policy developments and their implications for Northumbria. The newly announced devolution deal for the region, which was still subject to consultation, was likely to present opportunities for Northumbria, given its very strong links within the north east. Confirmation of the potential fee cap for foundation years was expected shortly, and the outcomes of the debate within Government around restrictions on international students could present significant risks for the sector as a whole. A joint meeting with Newcastle University's Executive had covered areas for potential collaborative working including the region's skills needs, health and net zero. There had been positive meetings with the shadow Education Secretary and senior staff from UKRI. **The Board noted the report and that proposals for how the Lifelong Learning Entitlement would operate were being discussed at sector level.**

Context and Preparation for Strategy Day [Presentation]

The Board of Governors discussed contextual information for the next day's Strategy Awayday and noted a number of points that would need to be addressed in those discussions and future consideration of the new Strategy as it emerged.

TEF 2023 Submission [Presentation]

The Board of Governors considered an overview of the University's recent TEF submissions, which had been submitted ahead of the national deadline of 24 January. The Provider Submission had emphasised the ambitions of the current Strategy, Northumbria's focus on social mobility and its regional role, and had noted that all relevant metrics were above the Condition B3 threshold values. **The Board noted the presentation and thanked Liv Bird for her work on the Student Submission.**

Student Recruitment 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 [BG22/57 and Presentation]

The Board noted the position on student recruitment for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Governor Recruitment Update [Oral Report]

The Board of Governors noted the position of the current Governor recruitment process.

Students' Union Report [BG22/58]

The Board of Governors considered the Students' Union Report. The elections for the 2023/24 Sabbatical Team would take place in the week of 6 March, with a majority of candidates being international students. A recent survey had shown that more students were remaining at home rather than spending time on campus leading to reduced revenues for the SU and catering outlets. **The Board noted the report.**

Monthly Finance Report Period 6 2022/23 [BG22/60]

The Board of Governors considered the University's financial position and performance at Period 6 (31 January 2023). **The Board noted the report and that the position for 2022/23 was favourable to budget.**

Strategic Risk Register and Risk Appetite Statement [BG22/61]

The Board of Governors considered updates to the University's Strategic Risk Register following consideration by Audit Committee on 13 February 2023. All fifteen of the University's strategic risks had been updated with UE risk owners; Audit Committee had challenged the dynamism of risk scoring, but was confident that scores were robust. **The Board noted the report, requested that individual strategic risks be reported to other Committees for detailed scrutiny where relevant and requested that the Risk Appetite Statement be brought to a future meeting for more detailed consideration of the risk categories.**

Reportable Incidents Policy [BG22/62]

The Board of Governors considered the updated Reportable Incidents Policy and Procedure after endorsement by Audit Committee on 13 February. It had also been updated to reflect the recently updated OfS definitions for reportable events; roles and responsibilities and the reporting and investigation process had also been clarified. **The Board approved the Reportable Incidents Policy.**

Governance Regulations - Term of Office of the Chancellor [BG22/63]

The Board of Governors approved a proposed amendment to Governance Regulation 3.1 to clarify that the Chancellor shall serve a maximum of two five-year terms of office.

Annual Quality and Standards Report [BG22/64]

The Board of Governors considered the Annual Quality and Standards Report (2021/22). It focused on the key activities relating to the OfS Quality and Standards (B) Conditions of Registration as part of the Board of Governors role in ensuring the University's compliance with all Conditions of Registration. Northumbria's TEF metrics for Continuation, Completion and Progression were above Condition B3 minimum threshold values with very strong statistical evidence. **The Board requested that Strategic Performance Committee consider the impacts of the changed Assessment Regulations for Northumbria Awards on degree outcomes, and the annual Student Appeals and Complaints report, and report key issues back to a future Board meeting.**

Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2021/22 [BG22/65]

The Board of Governors considered the Annual Statement on Research Integrity Activity 2021/22, which assured the Board of Governors that Northumbria met the Concordat commitments through its leadership, training and policies. Significant developments in 2021/22 included the implementation of a new online ethics review system; the completion of the Ethics Policy Review Group and implementation of their recommendations; a new Ethical Governance in Research Policy; and the development of a team of specialist ethics reviewers to support complex ethical reviews. **The Board approved the Annual Statement on Research Integrity Activity 2021/22.**

Researcher Development Concordat [BG22/66]

The Board of Governors considered the Annual Statement on the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and an updated version of the Concordat Action Plan. Presentation of an annual statement to the Board of Governors demonstrated the University's commitment to the Concordat; the Statement covered the research environment, research culture, career development for researchers and any employment issues. **The Board noted that a recent research culture survey had covered workload issues, cross-Faculty and Department working and the relationship between different cohorts of staff – an action plan was in draft and would be taken forward by a new post of Dean of Research Culture. The Board approved the Annual Statement on the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.**

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report Q2 2022/23 [BG22/67]

The Board of Governors considered the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report November 2022 to January 2023. The Board noted the report and requested that an update on mandatory training completion levels be reported to the 24 April meeting.

Chair's Report: Academic Board: 26 January 2023 [BG22/68]

The Board noted that at its 26 January 2023 meeting Academic Board had considered the University's TEF submission, and had considered issues arising from the emerging use of AI tools such as ChatGPT. Guidance on the appropriate and positive use of such tools would be produced via Education Committee.

Chair's Report: Audit Committee: 13 February 2023 [BG22/69]

The Board noted that at its 13 February 2023 meeting the Committee had also considered the risks and opportunities of AI tools, had concluded that there was no requirement for a separate external audit plan for London campus for the 2022/23 year end given improvements in quality and timeliness of information and communications from QAHE and had confirmed that the University's TRAC methodology was compliant with regulatory requirements.

Committee Membership Changes [BG22/74]

The Board approved that Helen Thorne join Audit Committee from its 22 May 2023 meeting and stand down from Strategic Performance Committee after its 13 April 2023 meeting; that Dr Birju Bartoli join Strategic Performance Committee with immediate effect and that Hassan Kajee join Employment and Finance Committee with immediate effect.

Georgina Bailes
Secretary to the Board of Governors
March 2023