

## Solent University

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on  
Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 17:00hrs in Silver Birch Suite, Spark Building, East Park  
Terrace, Southampton, Hants

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Present Stephen Bolton, Independent Governor and Deputy Chair  
Phil Cotton, Independent Governor and Chair of the Board  
Paul Cox, Co-opted Governor  
Jennifer Glastonbury, Independent Governor (via Teams)  
Neil Hayward, Independent Governor  
Councillor Alex Houghton, Co-opted Governor  
Don Iro, Independent Governor  
Vaios Koukouletsos, Student Governor  
Professor Dame Julie Lydon OBE, Independent Governor  
Susan Macpherson, Independent Governor (via Teams)  
Louise O'Donoghue, Staff Governor  
Sharath Ranjan, Independent Governor  
Professor Karen Stanton Vice-Chancellor & Governor Ex Officio\*  
Philip Wake OBE RD, Independent Governor

In attendance Professor Syamantak Bhattacharya, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research  
& Innovation)\*  
Jim Irving, University Secretary & Registrar\*  
Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer\*  
Leigh Rengger, Chief Marketing Officer \*  
Andrea Thompson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources)\*  
Bridget Woolven, Clerk to the Governors

(Those marked with \* left the meeting from Min 22/41)

#### 22/24 Apologies & Welcome

- i. Apologies had been received from Dr Janet Bonar, Nigel Duncan, and Philip de Klerk.
- ii. The meeting was quorate throughout.

#### 22/25 Conflict of Interests

- i. The Vice-Chancellor and members of the VCG declared a conflict of interest in respect of the oral report from Remuneration Committee and would withdraw from the meeting at that point.
- ii. There were no other conflicts of interest.

#### 22/26 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2022

Confidential

Approved.

**22/27 Matters Arising**  
**Presented by: Bridget Woolven, Clerk to the Governors** **Confidential**

**PART 1:**

**22/28 Chair's Report** **Oral Report**  
**Presented by Phil Cotton, Chair of the Board** **Confidential**

**22/29 Vice-Chancellor's Report** **Paper 22/BG/11**  
**Presented by Professor Karen Stanton** **Confidential**

**22/30 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** **Presentation**  
**Presented by Leigh Rengger, Chief Marketing Officer** **Confidential**

**22/31 Student Recruitment** **Paper 22/BG/12**  
**Presented by Leigh Rengger** **Confidential**

**22/32 Student Fees, Scholarships & Bursaries** **Paper 22/BG/13**  
**Presented by Leigh Rengger** **Confidential**

**22/33 Management Accounts** **Paper 22/BG/14**  
**Presented by Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer** **Confidential**

**22/34 Resources Committee Report** **Minutes**  
**Presented by Stephen Bolton, Resources Chair** **Confidential**

**22/35 Governance Effectiveness Review** **Paper 22/BG/15**  
**Presented by Jim Irving, University Secretary & Registrar** **Confidential**

**22/36 Student Governor report** **Oral Report**  
**Presented by: Vaios Koukouletsos, Student Governor**

- i. Student Board met in February 2022 and new annual targets had been presented.
- ii. Recruitment for a new Chief Executive Officer was underway and the Finance Manager would act as CEO in the interim. Interviews would take place on 6 July and Professor Nona McDuff would represent the University on the panel.
- iii. The Students' Union (SoSU) extracurricular activities had been successful and Vaios reported that students were demonstrating improved mentality with more students attending events.
- iv. Future events included local elections hustings on 4 May.
- v. SoSU had focussed on building establishing better external links, for example, with the City including the police, and the City of Culture bid.
- vi. The Minister for Universities had recently suggested that Students' Unions should consider disassociating with the National Union of Students (NUS) due to allegations of anti-Semitism. However, there would be a significant financial impact on Students' Unions due to pension commitments if they took this step.
- vii. Academic misconduct cases, complaints and appeals were decreasing.
- viii. As this was his last meeting, Vaios thanked the Board for its support during the past two years.
- ix. The Board thanked Vaios and noted the report.

**22/37 Staff Governor report** **Oral Report**  
**Presented by Louise O'Donoghue, Staff Governor**

- i. Louise reported the following from Solent Voice.
- ii. The continued VCG briefings were appreciated and interesting. The recent Dean update had been well considered, worked towards reducing any perceived barriers between staff and senior management and demonstrated continued transparency at multiple levels.
- iii. Solent Voice held a session to address ‘collaborative work-spaces’. This was a concern for staff, and the session’s content was being shared by reps with wider teams post-meeting. It would require continued clear communication and a smooth transition to support staff buy-in.
- iv. There was a general air of apprehension around end of year assessments and results following last year’s challenges. Staff were keen on the ‘better operations’ work to come to fruition in support of this. The impact of COVID along with previous results delays had seen no traditional ‘summer period’ - this was important within the staff yearly cycle for reflection, planning, breaks etc. There was also some concern about delays with appeals, and how that would be managed when the next influx came in from June onwards.
- v. There was a good staff awareness of the new OfS regulatory metrics following VC briefings and this was clearly being cascaded through faculties, schools, and professional services. Staff were demonstrably considering new ways of working and collaborating with other teams to work towards supporting the metrics.
- vi. Following the Staff Survey results, meetings and discussions were occurring at service/department level. The data that had been provided to Deans/Heads had been clear and comprehensive to allow for service level action planning.
- vii. Finally, the open days continued to be extremely well organised, fun, and full of life. Staff were pleased to see an increase in attendances and hoped this translated into acceptances - it was recognised that this was an important piece of conversion work, and lots of staff were involved across Solent.
- viii. The Board thanked Louise and noted the report.

**22/38 Recruitment of Governors**

**Paper 22/BG/16  
Confidential**

**22/39 Membership of the Board and its Committees**

**Paper 22/BG/17  
Confidential**

**22/40 Chair’s address**

- i. The Chair, on behalf of the Board, thanked the following Governors for their valuable contributions and wished them every success for the future:
  - Susan Macpherson, Independent Governor, who was attending her final Board meeting before leaving on 31 July 2022; and
  - Vaios Koukouletsos, Student Governor, who would leave the Board on 15 July on completion of his two years as Students’ Union President.

*(Professor Karen Stanton, Prof Syamantak Bhattacharya, Jim Irving, Eran Kochlany, Leigh Rengger and Andrea Thompson left the meeting.)*

**22/41 Report of SLT and VC Remuneration Committees  
Presented by: Neil Hayward, Chair of Committees**

**Oral Report  
Confidential**

**PART 2:** *The following were all noted or approved by the Board:*

**22/42 Academic Board report** **Paper 22/BG/18**  
**Confidential**

Noted.

**22/42 Race Equality in Academic Misconduct Cases** **Paper 22/BG/19**  
**Confidential**

Noted.

**22/44 Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Policies** **Paper 22/BG/20**  
**Confidential**

Noted.

**22/44 Governance Committee 6 April 2022** **Minutes**  
**Confidential**

Noted.

**22/45 Education Code of Practice** **Paper 22/BG/21**  
**Confidential**

Approved.

**22/46 Schedule of Delegation** **Paper 22/BG/22**  
**Confidential**

Noted.

**22/47 Honorary Degrees** **Paper 22/BG/23**  
**Confidential**

Noted.

**22/48 Affixing of the seal**

The Board noted that the following documents were signed by the Vice-Chancellor, and the University Seal applied to: None.

**22/49 Reportable Events** **Confidential**

Since the last meeting, there has been the following reportable event(s), as defined by the OfS that 'could materially affect or materially effects the provider's legal form of business model and/or its willingness or ability to comply with its conditions of registration': None.

**22/50 Meeting dates**

i. Next meeting date:

**Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 17:00hrs - Silver Birch Suite,  
The Spark Building, East Park Terrace, Southampton SO14 0YN.**

This meeting would be observed by a consultant from AdvanceHE as part of the triennial governance effectiveness review.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input.

The meeting closed at 19:10hrs.