

## Solent University

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on  
Tuesday 6 December 2022 at 17:00hrs in Silver Birch Suite, Spark Building

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- Present
- Winston Alla, Student Governor
  - Louise Bennett, Staff Governor
  - Noreen Biddle Shah, Independent Governor (until Min 22/100)
  - Stephen Bolton, Independent Governor and Deputy Chair
  - Dr Janet Bonar, Staff Governor
  - Phil Cotton, Independent Governor and Chair of the Board
  - Paul Cox, Co-opted Governor (from Min 22/91) (via MS Teams)
  - Philip de Klerk, Independent Governor (via MS Teams)
  - Nigel Duncan OBE, External Co-opted Governor (from Min 22/92)
  - Jennifer Glastonbury, Independent Governor
  - Neil Hayward, Independent Governor
  - Councillor Alex Houghton, Co-opted Governor (until Min 22/93)
  - Don Iro, Independent Governor
  - Professor Dame Julie Lydon DBE, Independent Governor
  - Sharath Ranjan, Independent Governor
  - Lisa-Jane Risk, Independent Governor
  - Professor Karen Stanton Vice-Chancellor & Governor Ex Officio
- In attendance
- Professor Syamantak Bhattacharya, Provost
  - Jim Irving, Chief Student Officer & University Secretary
  - Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer
  - Leigh Rengger, Chief Commercial & Marketing Officer
  - Stephanie Stangroom, VP Student Wellbeing, Solent Students' Union
  - Andrea Thompson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources)

### 22/82 Apologies & Welcome

- i. The Chair welcomed new Governors Noreen Biddle Shah and Lisa-Jane Risk to their first formal Board meeting and Stephanie Stangroom of Solent Students' Union.
- ii. Apologies had been received from Philip Wake OBE, Bridget Woolven and from Paul Cox, Co-opted Governor, who would arrive late.
- iii. *Post Meeting Note:* Philip Wake had indicated via email to the Clerk on 5 December, his support for all of the proposals put forward to the Board at this meeting.
- iv. The Chair congratulated Louise Bennett on achieving the requirements to obtain her MBA in Leadership.

- v. The meeting was quorate throughout.

**22/83 Conflict of Interests**

- i. The Vice-Chancellor reported a conflict of interest for herself and the Vice-Chancellor's Group (VCG) in relation to 22/102, report from the Remuneration Committee. VCG members, with the exception of the Chief Student Officer and University Secretary, would withdraw for this item.

**22/84 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022 – Approved. Confidential**

**22/85 Matters Arising Paper 22/BG/38 Confidential**

**PART 1:**

**22/86 Chair's Report Oral Report Confidential**  
Presented by Phil Cotton, Chair of the Board

**22/87 Vice-Chancellor's Report Paper 22/BG/39 Confidential**  
Presented by Professor Karen Stanton

**22/88 Refinancing Report Paper 22/BG/40 Confidential**  
Presented by Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer

**22/89 Amendment Agreement Paper 22/BG/41 Confidential**  
Presented by Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer

**22/90 Draft Annual Financial Statements 2021/22 Paper 22/BG/42 Confidential**  
And External Auditors' Report  
Presented by Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer

**22/91 Student Recruitment report Paper 22/BG/43 Confidential**  
Presented by Leigh Rengger,  
Chief Commercial & Marketing Officer

*(Nigel Duncan joined the meeting)*

**22/92 Resources Committee report and Q1 Financial Update Paper 22/BG/44 Confidential**  
Presented by Stephen Bolton, Deputy Chair and Chair of  
Resources Committee and Eran Kochlany,  
Chief Financial Officer

*(Councillor Alex Houghton left the meeting)*

**22/93 Annual Financial Return (AFR) Paper 22/BG/45 Confidential**  
Presented by Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer

<b>22/94 Solent Future Ready (SFR) Task Force Update</b> <b>Presented by Neil Hayward, Independent Governor</b>	<b>Oral Report</b> <b>Confidential</b>
<b>22/95 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b> <b>Presented by Leigh Rengger</b>	<b>Paper 22/BG/46</b> <b>Confidential</b>
<b>22/96 Annual Report of Audit Committee</b> <b>Presented by Philip de Klerk, Chair of Audit Committee</b>	<b>Paper 22/BG/47</b> <b>Confidential</b>
<b>22/97 Governance Effectiveness Review (GER)</b> <b>Presented by Jim Irving,</b> <b>Chief Student Officer &amp; University Secretary</b>	<b>Paper 22/BG/48</b> <b>Confidential</b>
<b>22/98 Access and Participation Plan (APP) Report</b> <b>Presented by Jim Irving</b>	<b>Paper 22/BG/49</b> <b>Confidential</b>
<b>22/99 Quality &amp; Academic Standards Assurance Report</b> <b>Presented by Jim Irving</b>	<b>Paper 22/BG/50</b> <b>Confidential</b>
<b>22/100 EDI Task Force Report</b> <b>Presented by: Don Iro, Independent Governor</b>	<b>Oral Report</b> <b>Confidential</b>

*(Noreen Biddle-Shah left the meeting)*

**22/101 Student Governor report** **Oral Report**  
**Presented by: Winston Alla, Student Governor**

- i. The Student Governor reported on the development, in partnership with the University, of the student partnership framework, which included the co-creation of the overall academic experience and shaping of the curriculum.
- ii. The Vice-President of Student Wellbeing report on the mental health and wellbeing survey being undertaken in partnership with the University with a view to informing support and services available to students.
- iii. In discussion, it was reported that students were settled, but that cost of living was impacting upon students. The Students' Union had led on the implementation of a number of measures to support students including the development of the Pantry, and the availability of free sanitary products.
- iv. The Chair thanked Winston and the Board noted the report.

**22/102 Staff Governor report** **Oral Report**  
**Presented by Louise Bennett, Staff Governor**

- i. The Staff Governor reported that following the Covid pandemic, students were demonstrating increased levels of anxiety and support requirements. Some

students are struggling with resilience, noted by both academics, and colleagues within the Mental Health & Therapy Support service.

- ii. The academic restructure was seen to be progressing smoothly. Academic colleagues are continuing their teaching, but it was important to recognise that there were some uncertainties amongst staff relating to transferring to new line managers and different departments at this point in the year.
- iii. The Solent Voice committee continues to be a good conduit for staff communications. Within the September meeting, previous agenda items raised by staff were focused on supporting volunteering and the community. The committee were also invited to share their thoughts on current approaches to communications. Consensus was that staff appreciated the various sources and channels for the comms and appreciated the weekly news bulletin with the key updates/highlights. The VCG briefings also remained a key staple and it was also appreciated that calendar invites are now sent to all staff with the details of the monthly briefings.
- iv. Colleagues were pleased to see progress with the IoT and staff and students winning awards in their fields. They are also delighted that Solent has secured its Bronze award for the Race Equality Charter. It was noted that there were also continued developments within the estate, with phase one of the Student Village being complete, on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of John Millais/Spark, with new workshops and areas being used by Solent Futures, Solent Creatives, and other Student Experience teams, as well as an improved multi-faith room and sensory room – all key spaces enhancing the student experience.
- v. The work and initiatives developed to support staff within the Cost-of-Living crisis had been appreciated. This work had been pre-emptive and well-timed for staff. There had been a substantial number of initiatives that have been well thought out and have been very welcome.
- vi. The Chair thanked Louise for her report.

**PART 2:**

**22/103 Degree Outcomes Statement**

**Paper 22/BG/51  
Confidential**

Approved.

**22/104 Annual Report on Research, Innovation & Enterprise**

**Paper 22/BG/52  
Confidential**

Noted.

**22/105 Annual Remuneration Statement**

**Paper 22/BG/53**

Noted.

**22/106 Office for Students Compliance – Annual Report Paper 22/BG/54**

Noted.

**22/107 Employment Tribunal – annual report** **Paper 22/BG/55**  
**Confidential**

Noted.

**22/108 Modern Slavery Act Statement** **Paper 22/BG/56**

Approved.

**22/109 Annual Value for Money (VfM) Report** **Paper 22/BG/57**  
**Confidential**

Approved.

**22/110 Scheme of Delegation** **Paper 22/BG/58**

Noted.

**22/111 Minutes of Governance Committee meeting** **Minutes**  
held on 8 November 2022 **Confidential**

**22/112 Minutes of Audit Committee meeting** **Minutes**  
held on 14 November 2022 **Confidential**

**22/113 Minutes of Resources Committee meeting** **Minutes to follow**  
held on 23 November 2022

**22/114 Affixing of the seal** **Confidential**

**22/115 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.

**22/116 Meeting dates**

- i. The Board meeting dates for 2022/23 are:

Wednesday 1 March 2023 at 17:00hrs - Silver Birch Suite

Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 14:00hrs – joint meeting with Academic Board – Silver Birch Suite

Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 17:00hrs - Silver Birch Suite

Wednesday 27 July 2023 at 17:00hrs - Silver Birch Suite

ii. The meeting closed at 19:40hrs.

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

**22/117 Report from the Remuneration Committee**

**Presented by Neil Hayward, Remuneration Committees Chair**

**Oral Report**

**Confidential**