

Solent University

[Confidential in respect of Minutes 22/53-63, 22/66-74]

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on
Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 17:00hrs in Silver Birch Suite, Spark Building, East Park Terrace,
Southampton, Hants

- Present
- Winston Alla, Student Governor
 - Stephen Bolton, Independent Governor and Deputy Chair
 - Dr Janet Bonar, Staff Governor (via Teams)
 - Phil Cotton, Independent Governor and Chair of the Board
 - Paul Cox, Co-opted Governor
 - Philip de Klerk, Independent Governor (via Teams) (until 22/65)
 - Nigel Duncan OBE, Independent Governor
 - Jennifer Glastonbury, Independent Governor
 - Councillor Alex Houghton, Co-opted Governor
 - Professor Dame Julie Lydon DBE, Independent Governor
 - Sharath Ranjan, Independent Governor (via Teams)
 - Professor Karen Stanton Vice-Chancellor & Governor Ex Officio*
- In attendance
- Professor Syamantak Bhattacharya, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) (Until 22/80)
 - Jim Irving, University Secretary & Registrar
 - Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer (Until 22/80)
 - Leigh Rengger, Chief Marketing Officer (Until 22/80)
 - Andrea Thompson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) (Until 22/80)
 - Bridget Woolven, Clerk to the Governors
 - Carol Burns, AdvanceHE (via Teams) (Until 22/80)
 - Toby Ward, Senior Content and Production Manager (Min 22/59 only)

22/51 Apologies & Welcome

- i. Apologies had been received from Louise Bennett, Susan Elliott (was Macpherson), Don Iro, Neil Hayward, and Philip Wake OBE - Independent Governors.
- ii. The meeting was quorate throughout.

22/52 Conflict of Interests

- i. Paul Cox declared an interest in respect of the Institute of Technology that was referred to in the Vice-Chancellor's report.
- ii. There were no other conflicts of interest.

22/53 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2022

Confidential

Approved.

Confirmed

22/54 Matters Arising
Presented by: Bridget Woolven, Clerk to the Governors **Confidential**

PART 1:

22/55 Chair's Report
Presented by Phil Cotton, Chair of the Board **Oral Report**
Confidential

22/56 Vice-Chancellor's Report
Presented by Professor Karen Stanton **Paper 22/BG/24**
Confidential

22/57 Student Recruitment
Presented by Leigh Rengger, Chief Marketing Officer **Paper 22/BG/25**
Confidential

22/58 Solent Future Ready (SFR)
Presented by Andrea Thompson,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) **Presentation**
Confidential

(Toby Ward joined the meeting.)

22/59 Brand Update
Presented by Leigh Rengger & Toby Ward **Presentation**
Confidential

(Toby Ward left the meeting.)

22/60 Resources Committee report
Presented by: Stephen Bolton, Resources Chair **Minutes**
Confidential

22/61 Management Accounts
Presented by Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial Officer **Paper 22/BG/26**
Confidential

22/62 Budget 2022/23 and Forecast to 2026/27
Presented by Eran Kochlany **Paper 22/BG/27**
Confidential

22/63 Research, Knowledge & Innovation Exchange
Presented by Prof Syamantak Bhattacharya,
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Knowledge Exchange) **Paper 22/BG/28**
Confidential

22/64 Membership of the Board and Committees
Presented by Jim Irving, University Secretary & Registrar **Paper 22/BG/29**
Confidential

(Philip de Klerk left the meeting at this point.)

22/65 Student Governor report
Presented by: Winston Alla, Student Governor **Oral Report**

- i. Winston Alla said that this year's focus by Solent Students' Union (SoSU) was on engagement with students, as well as improving mental health and wellbeing support and the relationship between students and the local community.
- ii. SoSU had recently appointed a new CEO who would start in mid-August.
- iii. SoSU had a new mascot which would be named by students.
- iv. The Board welcomed Winston to his first Board meeting and noted the report.

22/66 Staff Governor report

Oral Report

Presented by Dr Janet Bonar, Staff Governor

- i. Dr Janet Bonar reported the following from Solent Voice (SV).
- ii. Academic and professional staff were reflecting on the year and preparing for September and had enjoyed the week of graduations.
- iii. With the return to primarily face-to-face teaching some aspects of academics' work were easier than in the previous academic year whereas support staff had adjusted their offering to suit students—with a mixture of on-line and in-person to suit student preferences. All staff had appreciated the on-campus interactions with students as well as with each other.
- iv. With the end of the assessments, marking, Award Board meetings and release of results were all successful and to timeline. Although many students will be celebrating their excellent achievement, teams across the University were working to support those who have resit Exams and Assessments. The more streamlined experience this year showed the results of Better Operations.
- v. Many Professional Service Staff had moved to the newly refurbished space in A101. Feedback was good and the space was working as intended.
- vi. Based on discussions at the Solent Voice meeting on 20 June, the large increase in fuel costs/cost of living increase seemed likely to lead to more staff choosing to work on-site during the cold weather. The question was raised as to whether this would lead to over occupancy in the new shared workspace. SV was informed that overflow options were available and that this would be closely monitored.
- vii. Additionally, staff were concerned about pay reviews and the increased cost of living. SV was informed that discussions were planned with unions on this issue.
- viii. Finally, on the more general issue of the new Ways of Working, there was an impression that in some teams, the trust for team members to work efficiently from home could be improved. This was not a new issue and leadership development opportunities were planned.
- ix. Staff continued to appreciate the VCG briefings, evidenced by the high numbers attending. The broad range of issues raised at Solent Voice is a good indication that staff felt well-informed about issues of importance to the University and empowered to bring up relevant issues, either at SV or to the VCG.
- x. The Board thanked Janet and noted the report.

22/67 Self-Evaluation of the Board 21/22

Paper 22/BG/30

Presented by Bridget Woolven, Clerk to the Governors

Confidential

Noted.

PART 2: The following were all noted by the Board:**22/68 Access and Participation Plan variations**

Paper 22/BG/31

Confidential

Noted.

22/69 Partnerships Annual Report

Paper 22/BG/32

Confidential

Noted.

22/70 CMA Compliance Annual Report

Paper 22/BG/33

Confidential

Noted.

Confirmed

22/71 Academic Board Report	Paper 22/BG/34 Confidential
Noted.	
22/72 Students Union Accounts & Project Outturn	Paper 22/BG/35 Confidential
Noted.	
22/73 Minutes of Audit Committee on 8 June 2022	Confidential
Noted.	
22/74 Minutes of Governance Committee on 22 June 2022	Confidential
Noted.	
22/75 Annual Report of University Companies	Paper 22/BG/36
Noted.	
22/76 Order of Business 2022/23	Paper 22/BG/37
Noted.	
22/77 Governor Appeal Panels convened during 2021/22:	Confidential
Noted.	
22/78 Affixing of the seal	Confidential
22/79 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.

22/80 Meeting dates

Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 09:30hrs - Board Awayday
Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 17:00hrs - **may be moved***
Wednesday 1 March 2023 at 17:00hrs
Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 10:00hrs - Joint Meeting with Academic Board
Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 17:00hrs
Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 17:00hrs - **may be moved***

Board and Committee dates for 22/23 were being reviewed to ensure alignment with new UCAS deadlines and OfS filing deadlines.

(Vice-Chancellor's Group and Carol Burns left the meeting.)

22/81 Chair's Address	Confidential
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The meeting closed at 20:10hrs.