

## **Southampton Solent University**

### **Audit Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 December 2025 held at 17:15hrs on Teams

#### **Present**

Philip de Klerk, Independent Governor & Committee Chair  
Mike Gaston, Co-opted Governor  
Don Iro, Independent Governor

#### **In attendance**

Professor Cathy Barnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Academic Strategy and Planning  
Kerrie Clark, Director of Finance  
Jim Irving, Pro Vice-Chancellor Students and Governance  
Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial & Operating Officer  
Bridget Woolven, Clerk to the Governors  
Kushal Chowan, PwC, internal audit  
Ben Connor, PwC, internal audit  
David I'Anson, BDO, external audit  
Jackie Labbe, AHEP Consultant  
Gareth Roberts, Director of Digital Transformation (25/48 only)

#### **25/39 Welcome and Apologies**

1. The Chair welcomed Jackie Labbe to the meeting. Jackie would observe the meeting as part of the governance effectiveness review.
2. Apologies had been received from Philp Ouma, Fay Quayle and Lord Alan Whitehead CBE.
3. The meeting was quorate.

#### **25/40 Conflicts of Interest**

1. There were no conflicts of interest.

#### **25/41 Minutes**

##### **Decision**

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2025 were approved as an accurate record.

#### **25/42 Matters Arising**

**Paper 25/AC/24  
Confidential Unreserved**

#### **25/43 Report of Pre Meeting with Auditors**

**Oral Report  
Confidential Unreserved**

#### **25/44 External Auditors' report**

**Paper 25/AC/25  
Confidential Unreserved**

#### **25/45 Draft annual financial statements 2024/25 & going concern**

**Paper 25/AC/26  
Confidential Unreserved**

**25/46 Audit Committee's report to BoG 2024/25** **Paper 25/AC/27**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/47 Risk Management Group report & risk register** **Paper 25/AC/28**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/48 Internal Audit** **Paper 25/AC/29**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

*(Gareth Roberts, Director of Digital Transformation, joined the meeting.)*

*(Gareth Roberts left the meeting.)*

- 1. Internal audit annual report 2024/25**
- 2. Internal audit risk assessment and plan 2025/26**

**25/49 Reportable Events report** **Paper 25/AC/30**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/50 TRAC Process** **Paper 25/AC/31**  
**Open**

1. The Committee noted the paper which had been agreed by the TRAC oversight group.

**End of Part 1**

**Part 2: for noting or taken as approved**

**25/51 Non audit services from internal and external auditors** **Paper 25/AC/32**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/52 Modern Slavery statement** **Paper 25/AC/33**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/53 Value for Money (VfM) report 2024/25** **Paper 25/AC/34**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/54 OfS consultation on Sub-contractual arrangements** **Paper 25/AC/35**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/55 Committee's term of reference, standing orders and order of business** **Paper 25/AC/36**  
**Open**

1. The Committee noted these documents.

**25/56 Bribery Act annual report 2024/25** **Paper 25/AC/37**  
**Confidential Unreserved**

**25/57 Office for Students (OfS) accounts direction** **Paper 25/AC/38**  
**Open**

1. The Committee had reviewed and noted the paper.

**25/58 Public Information Disclosure Act and the University's Fraud policy** **Confidential Unreserved**

**25/59 Reports from the National Audit Office (NAO) or Office for Students (OfS)** **Open**

Links to these had been provided to members.

**25/60 Serious and reportable incidents** **Confidential Unreserved**

**25/61 Whistleblowing report** **Confidential Unreserved**

**25/62 Next meetings in 2025/26**

Monday 23 March 2026 17:00hrs – Teams

Monday 15 June 2026 – Silver Birch Suite, Spark Building

The meeting closed at 18:55 hrs.