

Southampton Solent University

Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2026 at 17:00hrs
In Silver Birch Suite, Spark Building, East Park Terrace, Southampton

Present

Philip de Klerk, Independent Governor (Teams to Min 26/22)
Mohammad Galib, Student Governor
Adam Golton, Independent Governor
Dr Francesca Gwynne, Staff Governor (Academic)
Don Iro, Independent Governor and Vice Chair
Professor James Knowles, Vice-Chancellor and Governor ex officio
Professor Dame Julie Lydon DBE, Independent Governor (Teams)
Sharath Ranjan, Independent Governor (Teams to Min 26/19)
Lisa-Jane Risk, Independent Governor (Teams to Min 26/25)
Sanidhya Shetty, Student Governor
Richard Smith, Independent Governor & Chair of Board
Aileen Thompson, Independent Governor (To Min 26/23)
Beth Topazio, Staff Governor (Professional Services)
Professor Allan Youp OBE, Independent Governor

In attendance

Professor Cathy Barnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Academic Strategy and Planning
Jim Irving, Pro Vice-Chancellor Students and Governance
Eran Kochlany, Chief Financial and Operating Officer (via Teams)
Helen Jones, Chief People and Culture Officer
Professor Sarah Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education
Bridget Woolven, Clerk to the Governors

26/11 Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed Aileen Thompson to her first board meeting.
2. There were apologies from Fay Quayle and Mike Gaston, Independent Governor.
3. The Board noted Mike Gaston's move from Co-opted to Independent Governor with effect from 5 January 2026.
4. The meeting was quorate until Min 26/25.

26/12 Conflicts of Interest

26/13 Minutes

Decision

1. The minutes of the special meeting held on 18 February 2026 were approved as an accurate record.

26/14 Matters Arising & Chair's Actions

Paper 26/BG/05
Confidential Unreserved

26/15 Chair's report

Oral Report

Confidential Unreserved

26/16 Any other urgent business

**Oral Report
Confidential Unreserved**

Strategic Discussion Matters.

26/17 Vice-Chancellor's report

**Paper 26/BG/06
Confidential Unreserved**

26/18 Staff Governors' report

**Paper 26/BG/07
Restricted**

26/19 Student Governors' report

**Paper 26/BG/08
Restricted**

Decision

1. The Board noted the report.

(Sharath Ranjan left the meeting at this point.)

26/20 Three year strategic plan one (3YSP1) report

**Paper 26/BG/09
Confidential Unreserved**

26/21 Educational partnerships: London-based Multi-University Collaboration

**Paper 26/BG/10
Confidential Unreserved**

26/22 Pensions strategy phase 2

**Paper 26/BG/11
Confidential Reserved**

(Philip de Klerk left the meeting.)

26/23 Refinancing update

**Oral Report
Confidential Reserved**

Governance Matters

26/24 Board recruitment 2025/26 report

**Paper 26/BG/15
Confidential Unreserved**

(Aileen Thompson left the meeting.)

26/25 Student recruitment update

**Paper 26/BG/12
Confidential Unreserved**

(Lisa-Jane Risk left the meeting at this point.)

Agenda Part 2

26/25 Financial regulations and scheme of delegation

**Paper 26/BG/16
Confidential Unreserved**

26/26 Apprenticeship provision

**Paper 26/BG/17
Restricted**

End of Part 1

Part 2

Items for Update

26/27 Membership of the Board and its Committees

**Paper 26/BG/18
Confidential Unreserved**

26/28 Other Business

1. The Board agreed that the following items would be postponed until the special Board meeting on 24 March 2026:
 - a) Tuition Fees 2027/28
 - b) Management accounts update;
 - c) Finance and Resources Committee Chair's oral report;
 - d) Finance and Resources Committee minutes 25 February 2026.
2. The Workforce Equality report would be postponed until 5 May 2026.

26/28 Affixing of the seal

Confidential Unreserved

26/29 Reportable events

Confidential Unreserved

26/30 Next meetings in 2025/26

Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 17:00hrs – Silver Birch Suite, Spark Building, preceded by pre-meet at 16:00hrs

Tuesday 28 July 2026 at 17:00hrs - Silver Birch Suite, Spark Building, preceded by pre-meet at 16:00hrs

The meeting closed at 20:05 hrs.