

**INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT
FOR THE
SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY**

DATE OF ADOPTION : 5 May 2026

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In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 124A(3)(b) of the Education Reform Act 1988, Southampton Solent University makes the following Instrument of Government in accordance with which the Southampton Solent University shall be conducted:

1. INTERPRETATION

- (i) In this Instrument, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings indicated in this paragraph:-

“the Act” means the Education Reform Act 1988 as amended from time to time;

“the Corporation” means the Southampton Solent University Higher Education Corporation;

“the Board of Governors” means the members of the Corporation;

“the University” means the Southampton Solent University conducted by the Corporation;

“the Vice-Chancellor” means the Vice-Chancellor of the University;

“the Chancellor” means the Chancellor of the University;

“the Pro-Chancellor” means the Chair of the Board of Governors or others appointed by the Board of Governors;

“Senior Independent Governor” (“SIG”) means an independent member of the Board of Governors appointed by the Board to provide an additional source of independent advice, to act as an intermediary for Governors as required, and to carry out such other functions as set out in the Articles of Government and related Board instruments.

“the Academic Board” means the Academic Board of the University; constituted in accordance with the Articles;

“the Instrument” means the Instrument of Government of the Corporation;

“the Articles” means the Articles of Government in accordance with which the University is conducted;

“the Clerk” means the person appointed to the office of the Clerk to the Board of Governors under the Articles;

“the University Secretary” means the person appointed to the office of University Secretary”;

“the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for Education and Skills;
and

“the appointing authority” means the Corporation unless otherwise specified.

2. NAME OF THE CORPORATION

- (i) The Board of Governors may, by resolution, change the name of the Corporation, with the consent of the Office for Students or other appropriate regulatory body.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- (i) The Board of Governors shall consist of:-
 - (a) not less than twelve and not more than twenty-four members appointed in accordance with the following provisions; and
 - (b) the Vice-Chancellor, unless they choose not to be a member.
- (ii) Of the appointed members:-
 - (a) up to thirteen shall be independent members;
 - (b) up to two may be teachers at the University nominated by the Academic Board and up to two may be students of the University nominated by the students thereof; and
 - (c) at least one and not more than nine shall be co-opted members nominated by the members of the Board of Governors who are not co-opted members.
- (iii) Independent members shall be persons appearing to the appointing authority to have experience of, and to have shown capacity in, industrial, commercial or employment matters or the practice of any profession.
- (iv) The co-opted member required by sub-paragraph 3(ii)(c) above shall be a person who has experience in the provision of education.
- (v) A person (other than a person appointed in pursuance of sub-paragraph 3(ii)(b) above) who is
 - (a) employed at the University
 - (b) a full-term student at the University; or
 - (c) an elected member of any local authorityis not eligible for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors otherwise than as a co-opted member.
- (vi) For the purposes of this paragraph, a person who is not for the time being enrolled as a student at the University shall be treated as such a student



during any period when they have been granted leave of absence from the University for the purposes of study or travel or for carrying out the duties of any office held by them in the students' union at the University.

- (vii) It shall be for the appointing authority to determine any question as to whether any person is qualified in accordance with the preceding provisions of this paragraph for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of any description or category.

4. DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

- (i) The Board of Governors shall make a determination with respect to their membership numbers.
- (ii) Such a determination shall fix the number of members of each variable category of which the Board of Governors are to consist, subject to the limits applicable in relation to that category in accordance with paragraph 3(ii) above.
- (iii) In making such a determination, the Board of Governors shall secure that at least half of all members of the Board of Governors, when constituted in accordance with the determination, will be independent members.
- (iv) Such a determination shall not have effect so as to terminate the appointment of any person who is a member of the Board of Governors at the time when it takes effect.
- (v) Such a determination may be varied by a subsequent determination.

5. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- (i) Subject to the provisions of section 134C of the Act, no appointment of members of the Board of Governors may be made before the first determination of the membership in accordance with paragraph 4(i) above takes effect.
- (ii) The Board of Governors is the appointing authority in relation to the appointment of any member of the Board of Governors other than an independent member.
- (iii) Where an appointment of an additional independent member of the Board of Governors fails to be made in consequence of a determination in accordance with paragraph 4 above, the appointing authority in relation to the appointment:-
 - (a) shall be the Board of Governors if the appointment is made within the period of three months beginning with the date of the determination; or



- (b) if the appointment is not made within that period, shall be the current independent members of the Board of Governors.
- (iv) Where a vacancy in the office of an independent member of the Board of Governors arises on any existing member ceasing to hold office on the expiry of their term of office:-
 - (a) their successor shall not be appointed more than six months before the expiry of that term; and
 - (b) the appointing authority in relation to the appointment of their successor:-
 - (i) shall be the Board of Governors if the appointment is made not less than three months before the expiry of that term; or
 - (ii) if the appointment is not so made, shall be the current members of the Board of Governors.
- (v) Where a vacancy in the office of an independent member of the Board of Governors arises on the death of any such member or on any such member ceasing to hold office in accordance with the Instrument, the appointing authority in relation to the appointment of their successor:
 - (a) shall be the Board of Governors if the appointment is made within the period of three months beginning with the date of the death or the date on which the office becomes vacant (as the case may be); or
 - (b) if the appointment is not made within that period, shall be the current independent members of the Board of Governors.
- (vi) No appointment of an independent member of the Board of Governors by the Board of Governors in accordance with sub-paragraph 5(iii)(a), 5(iv)(b)(i) and 5(v)(a) above shall be made unless the appointment has been approved by the current independent members of the Board of Governors.
- (vii) If the number of independent members of the Board of Governors falls below the number needed in accordance with the Articles for a quorum, the Secretary of State is the appointing authority in relation to the appointment of such number of independent members as is required for a quorum.

6. TENURE OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- (i) The Board of Governors shall determine the period of office of members in each of the variable categories set out in paragraph 3(ii) above. Such members shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of their appointment and shall, on ceasing to be a member on completion of their period of office, be eligible for re-appointment.
- (ii) A member of the Board of Governors may at any time by notice in writing to the Clerk resign their office, which will thereupon become vacant from the



date of receipt of the notice or date of resignation specified therein whichever shall be the later.

- (iii) If at any time the Board of Governors is satisfied that any member of the Board:-
 - (a) has been absent from meetings of the Board of Governors for a period of twelve months without permission of the Board of Governors;
 - (b) is unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a member

the Board of Governors may by notice in writing to that member remove that member from office; and thereupon the office shall become vacant.

- (iv) Where a member of the Board of Governors appointed as an Academic Board nominee or a student nominee, or a member of staff or student appointed as a co-opted member of the Board of Governors, ceases before the end of their period of office to be a member of staff or a student of the University, as the case may be, their office shall thereupon become vacant.

7. OFFICERS

- (i) The Board of Governors shall appoint from among their independent members a Chair and any other officers which the Board may determine.
- (ii) The Board of Governors may appoint a Chancellor. The Chancellor, or nominee, will preside at degree ceremonies and may be invited to undertake such other duties as the Board of Governors may from time to time determine. The Board of Governors shall appoint the Chancellor for a period of office of three years which may be renewed with Board approval. The Board shall determine any allowances to be paid to the Chancellor.
- (iii) The Board of Governors may confer on the Chair of the Board the title Pro-Chancellor. In addition to their duties as Chair, the Pro-Chancellor may undertake any of the duties performed by the Chancellor if requested by the Board of Governors or the Chancellor.
- (iv) The Board of Governors may appoint Pro-Chancellors, other than the Chair, to undertake such ceremonial and ambassadorial duties as the Board of Governors may from time to time determine. The Board of Governors shall appoint the Pro-Chancellors for a period of office of three years which may be renewed for a single further period of three years with Board approval. The Board shall determine any allowances to be paid to the Pro-Chancellors.
- (v) The Board of Governors shall appoint from among their independent members a Senior Independent Governor who shall not be the Chair nor act in the capacity of chair of any committee which the Board of Governors may establish.



8. COMMITTEES

- (i) The Board of Governors may establish committees and permit such committees to include persons who are not members of the Board of Governors.

9. ALLOWANCES

- (i) The Board of Governors shall determine any allowances to be paid to members of the Board of Governors.

10. SEAL OF CORPORATION

- (i) The application of the seal of the Corporation shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chair of the Board of Governors or some other member or officer(s) of the corporation authorised generally or specifically by the Board of Governors to act for that purpose; together with that of any other member of the Board of Governors, or the Clerk or University Secretary if so authorised generally or specifically by the Board of Governors to act for that purpose.
- (ii) The Corporation Seal shall be held under secure arrangements by the Clerk.
- (iii) The use of the Corporation Seal shall be reported to the Board.

11. COPIES OF THE INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT

- (i) Copies of the Instrument of Government shall be provided to each member of the Board of Governors.