

**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors
held at 4.00 pm on Thursday, 14 March 2019
1B27 - Technopark, SE1 6LN**

Present

Jerry Cope (Chair)
Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Vice-Chair)
David Phoenix
Steve Balmont
Duncan Brown
Michael Cutbill
Nelly Kibirige
Peter Fidler
Mee Ling Ng
Jenny Owen
Jeremy Parr

Apologies

Shachi Blakemore
Kevin McGrath
Hilary McCallion
Tony Roberts
Nazene Smout
Pat Bailey

In attendance

Richard Flatman
Paul Ivey
James Stevenson
Michael Broadway

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

The above apologies were noted.

The Chair noted that the Board had just received an informative presentation on the group estates redevelopment programme, including SE1 and Vauxhall.

2. Declarations of Interest

Jerry Cope declared that as Chair of the Croydon Health Alliance he had introduced LSBU to the Croydon campus opportunity (minute 9).

Peter Fidler declared that he is a friend of Prof Mohamed Loutfi, President of Knowledge Hub, International University Institution, Egypt who are working

with Coventry University and are a competitor programme to the international branch campus proposal (minute 12).

David Phoenix declared that he is a director of the British University in Egypt (minute 12).

The Board noted these interests.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2018 and their publication.

4. Matters arising

All matters arising would be discussed at a future meeting.

5. Chair's business

Independent governor recruitment

The Chair updated the Board on independent governor recruitment. The Nomination Committee had met immediately before the Board meeting to discuss a longlist of candidates provided by Audeliss, recruitment consultants.

The Nomination Committee is looking to fill at least some of the skills of audit, property, international and digital expertise on the Board.

Final interviews were due to take place at the end of March 2019.

Strategy day, 10 April 2019

The Board noted the planned topics for the joint Board and Academic Board strategy day of 10 April 2019 were the group corporate strategy, 2020-2025 and developing as a Group.

Student governors

The Chair congratulated Nelly Kibirige and Nazene Smout for their re-elections as President of the Students' Union and Chair of the Student Council and as student governors.

The Board noted that Nelly Kibirige was standing for election as President of the National Union of Students.

6. Staff governors update

The Board approved the recommendation to extend the terms of office of Jenny Owen and Tony Roberts as staff governors to 31 July 2019.

7. **SBUEL Board update**

The Board noted an update on the South Bank University Enterprises Ltd (SBUEL) Board from Michael Cutbill, LSBU governor and director of SBUEL. The Board supported the strategic plans to increase the company's income in the medium-term and co-develop the approach to "South Bank Enterprises".

8. **Governance effectiveness review**

The Board noted the proposed governance effectiveness review which would begin in April 2019 and report to the Board in July 2019. The Board noted that its role in academic quality assurance and its relationship with the Academic Board would form part of the review.

The review would be undertaken in-house by the LSBU governance team with external review and challenge of the final draft report.

9. **Vice Chancellor's report**

The Board discussed the Vice Chancellor's report in detail.

The Board noted that the University's level 4 and 5 apprenticeship provision had recently been inspected by Ofsted and had been assessed as 'good'. The report would be reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 13 June 2019.

The Board noted that the South Bank Engineering UTC had received a 'requires improvement' grading from Ofsted. The report would be considered by the South Bank Academies Board at its next meeting.

The Board discussed the University's approach to unconditional offers and entry tariffs. The Board noted that the University did not offer any 'conditional unconditional' offers. The average entry tariff was in line with the previous year. The approach to unconditional offers will be reviewed at the end of the academic year.

The Board noted that student recruitment was positive across all categories of students.

The Board discussed the opportunity to develop a higher education presence in Croydon, in partnership with Croydon Council. The prospectus was noted and a full business case was being developed.

The Board noted strategic discussions with the National College of Creative Industries in Purfleet and the Deputy Commissioner.

10. **Group Chief Financial Officer's report**

The Board discussed the Group Chief Financial Officer's report, which included an update on the latest income projections for 2018/19, budget planning for 2019/20, pensions and South Bank Colleges.

The Board noted that the current forecast for 2018/19 is deliver to at least to budget.

The Board noted challenges for the next financial year included increasing staff costs through the annual pay award and increased pension costs. The Board noted that a board pensions working group is being established to consider options for the future provision of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The Board approved the appointment of BDO as Group Internal Auditors from 1 August 2019 for a term of 3 + 1 + 1 years.

11. **Draft Group Corporate Strategy 2020-2025**

The Board approved the Group Corporate Strategy, 2020-2025 which would be discussed in more detail at the Board strategy day on 10 April 2019. The University's mission of "transforming lives, communities, businesses and society through applied education and oversight" would be delivered through four strategic pillars: 'access to opportunity', 'student success', 'real world impact' and 'fit for the future'.

12. **International Branch Campus Cairo - strategic business case**

The Board discussed the strategic business case to establish an international branch campus (IBC) in Egypt. At its meeting of 28 February 2019, the Major Projects and Investment Committee had reviewed the business case in detail and recommended it to the Board for approval.

The Board approved the strategic business case and authorised the Executive to proceed with the IBC licence application to the Ministry of Higher Education in Egypt.

13. **Standing declaration of interest**

The Board authorised the declared interests of Michael Cutbill, to be published on the website.

14. **Reports and decisions of committees**

The Board noted the reports.

The Board approved the opening of a deposit account with Nationwide.

15. **Corporate Risk**

The Board discussed the corporate risk update.

The Board noted the potential risk to fee income following the Augar review of post-18 education and funding, which was expected to report in May 2019. Modelling of possible scenarios from the report would be reported to the Board at its strategy day in April 2019. The Board noted that the LSBU SU President had contributed to the review.

The Board asked the Audit Committee to look at the balance of risk at its next meeting.

16. **Project Larch update**

The Board noted the update and the successful transfer of Lambeth College to South Bank Colleges on 31 January 2019.

17. **SU code of practice**

The Board noted the revised Education Act 1994 Code of Practice, which had been approved by the Finance, Planning and Resources Committee at its meeting of 26 February 2019. The funding agreement had been updated by the Executive.

18. **Any other business**

The Board noted that Julie Chappell, Kevin McGrath and Shachi Blakemore had resigned from the Board. The Chair thanked them for their valuable contributions to the Board and the University.

Date of next meeting
Board strategy day – 10am on Wednesday, 10 April 2019
Board meeting – 4pm, on Thursday 23 May 2019

Confirmed as a true record

..... (Chair)