

**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors
held at 4.00 pm on Thursday, 17 May 2018
1B27 - Technopark, SE1 6LN**

Present

Jerry Cope (Chair)
Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Vice-Chair)
David Phoenix
Sodiq Akinbade
Steve Balmont
Shachi Blakemore
Duncan Brown
Michael Cutbill
Peter Fidler
Kevin McGrath
Tony Roberts

Apologies

Julie Chappell
Hilary McCallion
Mee Ling Ng
Jenny Owen
Suleyman Said
Pat Bailey

Observers

Nelly Kibirige
Nazene Smout

In attendance

Richard Flatman
James Stevenson
Michael Broadway
Nelly Kibirige
Nazene Smout

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and as observers Nelly Kibirige and Nazene Smout who would join the Board as student governors from 1 July 2018.

The above apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

No member of the meeting declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

The Board noted the Vice Chancellor's declared interest in the general meeting which would immediately follow the Board meeting. Due to this conflict of interest the Vice Chancellor had sent apologies to the general meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2018 and their publication, with one redaction.

4. Matters arising

All matters arising were covered on the agenda or were in progress.

Governors were encouraged to propose any suitable names to the Chair of the Audit Committee for the audit committee co-optee position.

5. Chair's business

The Chair informed the Board that he will shortly be undertaking conversations with individual governor around their views on the way the Board and its subcommittees are working and about their own contributions.

The Chair informed the Board that Michael Cutbill had been appointed to the Remuneration Committee to replace Carol Hui.

6. Chancellor appointment

The Board confirmed the appointment of Sir Simon Hughes as Chancellor. His installation will take place on 1 November 2018.

The Board thanked Richard Farleigh for his contribution to the University as Chancellor.

7. Independent governor recruitment

The Board noted the update on independent governor recruitment following the Nomination Committee meeting of 17 May 2018.

The Board noted that the Nomination Committee is reviewing ways to improve the diversity of the Board.

8. **Vice Chancellor's report**

The Board discussed in detail the Vice Chancellor's report, which reviewed progress against the three outcomes in the corporate strategy: student success; real world impact; and access to opportunity.

The Board noted the positive trend in student applications for 2018/19 but there is still heavy reliance on clearing, which would be particularly competitive this year.

The Board discussed the executive's budget planning for 2018/19, which was likely to require £5m - £8m of staff cost savings. Where possible these savings would be on a voluntary basis. Appropriate consultation with trade unions and staff communications has started.

In addition, as part of normal portfolio review, a small number of courses in HSC were at risk of closure, subject to consultation. The University is committed to 'teaching out' any courses that may close.

The Board was supportive of the approach.

The Board noted that there were two additional potential partnerships: PROCAT in Essex and John Ruskin College in Croydon. LSBU had expressed interest and had been shortlisted for both. The strategic fit would be reviewed and any proposals brought to the Major Projects and Investment Committee, in the first instance.

The Board noted an update on estates redevelopment. The Executive is in discussions with London Borough of Southwark on acquisition of the hostel building adjacent to the Perry Library. The Board noted that, following its in principle approval, the St George's Quarter development had been submitted for planning and financing options were being reviewed.

The Board were pleased to note the improved league table position in the Complete University Guide to 93rd (out of 131).

The Board noted that the governance of South Bank Academies (SBA) is being reviewed and in discussions with the Department for Education.

9. **Chief Financial Officer's report**

The Board noted the Chief Financial Officer's report on the current financial position, forecast surplus of £1.5m for 2017/18 and budget planning for 2018/19.

The Office for Students (OfS) draft grant letter had been recently received and was better than expected although still subject to confirmation on actual student numbers. The Board noted the continuing challenges for budget 2018/19.

10. **Project Larch update**

The Board discussed the update and indicative timeline for Project Larch.

The Board approved the incorporation of South Bank Colleges (SBC), to be a wholly-owned charitable company limited by guarantee and agreed to delegate to the Chair and Vice Chancellor approval of SBC's articles and appointment of the first directors.

{Secretary's note: the Chair and the Vice Chancellor approved the draft articles of South Bank Colleges on 31 July 2018. South Bank Colleges was incorporated on 1 August 2018}.

11. **Corporate strategy progress report**

The Board noted the report and the progress made on delivering the corporate strategy.

12. **Office for Students registration**

The Board discussed the OfS draft registration documents, including the updated list of sub-contractual arrangements.

The Board approved the documents for submission to the OfS, subject to minor amendments to be approved by the Vice Chancellor and the University Secretary.

13. **Data Protection Policy summary**

The Board approved the revised data protection policy statement. A report on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) compliance project would be discussed by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 7 June 2018.

14. **Reports on decisions of committees**

The Board noted the reports on decisions of committees.

15. **Corporate risk**

The Board noted the update on corporate risk.

16. **Board strategy day report**

The Board approved the joint Board and Academic Board strategy day notes from 28 April 2018.

17. **SU election results**

The Board noted the SU election results and returning officer's report which demonstrated that the election of March 2018 was run in a fair and democratic manner as required under the Education Act 1994.

18. **General meeting of the members**

The Board meeting was immediately followed by a general meeting of the members (please see separate minutes).

**Date of next meeting
4.00 pm, on Thursday, 12 July 2018**

Confirmed as a true record

..... (Chair)