

University Board Meeting

Minutes of a meeting held on 20 September 2024

Members Present

David Furniss (Chair)	Chair of the University Board
Karima Fahmy (Deputy Chair)	Independent Board Member
Dr David Crosby	Independent Board Member
Esther Chinenye Isaiah	President, Students' Union Bournemouth University
Prof Lois Farquharson	Academic Staff Board Member
Maggie Frost	Independent Board Member
Nick Frost	Independent Board Member
Nick Golding	Independent Board Member
Prof Alison Honour	Vice-Chancellor (VC)
Karl Hoods	Independent Board Member
Stuart Jones	Independent Board Member
Sara Luder	Independent Board Member
Joyce Napa	Professional Services Staff Board Member
Susie Reynell	Finance Director (FD)
David Smith	Independent Board Member
Deborah Warman	Independent Board Member
Robert Williams	Independent Board Member

In attendance

Prof Keith Phalp (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Quality (PVC E&Q)); Dr Shelley Thompson (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Experience (PVC SE)); Prof Sarah Bate (Interim Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Research And Knowledge Exchange); Karen Parker (Director of HR (DHR)); Jon Price (Interim Chief Operating Officer (ICOO)); Deborah Wakely (Clerk to the Board); Kimberly Downton (Deputy Clerk to the Board); Jane Meredith (Senior Governance Manager); Geoff Rayment (Senior Governance Manager).

1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interests (Chair)

24/001 Apologies were noted from Jo Pretty, Simon Jackson, Dr Carly Stewart and Anthony Murphy and the Chair welcomed new independent member Nick Frost and the new SUBU President Esther Chinenye Isaiah who was attending her first meeting as a member. The Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate and there were no new or relevant declarations of interests from members. The new Board Member had provided details of his current interests on appointment.

2. Urgent Business (which cannot wait until the November meeting)

2.1. Access & Participation Plan (PVC Education and Quality - Prof Phalp)

24/002 The Chair introduced this item noting that BU's deadline for submission of the new Access and Participation Plan (APP) was 1st October 2024. The APP had been due to be considered by SQS before it came to the Board. However, timing meant this was not possible. It would therefore be considered by SQS

at its meeting on 25th September 2024.

24/003 The PVC E&Q reminded Members that BU was required to have and deliver an OfS approved APP as a Condition of Registration. It needed to genuinely address the data and characteristics of BU's students and had been developed through a collaborative approach, involving several areas of the University, to ensure alignment with the relevant workstreams.

24/004 Members noted that there were some further amendments required, including updating references to the new strategy, outcome of data quality review and final proof reading. The APP presented to the Board proposed two different bursaries, both of which would be index linked so that the amount of the bursary and the income threshold for eligibility would rise with inflation, annually from 2025-26 onwards. However, on reflection, this had been reconsidered by UET as it would create difficulties in administering the bursaries and there was a concern that lack of certainty about precise offer was less clear for applicants and may not be well received by OfS. The revised proposal would raise the threshold for household income to below £25,000 (from £20,000).

24/005 There was a short discussion on the proposals for bursaries and whether increasing the threshold would significantly increase costs. It was noted that a £25,000 threshold was still lower than a significant number of institutions and was not expected to make a material difference to overall costs. Bursaries had been considered in tandem with scholarships, which had been more generously funded in the past, to improve the balance between the two and the overall benefit to students.

24/006 The Board **approved** the APP and **delegated authority** to SQS to review and approve any final amendments required before submission.

3. Any Other Business

3.1. NHS England Education Funding Agreement 2024-27 – Delegation of Authority

24/007 The Chair introduced this item noting that, in 2021, NHS England (then Health Education England) had introduced a new standardised national contract with healthcare education providers and placement providers which had been approved by the Board and signed on the Board's delegated authority. This contract expired on 1 April 2024 and was being replaced by the new NHS Education Funding Agreement 2024 – 2027, following a national consultation on the terms, which BU had participated in.

24/008 The contract was not for direct procurement of education but included scope to add directly procured programmes and projects in the future. These would be subject to separate agreement and review in accordance with the University's governance requirements.

24/009 As the terms of the contract had not significantly changed from the contract approved by the Board in 2021, and BU needed to participate in the national funding agreement, delegated authority was being sought for this to be signed by the Vice-Chancellor.

24/010 The Board **delegated authority** to the Vice-Chancellor to sign the NHS Education Funding Agreement 2024 – 2027, subject to completion of the contract authorisation process.

3.2. Graduations

24/011 The Chair reminded Board Members to consider which graduation ceremony or ceremonies they would be able to attend and let the Deputy Chair and Board Clerk know to ensure good Board coverage of these events.

4. Date of Next Meeting

24/012 The Chair noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Friday 29th November 2024 at 9.30am - 12.30pm. The timing would be reviewed to ensure sufficient time for strategy.