



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 28 January 2026

<b>Present:</b>	James Boyes, Professor Sam Broadhead, Professor Patsy Cullen (Chair), Richard Dawson, Lisa Green, John Gribbon, James Lord, Neil Parkinson, Professor John Pymm (Senior Independent Governor), Professor Mykaell Riley, Noelle Rumball, David Strachan and Professor Simone Wonnacott (Vice-Chancellor).
<b>In attendance:</b>	Sharon Bailey (Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO), Jenni Hearnshaw (Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor), Joan Matthews (Clerk to the Board of Governors), Professor Dave Russell (Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education).

		Action
<b>B25/52</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies for absence were received from Sneha Khilay.	
<b>B25/53</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b> The standing declarations of interest as circulated were noted. James Lord declared an interest and joined the meeting after the item on Board appointments.	
<b>B25/54</b>	<b>Board appointments</b> The Chair presented the paper on Board appointments which had been circulated following the recent meeting of the Governance and Nominations Committee.  The Board of Governors approved the reappointment of Sneha Khilay and James Lord for a second 4-year term as Independent Governors, with effect from 26 January 2026 on the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee.  James Lord joined the meeting.	
	<b>Minutes</b>	
<b>B25/55</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025</b> The Board of Governors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025.	
<b>B25/56</b>	<b>Action plan update and matters arising</b> Board members received the action plan, noting that the three outstanding actions were not yet due.	
	<b>CEO's report and strategic planning</b>	
<b>B25/57</b>	<b>Chief Executive's report</b> The Vice-Chancellor presented the CEO's update for January 2026, highlighting the key points.  Attention was drawn to the student successes, highlighting the community and public benefit.	

	The Board of Governors received and noted the CEO's report.	
	<b>Academic matters</b>	
<b>B25/58</b>	<p><b>Academic Board Report: October 2025</b></p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor presented the minutes from the Academic Board meeting held on 22 October 2025 and highlighted the key points.</p> <p>In responding to questions, the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education provided further information about the new courses starting in September 2026.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received and noted the Academic Board report for October 2025.</p>	
<b>B25/59</b>	<p><b>Annual FE Self-Assessment report</b></p> <p>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education presented the Annual FE Self-Assessment Report (SAR), which had already been approved by the Academic Board, highlighting the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was an overall grade of Good with Personal Development graded Outstanding.</li> <li>• The judgment of Good for Quality of Education followed robust discussion by committees.</li> <li>• Attendance and punctuality were ongoing priorities although there had been some improvement.</li> <li>• Overall, achievement and retention remained good.</li> </ul> <p>The Board of Governors ratified the Annual FE Self-Assessment report 2024-25.</p>	
<b>B25/60</b>	<p><b>Annual Research report</b></p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor presented the Annual Research report which had been approved by the Academic Board, and drew attention to the main points.</p> <p>The Board noted the breadth of activity and the engagement with the external research landscape. Governors discussed the University's research culture, recognising the value of the Pathways Framework.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received and noted the Annual Research Report 2024-25.</p>	
<b>B25/61</b>	<p><b>Research Integrity Statement</b></p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor presented the Research Integrity Annual Statement which had been reviewed by the Academic Board at its meeting in December 2025, and its role in outlining the research culture was highlighted.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the Research Integrity Statement.</p>	
<b>B25/62</b>	<p><b>Report on HE Tuition Fees 2026/27</b></p> <p>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO presented the HE Tuition Fees report for 2026/27, highlighting the key points.</p> <p>Governors noted that the University would not be subject to the proposed international student fee levy based on current student numbers, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO provided further information on the</p>	

	<p>role of agents in international student recruitment. It was agreed to make the agent agreement pro-forma available to Governors.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received and noted the HE tuition fees report for 2026/27.</p>	PVC Registry & CFO/Clerk
	<b>Compliance</b>	
<b>B25/63</b>	<p><b>Health and Safety Annual Report</b> The Vice-Chancellor presented the Health and Safety Annual Report highlighting key points.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received and noted the Health and Safety Annual Report 2024-25.</p>	
<b>B25/64</b>	<p><b>Freedom of Information Annual Report</b> The Vice-Chancellor presented the Freedom of Information Annual Report 2024-25 and Governors discussed the cost impact of responding to requests under Freedom of Information.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received and noted the Freedom of Information Annual Report 2024-25.</p>	
<b>B25/65</b>	<p><b>Estates Annual Report</b> The Vice-Chancellor presented the Estates Annual Report, drawing attention to key points.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received and noted the Estates Annual Report 2024-25.</p>	
<b>B25/66</b>	<p><b>Sustainability Annual Report</b> The Vice-Chancellor presented the Sustainability Annual Report, which demonstrated how the University was working towards its sustainable development goals. It was noted that the University had improved its position further in the recently published People and Planet league table.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received and noted the Sustainability Annual Report for 2024-25.</p>	
<b>B25/67</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding Annual Report</b> The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education presented the Safeguarding Annual Report 2024-25 which was approved by the Board.</p>	
	<b>Governance</b>	
<b>B25/68</b>	<p><b>Governance self-assessment report summary</b> The Clerk presented the Governance self-assessment summary report, highlighting that the Governance and Nominations Committee had discussed the detailed report at its recent meeting. It was noted that there had been an overall improvement on the previous year, and the Board discussed the actions to be taken in the areas with lower scores.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on Student Governors, and members noted the emerging issues across the sector.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Governors for their support, highlighting the positive feedback received from Governors during their individual review meetings with the Chair.</p>	

	The Board of Governors received and noted the Governance self-assessment report.	
<b>B25/69</b>	<b>External Review of Governance report</b> The Clerk to the Board presented the report on the external review of governance action plan, highlighting that all actions had now been completed.  The Board of Governors received and noted the External Review of Governance report.	
<b>B25/70</b>	<b>Governance report</b> The Clerk to the Board presented the report on key governance matters, highlighting the recent use of the seal, which was received and noted.	
	<b>Documents/links from outside bodies</b>	
<b>B25/71</b>	<b>Report on Documents/links from outside bodies</b> The Board of Governors received, for information, the report containing links to relevant documents from HE sector bodies and regulatory authorities.	
	<b>Final matters</b>	
<b>B25/72</b>	<b>Any other business</b> There was no other business.	
<b>B25/73</b>	<b>Risk Management</b> There were no new items of risk identified at the meeting.	
<b>B25/74</b>	<b>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 1.30pm (Governor development session)</b>	
	<b>Reserved Matters</b>	
<b>B25/75</b>	<b>Declarations of interest and exclusions</b> Staff Governors, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO left the meeting.  There were no new declarations of interest.	
<b>B25/76</b>	<b>Reserved Matters minutes of 26 November 2025</b> The Board of Governors approved the reserved matters minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025.	
<b>B25/77</b>	<b>Any matters arising on the minutes</b> There were no matters arising on the minutes.	
<b>B25/78</b>	<b>Any other business</b> There was no other business.	
<b>B25/79</b>	<b>Risk Management</b> There were no new items of risk identified under the Reserved Matters agenda.	
	<b>The meeting closed at 3pm.</b>	