



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 1 July 2026

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| <b>Present:</b>       | James Boyes, Professor Sam Broadhead, Professor Patsy Cullen (Chair), Richard Dawson, John Gribbon, Sneha Khilay, Gabe Kirkman, Neil Parkinson, Professor John Pymm (Senior Independent Governor), 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), Professor Dave Russell (Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education).                                                                               |

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| <b>B25/120</b> | <b>Apologies for absence</b><br>Apologies were received from Professor Mykaell Riley and James Lord.<br><br>The Board congratulated Professor Mykaell Riley on being awarded an MBE for services to research and education in black British music.                                                                                                |        |
| <b>B25/121</b> | <b>Declarations of interest</b><br>The standing declarations of interest as circulated were noted. Gabe Kirkman declared an interest in the appointment of student governor, and Noelle Rumball and Richard Dawson declared an interest in the annual reappointment of Committee Chairs.                                                          |        |
|                | <b>Minutes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |        |
| <b>B25/122</b> | <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May</b><br>The Board of Governors approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 May 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |
| <b>B25/123</b> | <b>Action plan update and matters arising</b><br>Board members received and noted the action plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |        |
|                | <b>CEO's report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |
| <b>B25/124</b> | <b>Chief Executive's report</b><br>The Vice-Chancellor presented the CEO's update for July 2026, highlighting the key points.<br><br>Governors complimented the University on the successes and range of diverse activities and congratulated the staff and students involved.<br><br>The Board of Governors received and noted the CEO's report. |        |
|                | <b>Academic matters</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |
| <b>B25/125</b> | <b>Academic Board reports: March 2026</b><br>The Vice-Chancellor presented the Academic Board report for March 2026, highlighting the key points.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |

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|                | <p>Governors discussed the plans for periodic reviews, with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education outlining the structure of the process, highlighting that the five-year cycle would cover all courses.</p> <p>The Board of Governors received the Academic Board report for March 2026.</p>                                                                                 |  |
|                | <b>Financial Matters</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| <b>B25/126</b> | <p><b>Budget 2026/27 and presentation on financial plan 2026-31</b><br/>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO presented the budget for 2026/27, setting out the key assumptions and aspects of expenditure behind the budget and 5-year plan.</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the budget 2026/27 and financial plan for 2026-31.</p> |  |
| <b>B25/127</b> | <p><b>Student Union Budget 2026/27</b><br/>The Vice-Chancellor presented the Student Union's budget for 2026/27, highlighting that more events would be delivered on site to help reduce costs for students.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the Student Union budget for 2026/27.</p>                                                                             |  |
| <b>B25/128</b> | <p><b>Amendment to Financial Regulations</b><br/>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO presented the amendment to the Financial Regulations.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the changes to the Financial Regulations.</p>                                                                                                                                      |  |
| <b>B25/129</b> | <p><b>Adobe Creative Cloud</b><br/>The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education presented the paper on Adobe Creative Cloud.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the purchase of Adobe Creative Cloud for a period of 3 years.</p>                                                                                                                                                |  |
|                | <b>Compliance</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <b>B25/130</b> | <p><b>Internal Audit Service Tender</b><br/>The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the Internal Audit Service Tender which had been considered by the Audit Committee at its last meeting.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved TIAA as the supplier for internal audit for a further 4 years.</p>                                                                  |  |
| <b>B25/131</b> | <p><b>External Audit Service</b><br/>The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the paper on the external audit service.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the appointment of Forvis Mazars LLP as the supplier for external audit services for a further three years.</p>                                                                                           |  |
| <b>B25/132</b> | <p><b>Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy</b><br/>The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the updated Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy which had been considered by the Audit Committee at its last meeting.</p>                                                                                                                                                      |  |

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|                | The Board of Governors approved the Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <b>B25/133</b> | <p><b>Counter-fraud and irregularities Policy</b><br/>The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the updated Counter-fraud and irregularities Policy which had been recommended by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the Counter-fraud and irregularities Policy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
|                | <b>Governance</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| <b>B25/134</b> | <p><b>Governance report</b><br/>The Clerk presented the governance report which was noted by Governors.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| <b>B25/135</b> | <p><b>Board of Governors standing agenda list 2026/27</b><br/>The Clerk presented the standing agenda item list for 2026/27 which was approved by the Board of Governors.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| <b>B25/136</b> | <p><b>Appointment of Student Governor</b><br/>Gabe Kirkman declared an interest and left the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair presented the paper on the appointment of the Student Governor for 2026/27.</p> <p>Governors discussed the challenges in recruiting student governors and noted that recruitment for a second student representative would take place after the summer.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the re-appointment of Gabe Kirkman as Student Governor until 31 July 2027.</p> <p>Gabe Kirkman returned to the meeting.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| <b>B25/137</b> | <p><b>Annual appointment of Committee Chairs</b><br/>Noelle Rumball and Richard Dawson declared an interest and each left the meeting for consideration of their own appointment.</p> <p>The Chair presented the paper on the annual re-appointment of Committee Chairs and it was noted that Noelle Rumball, Richard Dawson and Professor Mykaell Riley had all indicated their willingness to be reappointed.</p> <p>The Board of Governors approved the re-appointment of Noelle Rumball as the Chair of the Audit Committee for a further year until July 2027, the re-appointment of Richard Dawson as Chair of the Remuneration Committee for a further year until July 2027 and the re-appointment of Professor Mykaell Riley as Chair of Governance and Nominations Committee for a further year until July 2027.</p> |  |
| <b>B25/138</b> | <p><b>CUC Higher Education Code of Governance</b><br/>The Clerk to the Board of Governors presented the paper on the new CUC Higher Education Code of Governance. Governors noted that a mapping analysis against the new Code would be prepared for presentation to the Board, although the timing depended on the release of further information and guidance, including any associated OfS requirements.</p> <p>The Board noted the paper on the new CUC Higher Education Code of Governance.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |

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| <b>B25/139</b> | <p><b>Committee minutes:</b></p> <p><b>Audit Committee - 20 May 2026</b><br/>The Board received and noted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee of 20 May 2026.</p> <p><b>Governance and Nominations Committee - 10 June 2026</b><br/>The Board received and noted the minutes of the meeting of the Governance and Nominations Committee of 10 June 2026.</p> |  |
|                | <b>Report on Documents/links from outside bodies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <b>B25/140</b> | <p><b>Report on Documents/links from outside bodies</b><br/>The Board of Governors received, for information, the report containing links to relevant documents from HE sector bodies and regulatory authorities.</p>                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|                | <b>Final matters</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <b>B25/141</b> | <p><b>Any other business</b><br/>The Chair expressed thanks to all Governors, members of the Senior Management Team and staff who had supported the work of the Board throughout the year. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Board for its continued support.</p>                                                                                                            |  |
| <b>B25/142</b> | <p><b>Risk Management</b><br/>There were no new items of risk identified at the meeting.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| <b>B25/143</b> | <b>Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 1.30pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
|                | <b>The meeting closed at 3pm.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |