BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 20 May 2026

Present:	James Boyes, Professor Sam Broadhead, Professor Patsy Cullen (Chair), Richard Dawson, John Gribbon, Gabe Kirkman, Neil Parkinson, Professor John Pymm (Senior Independent Governor), Kerry Richardson, Noelle Rumball, David Strachan and Professor Simone Wonnacott (Vice-Chancellor).
In attendance:	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).

		Action
B25/101	**Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from James Lord, Sneha Khilay and Professor Mykaell Riley. Richard Dawson joined the meeting at B25/116.	
B25/102	**Declarations of interest** The standing declarations of interest as circulated were noted. The Chair declared an interest in the item on the annual reappointment of Chair.	
	Minutes	
B25/103	**Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March and 29 April 2026** The Board of Governors approved the minutes of the meetings held on the 18 March and 29 April 2026.	
B25/104	**Action plan update and matters arising** Board members received the action plan, noting that there was one outstanding action relating to the Chair's performance review process, which the Clerk and Senior Independent Governor would consider.	**Clerk/SIG**
	CEO's report	
B25/105	**Chief Executive's report** The Vice-Chancellor presented the CEO's update for May 2026, highlighting the key points. Governors discussed the update on progress against the APP targets for the 2020/21 – 2024/25 plan. It was noted that the targets in the 2025-2029 plan had been agreed with the OfS and progress updates would be included in the CEO's reports. The successes were noted and commended. The Board of Governors received and noted the CEO's report.	
	Financial Matters	

B25/106	**Management accounts for the period to 30 April 2026** The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO presented the management accounts for the 9 months ending 30 April 2026. Governors noted the key points: • There were limited factors that would now impact the forecast end of year position; • Interest rates had remained high, which had been of benefit; • The LGPS employers' contribution pension rate would be reducing from 17% to 15%, delivering savings on pension costs. The Board discussed cash reserves, noting that the University kept the cash position under review. The Deputy Chair reported on a recent webinar on FRS102 accounting standards and its impact on the presentation of accounts. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO reported that the treatment of revenue recognition would have most impact, in the absence of any borrowings and limited leases. It was noted that the budget to be presented to the Board at the July meeting would be based on the new accounting standards. The Board of Governors received and noted the management accounts to 30 April 2026.	
B25/107	**Review of Financial Regulations** The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO presented the updated Financial Regulations, highlighting the minor amendments. The Board of Governors approved the Financial Regulations.	
B25/108	**Report on FE Tuition Fees 2026/27** The Board of Governors received and noted the report on FE Tuition Fees for 2026/27.	
B25/109	**Tender recommendation: Printers and Multi-functional devices** The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO presented the tender recommendation for printers and multi-functional devices. The Board of Governors approved the appointment of Vision Office Automation Limited as the supplier for MFDs and printers.	
B25/110	**Tender recommendation: Windows and Doors** The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO presented the tender recommendation for the completion of the final window replacement scheme in Building Area 2. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed the arrangements regarding planning permission. The Board of Governors approved the appointment of Aspect Building Solutions to complete the final window replacement scheme in Building Area 2.	
	Governance	
B25/111	**Governance report** The Clerk presented the governance report which was noted by Governors. The Chair left the meeting.	

B25/112	**Annual reappointment of Chair** The Senior Independent Governor presented the paper on the annual reappointment of the Chair, and the Board approved the reappointment of Professor Patsy Cullen for a further year to 16 July 2027. The Chair re-joined the meeting.	
B25/113	**Appointment of Chancellor** CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE	
B25/114	**Committee minutes: Audit Committee – 18 March 2026** The Board received and noted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee of 18 March 2026.	
B25/115	**Review of Governor Development Day** The Board reviewed the Governor Development Day, highlighting the quality of the presentations and particularly welcoming the information on the University's position within the sector. Governors agreed that it would be helpful to have more time for questions after the presentations rather than the scenario session. It was also agreed that it would be helpful if the format allowed Governors to move around more so that discussions were not limited to those on the same table. Governors agreed that the timings worked well but some suggested the inclusion of a dinner at the end of the day. It was agreed that the Vice-Chancellor would circulate governors to seek views on further extending the day.	**Vice-Chancellor** **Vice-Chancellor**
	Report on Documents/links from outside bodies	
B25/116	**Report on Documents/links from outside bodies** The Board of Governors received, for information, the report containing links to relevant documents from HE sector bodies and regulatory authorities. Richard Dawson joined the meeting.	
	Final matters	
B25/117	**Any other business** There was no other business.	
B25/118	**Risk Management** There were no new items of risk identified at the meeting.	
B25/119	**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 1 July 2026 at 1.30pm	
	The meeting closed at 2.30pm.	