HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors held on 24 March 2022 by MS Teams.

Present:	Mr Peter Nixon	Chair
	Professor Ken Sloan	Vice-Chancellor
	Mr Clive Beer	
	Mr Vernon Blakeman	Staff Governor
	Ms Barbara Bray	
	Ms Emily Brown	SU President
	Mrs Emma Foulkes	
	Mr Ken Greetham	
	Mr Mark Griffiths	
	Mr Edosa Odaro	
	Mrs Rebecca Payne	Staff Governor
	Dr John Reade	Staff Governor
	Ms Liz Salter	
	Mr Talib Sheikh	
	Ms Uloma Uhunmwangho	
	Mrs Debbie Winstanley	
	Mr Dominic Wong	Vice-Chair
Apologies:	Mr Ben Shipston	
	Mrs Yvonne Hawkins	
	Dr Tim Watson	
	Prof Mark Ormerod	
	Prof Michael Lee	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
In attendance:	Dr Catherine Baxter	University Secretary & Clerk to the Board
	Mrs Liz Furey	Chief Financial Officer
Observers:	Sebastian Soneyra	Board Apprentice
	Mr David Edwards	Staff Observer

Register of Interests

Members were reminded to complete or update their entry in the Register of Interests as necessary.

20/48 **Staff Observers**

Welcomed: Board Apprentices and Dr Matt Jones, Head of the Harper Keele Vet School

20/49 **Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 November 2020 and 26 January 2021**

Approved: i) the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on 26 November 2020 (20/18-20/40)

asked to agree th /P /MC /P /MC /Po /M to yed tn /MC /A4 ilo /MC /-6.3 (C a v1.1 (o i)3MC

xv) that the workload review for academic staff aimed to identify where there might be an opportunity to free up time for new developments;

xvi) that ensuring there is a viable and sustainable market which will purchase new blended or online delivery packages will be critical to make a solid business case;

xvii) that it was important for the University to manage change carefully and to ensure staff and students were included in supporting the changes. The need to prioritise key activities and the phasing of any major initiatives would be discussed by the Senior Management Team in April 2021.

(B)

v) that competitors had published their 2019/20 accounts. HAU deficit had been 2.6%. Others were reporting 16%, 7% and 10% deficits. However, it was understood that recruitment for 2020/21 may have been more positive for some competitors than that experienced by HAU;

vi) that the annual review of the Financial Regulations had led to some proposed amendments. The full document with tracked changes had been made available to members on the Governors' Document Library;

vii) that the review of the 2019 business case for the Joint Vet School (JVS) had taken into account the later approval of a £10.2m investment in capital infrastructure;

viii) that capital costs relating to the JVS had been well controlled to date. The final costs for cattle handling were not yet determined but remained challenging and were likely to take up the remaining contingency and savings secured for the main contracts. Every effort to secure an external donation was being made to help manage overall costs;

ix) that the anticipated scale of "halo effect" had not yet been fully seen, although it was clear that having a vet school and routes to Vet Medicine was positive and was likely to have helped maintain recruitment in other areas. JVS student numbers had exceeded planned targets and plans to develop further access routes were in hand;

x) that the announcement of a proposal for a vet school in Northern Ireland was an opportunity to explore whether existing links to the leading parties in this project might develop into a collaboration in due course. Dr Jones was exploring this;

xi) that a formal opening of the Veterinary Education Centre was planned for 29th June 2021.Further information would follow although numbers of people participating had been restricted to a maximum of 50.

Agreed: i) to endorse the decisions made by Finance & General Purposes Committee to agree residential credits as noted above;

ii) to endorse the decisions made to agree the Sustainability Strategy Framework 2021/25 noting that lead Governors had also been content with it; **KB**

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(C) Staffing Committee

Received:

i) a report on the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 26 February 2021

ii) proposed changes to the Articles of Association

iii)

iv) that having considered the 22 very high-quality expressions of interest received in response to the University's advert and arising from the search conducted by Inclusive Boards**,** the Committee had concluded that it would invite eight individuals to meet the Chair, Vice-Chair and Vice-Chancellor at a virtual interview and would invite two applicants to consider becoming co-opted members of Audit and Risk Management Committee. It was also decided to explore with a further applicant whether he wished to be retained in the 'pool' for future members;

v) that the interviews had led to seven applicants being nominated for appointment to the Board subject to final satisfactory due diligence checks as set out below. In making the recommendations, the Committee was content that the majority of the identified skills gaps which would occur in July 2021 when 6 current members retire would be met and that all applicants recommended had the motivation and 'bandwidth' to meet the obligations of being a pro-active member of the Board. Mr Burnhope had also notified the Chair that he wished to resign from the Board due to other commitments with effect from July 2021. Recommended candidates were as follows:

Ken Greetham- former CEO OF Wynnstay, alumnus and current co-opted member of Audit & Risk Management Committee, agricultural background.

Barbara Bray-food and nutrition expert, Co-Chair of Oxford Farming Conference, Nuffield Scholar.

Ben Shipston-Chartered Surveyor, estate, land and sustainability expertise, National Trust.

Liz Salter- engineering and research background. Institute for Manufacturing at Cambridge University. Strategic planning.

Edosa Odaro- international expertise relating to big data and digital solutions and systems.

Talib Sheikh- alumnus (1980s) City of London Wealth & Asset Management career- JP Morgan & Jupiter. Pensions and risk management expertise.

Uloma Uhunmwangho- cyber & IT expertise, lead role for Cargills, Agriculture/food industry background, mentors STEM students.

<u>Co-option to ARMC</u>

Bill Young – CEO Charity (Addington Fund) NWF Agriculture, alumnus

Marisa Virseda- finance background in city of London, ethical investment expertise.

<u>Apprentice</u>

Sebastian Soneyra- Rather than just being held on file as a possible future Governor, Mr Soneyra had requested that he might be able to observe Board meetings in the role of an observer/apprentice.

vi) that in due course, the Committee would put forward proposals for committee membership and lead Governor roles for 2021/22. Thanks were due to a number of current members who had kindly agreed to take on

new roles in 2021/22 subject to Board approval. A proposed revised list of Board lead roles was presented.

Agreed: i) to approve appointment of the 7 new Board members, the co-opted Members of Audit & Risk Management Committee and the apprenticeship set out above subject to satisfactory completion of due diligence checks, with final approval by circulation in due course; **PN/CEB**

ii) to approve final proposals for committee membership, Chairs and Lead Governor roles by circulation; **PN/CEB**

iii) to approve the amended lead Governor roles for 2021/22.

20/58 **Expenses Policy**

Received: the annual reminder of the Expenses Policy

20/59 **Dates of Next Meetings**

11 May 2021 (Special meeting to approve appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor)

18 May 2021 (Special meeting if required to consider second interviews for Vice-Chancellor candidates)

8 July 2021

20/60 **Risk Management**

Received: an updated report from the Deputy University Secretary on the key risk areas monitored by the Board of Governors

Agreed: that Members had no issues to raise

20/61 **Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Strategy 2019/24**

Received: the annual progress report from the Director of Education that had been shared with the relevant Lead Governor.

20/62 Research **& Knowledge Exchange Strategy**

Received: the annual progress report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

20/63 **Harper Adams University Development Trust**

Received: a report on the meeting of the Development Trust held on 24 February 2021

20/64