

UNIVERSITY BOARD**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2014**

- Present:** Mrs S Sutherland (Chair).
Mr J Andrews (Chief Operating Officer); Ms M Barron; Mr G Beards (Director of Finance & Performance); Mr J Clark; Ms S Collins; Prof R Conder; Dr J Knowles; Mr T Lee (Deputy Chair); Prof T McIntyre-Bhatty (Deputy Vice Chancellor); Dr F McMillan; Dr P Rawlinson; Prof E Rosser; Dr R Scullion; Ms Schendel-Wilson (Students' Union at Bournemouth University, President); Mr R Spragg; Ms C Troy; Prof J Vinney (Vice Chancellor).
- In Attendance:** Ms C Cherry, (Policy Advisor To The Vice-Chancellor) (Item 3); Prof J Fletcher (Pro Vice Chancellor- Research And Innovation) (Items 3 and 4); Mr N Hillman, (Higher Education Policy Institute)(Item 4); Dr S Minocha, (Pro Vice-Chancellor)(Items 3 and 4); Mr G Rayment (Corporate Governance & Committee Manager); Ms D Wakely (Clerk to the University Board).
- Apologies:** Mr C Appleton; Mr J Granger; Mr D Hines; Mr D McQueen; Dr C Shaw.

Declarations of Interest

Dr Rawlinson declared that he was a Non Executive Director of Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust and it was agreed that he would withdraw from the meeting for item 2.2.

1 MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY BOARD MEETING, 11 JULY 2014

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

1.1 Matters Arising and Actions Register

Members noted the actions register. All outstanding actions were scheduled for discussion at the next meeting of the Board, with the exception of the Marketing and Communications strategic delivery plan which would form the basis of a CPD presentation at the February 2015 Board meeting.

2 STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS**2.1 Minutes of the Nominations Committee Meeting, 5 August 2014**

Members noted the minutes of the Nominations Committee.

2.1.1 Nominations Committee Terms of Reference

The Nominations Committee Terms of Reference were approved subject to the addition of 'holders of senior posts who are co-opted members of the Board' to point 3.

2.1.2 Appointment of Chair of Audit, Risk & Governance Committee

The Board approved the appointment of Prof Richard Conder to the Chair of the Audit, Risk & Governance Committee following Mr Spragg's departure at the end of October 2014. Ms Sheila Collins was appointed as Deputy Chair.

2.1.3 Observer Status at Meetings

The Board noted the Nominations Committee's decision to clarify the role of observer status as occasional attendance for specific purposes with the advance agreement of the Chair, and that it would be non-contributory except for specific circumstances agreed with the Chair. This would apply to all Board members when observing at any committee, including Senate.

2.2 Student Counselling Contract

Dr Rawlinson withdrew for this item.

- 2.2.1 The COO with the Head of Student Support Services presented the proposals for a renewal of the Student Counselling Services contract. All students would be encouraged to make use of the service which adopted a new model, comprising options for facilities such as self-help networks, in addition to traditional counselling. The University was mindful of the need to provide support for all students regardless of ethnicity or cultural background, and this new approach would provide additional options for those who might not wish to use traditional one-to-one counselling. It would also provide greater flexibility in terms of access, with the ability to extend services into evenings and vacation periods. The new service would be fully launched in Spring 2015 and communicated widely to students and staff, including programme leaders and academic advisers.
- 2.2.2 The Board **approved** the Student Counselling Contract.

3 BU Developments and sector update

- 3.1 The Vice-Chancellor set out recent key developments for the University, with on-campus Undergraduate demand for 2014/15 being at its highest level ever; a strong REF submission; high levels of academic staff recruitment and a strong financial position being among the key positive points. He briefly outlined the proposed new Faculty structure and set out how this mapped to research themes and REF Units of Assessment. Four key challenges remained where further effort would be needed in order to ensure that targets for 2018/19 were met.
- 3.2 [Confidential minute].
- 3.3 [Confidential minute].
- 3.4 [Confidential minute].
- 3.5 [Confidential minute]
- 3.6 Having set out the key challenges and plans to address them, the VC briefly updated the Board on major IT investments, the on-going improvements to the University's website and the future vision for the campus estate.
- 3.7 Ms Cherry briefly recapped the main developments in the Higher Education external context which was largely dominated by the forthcoming general election and possible policy developments. [Confidential minute]. Regardless of the election outcome, it was still anticipated that a new HE Bill would be presented to Parliament in 2017.
- 3.8 Members welcomed the presentation and discussed the key issues raised. There was broad agreement that it was important to develop a communications strategy which would emphasise the many positive developments and counter some of the more negative messages arising from the League Table results. They considered how best the Board could fulfil its role in maintaining strategic oversight and get to grips with the detail of the key challenges. It was suggested that the main monitoring mechanism for the Board was the regular KPI performance reports, although further consideration

could be given to the detailed data included, and presentation of, these reports to ensure that sufficient data was provided to the Board to allow adequate oversight.

- 3.9 Members noted that the league table results had also been disappointing for the academic staff, but welcomed the positive support that the University's Leadership Team had provided. It was also commented that it was crucial to ensure that Fusion was firmly embedded in academic pay and promotion systems. The COO responded that work to finalise the Embedding Fusion programme to address this point had been subject to extended negotiations with staff representatives, but it was hoped that these would be concluded shortly, allowing the new pay and progression system to be implemented.

4 An Independent View of the HE sector

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed Nick Hillman, Director of the Higher Education Policy Institute, who spoke to members about his personal experiences within the Sector and his own views on possible future developments and priorities.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1 The Chair reminded members that the University's awards ceremonies would take place in early November and all members were encouraged to attend.
- 5.2 Members joined the Chair in expressing their gratitude to Mr Spragg and Ms Barron for their service to the Board during their terms of office.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Friday, 28th November 2014**. This will be preceded by the Vice-Chancellor's Staff Awards ceremony on the evening of **Thursday, 27th November 2014**.