

University of Central Lancashire

Unreserved Minutes of the Board Meeting Held on 24th September 2020 commencing at

Nicky Danino	Ruth Lowry
Maria Darby-Walker	Anne McCarthy
Jim Edney	Bill McQueen
Ridwanah Gurjee	Lorraine Norris

Also in attendance (via video -conference):

Michael Ahern (Chief Information and Infrastructure Officer)
George Charles (Chief Finance Officer)
Ruth Connor (Chief Marketing Officer)
Ian Fisher (University Secretary and General Counsel and Clerk to the Board)
Ken Lee (Chief People Officer)
Lynne Livesey (Deputy Vice Chancellor)
Peter McMellon (assisting the Clerk to the Board)
Fiona Winters (Deputy Clerk to the Board)
Lisa Atty (Governance Support Officer)

UB855. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting .

Apologies for absence had been received from Fiona Armstrong.

UB856. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests other than those recorded under UB86

UB857. Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported that, having completed all his one -to-one meetings with in

UB858. Reserved and Unreserved Minutes of the University Board Meeting held on 25th June 2020

Resolved : That t

Resolved: That

- (i) the Vice-Chancellor's Update Report be received, and
- (ii) Reserved Minute – Text Redacted

UB861. Academic Board Annual Assurance Report

Dr Livesey presented her report. A copy of the report is set out in the Minute Book.

Dr Livesey reminded the Board that the Annual Report was designed to provide the Board with evidence to show that the University and its Academic Board continued to comply with the highest standards of academic governance and specifically with the requirements of the OfS in that regard. In addition to the reports submitted to the Board, the appointment of two Board members (Dr Ion and Mrs Lloyd) to the Academic Board also served to provide the Board with insights and assurances.

Dr Livesey drew attention to the work of the Course Planning Committee and to the strategic overview which the Academic Board derived through that Committee's work on the University's academic portfolio, including work on new courses proposals and on courses withdrawals/suspensions.

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UB862. Reserved Minute – Text Redacted

UB863. Reserved Minute – Text Redacted

UB864. Committee Chair's Update : Audit and Risk Committee (16th July 2020)

Mrs Lowry provided a verbal report on the main matters addressed at the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee on 16th July 2020.

The Committee had noted the position on the emerging new University Strategic Plan, and the arrangements for risk management during the Plan development process.

The Committee was also updated on proposals for completion of the Corporate Governance Statement (included in the Financial Statements/Annual accounts).

The final reports and resultant actions from four reviews by the Internal Auditor (on Mental Health –Student Wellbeing, HESA Student Record data quality, International Collaboration and Student Retention, Progression and Support) were noted.

Reserved Minute – Text Redacted

UB867. Any Other Business

(i) University Board –Committees Structure

Mr Fisher outlined proposals for changes to the current Committee structure. It is proposed that a new committee should be introduced to deal with all University honorary awards (academic and non -academic) and also that another new committee would oversee OfS regulatory compliance and corporate governance matters in addition to the nomination function currently carried out by the existing Nominations Committee . There will also be amendments to the terms of reference of the Audit and Risk and the Resources Committees.

Mr Fisher confirmed that the proposed changes will conform with updated CUC guidance on best practice in governance in the HE sector. The next Corporate Governance Statement will reflect the proposed changes if approved.

Finally, Mr Fisher asked individual Board members to contact either Dr Livesey or himself if the role of ‘Board Champion’ for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion was of interest.

Resolved: That the corporate governance update be noted.

(ii) Climate Change

Mrs Lloyd reported on her involvement in Chapter Zero (‘the Directors’ climate change forum’). She commented on the rate at which interest in the movement was growing and also on the benefits (including taxation benefits) which positive responses – including in universities –can produce.

Mr Hext reported on his own work and involvement on climate change in Hong Kong and he undertook to distribute details to Board members.

Professor Baldwin confirmed that the ongoing Strategic Plan discussions included consideration of net zero

UB868. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, 26th November 2020, on the rising of the Foundation Board (details of timings to be confirmed).

The Chair confirmed, with considerable regret, that the format of the meeting will have to be 'virtual', it having been established that, because of the pandemic, there was no real prospect of holding the type of off-campus meeting/event usually arranged at this time of year.

I M Fisher
Clerk to the Board