

## UNIVERSITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONFIRMED

**Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2022, in room LD1.01, Langdale building, Ambleside**

**Present:** Mr M Williams (Chair), Miss F Aiken, Mrs E Bales (from 21:97), Mr J Batty, Mrs J Johnston, Professor J Lee, Mr I Looker, Ms M McConnell (until 21:99), Professor J Mennell, Mr C Nall, Ms S Swindley, Ms P Tatlow, Mr P Yates

**In attendance:** Dr J Brown, University Secretary  
Mr D Chesser, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr Nigel Lund, DfE NW Regional Prevent Coordinator (item 21:97)  
Ms Honor Rhodes, Head of Student Support/Operational Safeguarding and Prevent Lead (item 21:97)  
Mrs E Shaw, Committee Officer  
Professor Rob Trimble, DVC (Academic)

**21:92 Apologies for absence** Verbal

Apologies were received from Revd Canon C Butland and Mr I Purdham.

**21:93 Declaration of Interests** Verbal

Ms P Tatlow in regards to part-time consultancy work for the Cathedrals group; no direct interests however recorded as the Vice Chancellor is currently Chair of the Group.

Mrs E Bales in relation to her role as Director of Student Services.

**21:94 Minutes of the previous meeting** UB21/63a, b & c  
The minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting of University Board held on 17 March 2022 and the notes of the pre-Board presentation on 17 March 2022 were confirmed as an accurate record.

**21:95 Matters Arising** UB21/64  
The action log was noted, there were no matters arising.

**21:96 Chair's Business** Verbal  
The Chair detailed the activities he had been engaged with (in his role as Chair of the Board) since the last meeting:

- the Archbishop of York had been inaugurated as Chancellor of the University, with the inauguration followed by a Stakeholder dinner attended by the Chair and members of the Board;
- Signing of the disposal agreement for Stanwix House;
- following agreement by FRC, the approval of the land acquisitions for the Citadels project.

**21:97 Safeguarding and Prevent** Presentation

**Received:** a presentation on Prevent and Safeguarding

The Chair introduced the item setting out that it was important that the Board was briefed on these matters on a regular basis.

Head of Student Support (HoSS) introduced herself and the Regional DfE Prevent Coordinator (RPC) before speaking to her presentation. She

highlighted the legal and regulatory requirements and external and internal context. The requirement for regular training on Safeguarding and Prevent was set out as being to ensure that the Board was fully aware of current risks, new initiatives and the policies and procedures relating to the area. It was noted that the Board approved the annual Prevent Accountability and Data return to the OfS which included the Safeguarding Annual Report. The HoSS confirmed that the OfS had notified that University that there were no concerns on the University's last return.

An overview was provided of aspects of work relating to safeguarding and Prevent including:

- the work with higher level apprentices to ensure that the safeguarding requirements were fulfilled;
- the training provided to staff, along with data on the uptake of the training;
- the work to ensure safer recruitment of students and the inclusion of safeguarding in the curriculum;
- the risks relating to safeguarding and Prevent; and
- the support mechanisms in place for students and staff, including wellbeing initiatives.

It was noted that the University typically had between two and six cases a year where external advice was sought; an example where the Prevent team had been involved was outlined.

The RPC spoke to his part of the presentation, starting by setting out the current terrorism threat level and the number of plots that had been stopped during the pandemic. He spoke about how the current threat had moved away from organised groups and was focused on self-initiated terrorism. Recent examples were detailed along with other examples of terrorist incidents by university or college students.

The Government Counter Terrorism Strategy was explained, outlining the 4 Ps: Protect, Prepare, Pursue and Prevent. Prevent being a multi agency approach with the aim of stopping people from becoming terrorists in the first instance. It was noted that educational institutions were a good place to spot concerns.

How Prevent referrals worked was asked. The RPC responded that the process was voluntary, with the purpose being to keep people out of the criminal justice system and having a negative impact on their and other peoples' lives. Referral was into a non-criminal space and would not show up on a DBS check.

Whether there was any push back from staff at the University around Prevent was asked. The RPC responded as time has progressed and more referrals have been made the results have made people feel more comfortable. The HoSS highlighted that the challenge was ensuring that staff knew how to raise any concerns, hence the importance of training.

The link between radicalisation and mental health needs was commented on, with it asked if there was sufficient capacity at the University in this area. The HoSS explained the numbers looking to access mental health services had increased, following a drop during the pandemic. With the increase having come alongside some challenges with the stability of staffing in the team there was a currently a waiting list, however students were triaged to manage the risk and the staffing situation was being managed.

The HoSS and RPC were thanked for their presentation.

**21:98 Vice Chancellor's Report**

UB21/65

**Received:** Vice Chancellor's Report and summary of the Vice Chancellor's activities & engagements

a) & b)

The Vice Chancellor began by providing an update on the Cumbria local government elections that had been held the previous week. Shadow authorities for Cumberland and for Westmorland & Furness had been established with the elections of the leaders having taken place. Work was being undertaken to map out key portfolio holders and leaders that needed to be engaged with.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

Moving on to the REF results the Vice Chancellor set out that on the surface they looked quite good, with more staff submitted than for the previous REF and with a shift to the percentage awarded three stars. However, the results had not increased the University's position in the sector. With the Towards 2030 Strategy, Medical School proposals and research and development with BAE, research would be strengthened in new areas for the University, in addition to key areas such as education.

In addition to matters set out within the paper, the Vice Chancellor updated the Board on a meeting with other Cathedrals' Group Vice Chancellors, Deans and the Schools Minister on the ITT (Initial Teacher Training) review. It had been reported through this meeting that of the submissions made to be accredited as an ITE provider, only one in three institutions had been successful to date. The meeting had provided an opportunity to feed back directly to the Minister.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

The REF results were welcomed, with it commented that they were towards the upper end of expectations.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

The Vice Chancellor was thanked for her report.

**AGREED:** To receive the report.

**21:99 Student's Union Matters**

UB21/66

**Received:** A report from the Students' Union.

The Student Director had left the meeting. She was thanked for her report.

**AGREED:** To receive the report.

**21:100 Academic Matters**

UB21/67

**Received:** Reports from the DVC(Academic) and the DVC(Health Environment & Innovation)

a)  
b)

#### DVC(Academic)

The DVC(A) spoke to the paper, starting by reporting that the NSS results were being released on 6 July 2022. He highlighted that the OfS had written to confirm that they had no issues to raise with respect to monitoring of the University's 2020/21 Access and Participation Plan, the next steps on this would be taken to the July Board meeting. The Institute of Business, Industry and Leadership had been successful in winning tenders for new business and having existing contracts extended, a key one being the recent award of a national contract with BAE systems for Project Management. The re-registration onto the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers was noted.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

#### DVC(Health Environment & Innovation)

The Vice Chancellor spoke to the report in the DVC(HE&I)'s absence.

In the discussion that followed, whether the University's position remained that if the NSS results returned to the position 2020 that would be seen as a good outcome was asked. In response the DVC(A) confirmed that there were students in the current cohorts who had experienced two years with Covid disruptions but whose recent two semesters had gone to plan; to return to the NSS results of 2020 would therefore be seen as a good outcome.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

**AGREED:** To receive the reports.

### **21:101 Barrow Learning Quarter Update**

UB21/68

**Received:** an update and request for approval of the University being the lead partner for the project

The DVC(A) spoke to the paper which had been written for FRC and had a secretary's note with the outcomes of the discussions at FRC and ARC regarding the potential role of the University as lead partner for the project. He gave an update on progress with the various agreements, as set out in the paper, noting those that needed to be in place for signing alongside the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA). The GFA had not as yet been received by the University, it was noted that it was expected by the end of May.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

The Chair concluded by noting that he, with the Chairs of FRC and ARC, had authority from the Board to sign the GFA if it was in line with expectations. The Board agreed the University being the lead partner for the project.

**AGREED:** To receive the report and approve the University being the lead partner for the Barrow Learning Quarter project

### **21:102 Citadels Project Update**

UB21/69

**Received:** an update on the Citadels Project

The COO noted that the paper had been written for and discussed at FRC. At the recent meeting, FRC had approved the land acquisitions subject to the

Chair's approval. The COO went on to provide additional updates since the paper had been written, including:

- that the first draw down of funding by Northumberland County Council (NCC) from the government department (DLUHC) had been received. Within the Grant Funding Agreement the principle was that funding would be drawn down by NCC based on milestones achieved, DLUHC had wanted to move away from this to the draw down by NCC being based on defrayed expenditure; the position was being discussed between the parties.
- a revised costing has been received from Gardiner and Theobald, the new cost consultants working on the project. The costing were £2.5 million higher than previously reflecting the increase in material costs. The cost consultants advised that they felt that the increase was manageable through the design and value engineering that was yet to be undertaken.
- that agreement had been reached with Carlisle City Council on the process for buying out of the leaseholds, with the University leading on the negotiations in this process.
- work was ongoing on responses to the planning application, including the concerns raised by Historic England with respect to the massing for stage two of the build.

The COO reported that FRC had also received a paper on the request to Barclays for additional funding. The bank had asked the University to provide a 'downside' cash scenario, with the detail of the terms of any loan now being discussed.

In the discussion that followed it was accepted that costs would rise, with the University encouraged to get to a position where a 10% rise could be accommodated.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

The discussion regarding inflationary pressures prompted a question regarding potential salary increases. The Vice Chancellor confirmed a final offer had been made to the Trade Unions via UCEA on behalf of the sector, with feedback from the Trade Unions awaited.

**AGREED:** To receive the report.

**21:103 Cumbria School of Medicine: A Partnership with Imperial College London**

UB21/70

**Received:** A summary of the model proposed for the Cumbria School of Medicine and the next steps

The Chair commented that the developments in relation to the project were excellent news. The proposal to present to the Board, to allow a fuller discussion, was agreed.

The Vice Chancellor reported that, alongside the development of this project, the Strategic Projects Framework was being refreshed to provide consistency across all projects. The timescales of what was presented to Board and the intended outcome was being worked through.

A question was asked as to whether the University would take over the awarding of the medical degree from Imperial College in due course. The Vice Chancellor responded that the current model was that the medical degree would continue to be awarded by Imperial College, but that over time this model could change. The benefits of the potential transfer of the award of the degree being discussed in advance were commented upon and noted.

**AGREED:** To receive the report.

**21:104 Honorary Awards**

UB21/71

**Received:** Proposals from the Honorary Awards Committee

The Vice Chancellor spoke to the paper, setting out the reasons why the timescales for one of the awards was appropriate to be outside of the norm. It was noted that two University Board Directors sat on Honorary Awards Committee and that the nominations had been approved by Academic Board.

The Board agreed the two nominations as outlined in the paper.

**AGREED:** To approve proposals from the Honorary Awards Committee as set out in the paper.

**21:105 Student Recruitment Update**

UB21/72

**Received:** An update on 2021/22 in-year recruitment against targets and 2022/23 recruitment performance to date and forecast

This minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

**AGREED:** To receive the report.

**21:106 Month 7 Management Accounts**

UB21/73

**Received:** The University's 2021/22 financial performance at Month 7

It was noted that FRC had reviewed the Management Accounts and 2022/23 Budget update paper.

The COO gave an update on the current, healthy, cash position and reported that the financial forecast for the year was in the process of being updated.

The Chair summarised that there were some areas above and areas below budget, however overall the financial position was positive.

**AGREED:** To receive the report.

**21:107 2022/23 Budget update**

UB21/74

**Received:** A paper on progress towards setting the 2022/23 budget

It was reported by the COO that work had begun on the budget for 2022/23, informed by the planning round that was ongoing. A budget would be prepared for review at the next meeting of the Board.

A section of this minute has been recorded in a separate confidential set of minutes.

**AGREED:** To receive the report.

**21:108 Board and Committee Dates for 2022/23**

UB21/75

**Received:** Dates proposed for meetings in 2022/23

The proposed dates for 2022/23 were noted. The University Secretary asked that any concerns over the dates be passed back to her. The calendar invitations would be issued in due course.

**AGREED:** To approve the dates proposed for meetings in 2022/23

**21:109 University Board Committees**

<b>Received:</b>	• Academic Governance Committee: Minutes 18 January 2021 and 29 March 2022	AGC21/24 AGC21/37
	• Audit & Risk Committee: Minutes and confidential minutes 8 March 2022	ARC21/35 a&b
	• People, Performance & Culture Committee: Minutes 22 February 2022	PPCC21/20
	• Finance and Resources Committee: Minutes and confidential minutes 1 March 2022; verbal update 3 May 2022	FRC21/36a &b Verbal

Committee chairs were asked if there was anything further to add, in addition to matters covered at the meeting. The Chair of AGC noted that the changes to the OfS Academic Conditions of Registration had been considered by the Committee.

**AGREED:** To receive the minutes and verbal updates from committee chairs.

**21:110** As it was the last formal Board meeting that Emma Bales and Molly McConnell would be able to attend as Directors they were both thanked for their contributions.

**21:111 Future Meetings**

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| • Thursday 14 July 2022 | Verbal |
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