

University of Central Lancashire
Unreserved Minutes of the Board Meeting Held on 2nd February 2023 commencing at 5.00pm in room 105, 2nd Floor, Student Centre, Preston

Present:

David Taylor (Chair)

Fiona Armstrong*
Graham Baldwin
Jon Baldwin
Nicky Danino
Sue Ion*

Ruth Lowry
Anne McCarthy
Lorraine Norris
Lis Smith
Mike Tynan

Also in attendance:

George Charles (Chief Finance Officer)
Ruth Connor (Deputy Chief Executive)
Ian Fisher (University Secretary and General Counsel and Clerk to the Board)
Ken Lee (Chief People Officer)
Fiona Winters (Deputy Clerk to the Board)

*attendance via video-conference

UB1089. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Gurjee, Mr Hext, Mrs Lloyd and Mr Odjegba.

UB1090. Declaration of Interests

There were no new declarations of interests.

UB1091. Chair's Announcements

There were no Chair's announcements.

UB1092. Reserved and Unreserved Minutes of the University Board Meeting held on 24th November 2022

The Reserved and Unreserved Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

UB1093. Matters Arising

It was agreed that there were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda of the meeting.

UB1094. Vice-Chancellor's Report

A copy of the Report is set out in the Minute Book. In presenting his Report, the Vice-Chancellor explained that the Report was largely self-explanatory. However, Professor Baldwin highlighted the following points:-

(i) Visit by the Chief Executive of Universities UK

The visit by the Chief Executive of Universities UK had been positive and helpful. The discussions were wide ranging and covered current Government thinking on a number of areas including University funding, industrial relations, international students, the Office for Students and the Confucius Institute. The current stance of the opposition on some of the key issues was also discussed.

(ii) Reserved Minute - Text Redacted

(iii) (2.4) Cost of Living

Professor Baldwin confirmed that the sector had been awarded £15m to support students through the cost of living crisis, with the University's allocation being £235k.

(iv) (2.5) University Admissions

Mrs Connor explained that a key deadline had only just passed so the position was not yet clear. However, the recent trend of increased international applications but slightly reduced UK applications seems to have continued.

Professor Baldwin further explained that the trend of increased applications to the Universities in larger cities also seems to have continued.

Mrs Connor reported that the University would shortly commence a campaign highlighting the actions taken by UCLan to support students with cost of living issues.

Professor Baldwin also confirmed that the Recruitment issues are on the University's Risk Register and that the Register is reviewed and amended as necessary to reflect these changes. In response to a question from Miss McCarthy, the Vice-Chancellor also confirmed that the staffing implications of reducing student numbers in some areas were also being considered.

(v) (3) Regional Activity

The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had attended the recent 'Convention of the North' event. Professor Baldwin highlighted the difference in political influence between the areas with metro-Mayors (eg Greater Manchester and Merseyside) and areas such as Lancashire, which does not have an elected Mayor. The Board agreed that not having a Mayor was a significant disadvantage to both the University and the County as a whole.

Reserved Minute - Text Redacted

With regard to other matters, Mr J Baldwin reported that he had been very impressed with the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) submission referred to in Professor Baldwin's report. However, he wondered how such documents from widely varying institutions could be assessed.

Resolved: That the Vice-Chancellor's Report be received.

UB1095. *Reserved Minute - Text Redacted*

UB1096. Committee Chair's Update: Resources Committee 19/01/2023

The Chair of the Resources Committee reported that the key issues discussed by the Committee were set out in her brief summary circulated to the Board.

Reserved Minute - Text Redacted

The only other issue Dr Ion wished to highlight was the excellent news that the University had completed the purchase of Summergrove Halls adjacent to the Westlakes campus.

Reserved Minute - Text Redacted

Resolved: That the Committee Chair's update be noted.

UB1097. Governance Issues

The University Secretary and General Counsel sought the approval of the Board on the following matters:

(1) Criteria for Staff Governor Members

Mr Fisher explained that, following various management restructurings over the last five years, it was proposed to change the eligibility criteria for staff member appointees from the current bar on Management Contract holders to a bar on any employees who are or become during their term of office, a direct report of a Member of the Vice-Chancellor's Group.

Resolved: That the Eligibility Criteria for staff appointment to (and continuation in) the role of University Board Member be that the Member of Staff concerned shall not be entitled to be appointed to (or continue in) the role if they are in (or are appointed to) a post in which they report directly to a Member of the Vice-Chancellor's Group.

(2) As part of the process to prepare for an upcoming inspection, it is proposed to consolidate the various Conflict of Interest policies, procedures and practices into one overarching policy. This type of policy falls within the general remit of matters overseen by the Resources Committee. Accordingly, to avoid any doubt, the Board is requested to agree that the Terms of Reference of the Committee be amended to

specifically include the new Conflicts of Interest policy within the remit of the Committee.

Resolved: That the Terms of Reference of the Resources Committee be amended to provide that the University's Conflict of Interest Policy (and any changes thereto) shall be agreed by the Committee.

(3) Reserved Minute - Text Redacted

(4) The University Secretary explained that it was necessary to change the date of the next Board Residential event from 18th and 19th May to 25th and 26th April. The revised dates were chosen because they are as close as possible to the previously circulated dates and there were also Committee meetings scheduled on 25th and 26th April and, therefore, already in the diary of a number of Board Members. Mr Fisher confirmed that a formal notification of the change would be circulated shortly. However, should any Members have problems with one or both of the proposed dates, they should contact his office as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the revised dates for the Spring residential event be noted.

(5) Reserved Minute - Text Redacted

UB1098. Any Other Business

- (1) Dr Armstrong congratulated the University on our rise in the Green Planet league.
- (2) Miss McCarthy requested that time be allocated at a future meeting of the Board to discuss student experience issues.
- (3) The Chair formally reported that, following her appointment to a post with Leeds University, this was the last Board meeting of Nicky Danino. The Board thanked Nicky for all her support and wished her well for the future.

UB1099. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Resolved: That the next meeting be held on 30th March 2023 commencing at 5.00pm in room 105, 2nd floor, Student Centre, Preston.

**I M Fisher
Clerk to the Board**