

CONFIRMED

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held at 9.00 am on Friday 8th March 2024, Erddig Room, Wrexham University

Present: Dr Leigh Griffin (Chair)
Amy Anglesea
Paul Barlow
Richard Campbell
Professor Martin Chambers
Dr Sarah Dubberley
Maisie Head
Dr Karen Heald
Professor Maria Hinfelaar
Claire Homard
Professor Sandra Jowett
Sally Lambah
Diane McCarthy
David Subacchi
Will Naylor
Richard Thomas
Maureen Wain

Officers: David Clarke (*Clerk to the Board*)
Professor Richard Day (*PVC for Research*)
David Elcock (*Executive Director of Finance*)
Professor Ieuan Ellis (*Interim PVC Strategic Change Projects*)
Pete Gibbs (*Executive Director of HR*)
Lynda Powell (*Executive Director of Operations*)

In attendance: Alison Bloomfield (*Head of Organisational Development and Diversity*)
for item BG2324/62
Yasmin Washbrook (*Race Equality Charter Project Lead*) *for item*
BG2324/62
Dr Ian Barwick (*Head of OpTIC Business and Services*) *for item*
BG2324/65

Apologies: Fabrizio Trifiro
Liam Wynne

BG2324/54	Welcome and apologies	
	Reported: The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
BG2324/55	Declaration of conflicts of interest	

	<p>Reported: Claire Homard declared a potential conflict of interest in her role as an employee of Flintshire County Council, where potential planning applications and developments at Northop would be discussed under item 17. It was noted that no decisions were being taken in this meeting, and the member did not have any involvement in planning decisions at the Council.</p>	
BG2324/56	Minutes of last meeting	
	<p>Received: Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2023</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
BG2324/57	Action log	
	<p>Received: Log of actions arising from previous meetings</p> <p>Reported: The Board received a report on actions arising from the November meeting as follows:</p> <p>(i) <u>Academic Partnerships: Proposal on framework and process for Board approval of partners</u> (Minutes BG2324/13 and BG2324/41 refer)</p> <p>The new Academic Partnerships Procedure was considered by Board in November 2023, where final approval was delegated to Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC). AQSC approved the procedure at its meeting in February 2024, subject to some further minor amendments. This item was now considered closed.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Academic Partnerships: Manchester Campus</u> (Minutes BG2324/13 and BG2324/42 refer)</p> <p>It was reported that the proposal regarding the establishment of a Manchester campus was paused indefinitely, and Board approval was now considered to have lapsed. In the unlikely event that the University wished to revisit the partnership in future, a full business case would be brought forward. This item was now considered closed.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Attainment and Completion report: to explore the use of measurements of 'learning gain' or 'distance travelled' to inform reporting in future years</u> (Minute BG2324/37 refers)</p> <p>The Director of SPSA had reported that this would be considered for inclusion in reporting going forward, however there was an issue in that many students (particularly those that applied direct and/or those that entered with the lowest qualifications) often had entry qualifications missing. Members acknowledged this challenge but did not want this to</p>	

	<p>be a reason not to do it. Members requested further consideration of contextual admissions and how an appropriate methodology could be found.</p> <p>(iv) <u>Q1 Financial forecast: Performance in relation to UKVI requirements to be added as a corporate KPI for 2023/24 and reported annually as part of that process</u> (Minute BG2324/38 refers)</p> <p>It was suggested that, as a minimum, the University should adopt the three criteria making up UKVI's 'Basic Compliance Assessment' (BCA) as KPIs; these included refusal rate, enrolment rate, and course completion rate.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the action log</p>	<p>Director SPSA</p> <p>Director SPSA</p>
BG2324/58	Students' Union report	
	<p>Received: Report on Students' Union activity</p> <p>Reported: The President and Vice President of the Students' Union presented the report on recent activity, highlighting a number of key areas within the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative work with Student Services staff to actively promote and raise the profile of the support available to students;• Work to incorporate student feedback into the design and delivery of 2024 graduation ceremonies;• A student role mapping exercise to highlight the range of opportunities available to students whilst at University;• The successful election of a Chair of Student Council from September 2024;• NUS Wales Conference would be held in March, with Wrexham demonstrating leadership in the sector by putting forward policy changes for the second year running• Good progress made in delivering on the manifesto objectives of both the President and VP, including work around assessment and feedback, appropriate training for SU staff to deliver advice and support, and fostering relationships with local charities and external organisations;• Progress was being made regarding the SU's rebranding exercise. The consultation phase was complete, and the rebrand was on track to be launched from September 2024;• Glyn's Bar continued to thrive, with increased engagement from students and significant income through opening on Wrexham FC matchdays;• Nominations for the SU awards were currently open, with the event scheduled to take place on Friday 10th May 2024. Governors were reminded that all members were invited to the event.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections were underway for 2024/25 SU officers. Maisie Head was standing unopposed to replace Amy Anglesea as President when her term finished. <p>The Board thanked the SU for an excellent report. Members welcomed the success of Glyn's Bar, noting it as an impressive model of internal and external engagement and a symbol of the SU's health. It was also noted that the Performing Arts Society had successfully secured funding to improve AV equipment in Glyn's Bar which would improve events, and strengthen links with Theatr Clwyd.</p> <p>Members reported that the opportunity to engage with the SU during the Board's Strategy Day in January had been very well received. It was agreed that opportunities to overlap Board activities with SU events would be explored in 2024/25.</p>	DC/MH
BG2324/59	Vice Chancellor's report	
	<p>Received: Update report from the Vice Chancellor</p> <p>Reported: The Vice Chancellor presented her report, highlighting recent activity and sector news including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent Universities UK (UUK) conference in London had focused on financial sustainability within the sector. This had included a panel debate regarding how insolvency of a University might unfold, highlighting the complexities given the diversity of a typical University portfolio. It was noted that in an insolvency scenario, the financial debtors would likely mean that Student Protection Plans would not be the immediate priority. It was noted that regulators were paying attention to a number of English HEI's who were reportedly on the precipice of serious financial issues. The UUK conference had also touched on a report by Focal Data which had been commissioned to look into public opinion of HE. The results highlighted positive public perceptions of the benefits of HE in terms of the economy and the broader impact on communities. It was noted that neither the public or Universities wished to see a tuition fee hike, however the challenge remained as to how Universities would close that funding gap. In Wales, the sector was working towards the changed implementation date of 1st August 2024 for CTER to commence as regulator. The VC had met 1:1 with Simion Pirotte, the CTER CEO to brief him on developments at the University and talk about transition to the new regulator and expectations for the future. <p>Members thanked the VC for her report. It was noted, while there were no immediate concerns regarding Wrexham, the threat of financial failure was becoming more likely for Universities as well as local authorities. Members questioned whether, like local authorities, all Universities were required to have contingency plans in place should that scenario unfold. It was reported that Universities were required to have student protection plans in place to ensure an</p>	

	<p>'orderly exit' if and when required. Welsh HEIs were also subject to the Institutional Risk Review (IRR) which examined financial sustainability, and the regulator monitored institutions very closely.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/61	Chair's report	
	<p>Reported: The Board received a verbal report from the Chair which covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with members of VCET, the Chair had recently met a range of stakeholders at a dinner hosted by the University to engage in external consultation around the new University strategy. It was reported that the model and format of the event had been successful. • The University had welcomed a range of stakeholders including government ministers for the recent turf cutting ceremony for the EEOC building. It was noted that this was a significant occasion as the first development under the North Wales Growth Deal. Paul Barlow was thanked for representing the Board in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the Board, and Chair of Strategy and Finance Committee. • Recruitment to senior roles was progressing. Interviews for the Vice-Chancellor position were scheduled to take place on 12th April, while a two-stage approach was being taken to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor appointment which would likely conclude by early May. It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor appointment would likely take place first, which might result in the successful candidate having input into the final stage of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor process. The Board thanked members of staff who were performing duties as part of the interim management arrangements. • The quality of Theatr Clwyd's programme of events held in the University's William Aston Hall was noted, with some notable acts due to perform in the coming months. It was felt that this was reflective of Wrexham's growing reputation as both a city. It was noted that more could be done to encourage student engagement, however while Theatr Clwyd offered student discount on their own shows, national touring shows set their own prices and did not offer concessions. • Recent media attention had highlighted issues around sexual misconduct and inappropriate behaviour within the HE sector. Although not related to Wrexham, the Chair was keen to explore how the Board could help to reinforce the work already taking place at Wrexham to challenge attitudes and establish a zero-tolerance culture within the University. It was noted that consent training was due to be embedded within student enrolment and induction, while there was opportunity to link with Theatr Clwyd on work 	

	<p>they were doing to raise awareness around sexual misconduct and trauma informed practices.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/62	Spotlight: Race Equality Charter	
	<p><i>Alison Bloomfield (Head of Organisational Development and Diversity) and Yasmin Washbrook (Race Equality Charter Project Lead) attended for this item.</i></p> <p>Received:</p> <p>The Head of Organisational Development and Diversity and Race Equality Charter Project Lead delivered a presentation on progress towards submission for the Race Equality Charter (REC), which was being driven by a self-assessment team established and led by Human Resources. Work was underway with a view to submission of an application for Bronze Award in March 2025. The presentation covered a wide range of activity and key points including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission for the award and the process leading into it were significant steps towards Wrexham becoming recognised as an anti-racist institution; Welsh Government was aiming for Wales to be a recognised anti-racist nation by 2030; • It was reported that a genuine ‘community feel’ was present at Wrexham, which had added huge value to the REC work as staff and students had felt able to share lived experiences and share in the process of learning; • An REC action plan had been developed, focusing on a wide range of across the University, aligned with internal University strategies as well as Welsh Governments anti-racist action plan; • A whole-University approach was being taken in developing the REC submission, with a view to ensuring activity was sustainable and embedded across the institution. • A significant amount of work had already been undertaken, including delivery of training, data analysis, surveys, peer groups, policy development, delivery of events and activities, and a review of barriers to accessing HE; • A mid-term review of work on the submission to date had been undertaken recently by Advance HE. This review had been a useful exercise, identifying areas of good practice and some areas for further development – including transferring data into positive, tangible actions; <p>The Board thanked staff and the wider self-assessment team for the presentation and noted its support for this hugely important work. It was noted that although the University was working towards the Bronze award, this was an extremely high bar</p>	

	<p>– it was reported that only one University had achieved Silver. There followed a discussion where a number of points were raised as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of race and ethnicity, it was noted that Wrexham as a city lacked diversity; members recognised there may be some associated challenges to overcome in relation to that; • It was noted that the Chair was involved in a reciprocal mentoring scheme within the NHS, as well as work within the HE sector on the current conflict on Gaza and managing related tensions on University campuses; both of which were very worthwhile; • It was suggested that work undertaken by the Board, including its work on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (and related action plan) could be recognised along with other University activity listed as part of the submission; • Members noted that People and Culture Committee receive detailed reports and updates on much of this work, and Board had a good level of oversight on these matters; • Members noted the breadth of data available which provided insights into matters including staff recruitment and pay awarding gaps; it was important to utilise that data to drive impact and understand the intersectionality around certain issues. It was reported that HR colleagues were reviewing recruitment processes to ensure inclusivity, and exploring whether there were any data trends at faculty or department level which would help to identify areas for action. A training package was being developed to follow on from this work. Members noted the significant size and scope of this project; • It was suggested that any future training and development opportunities for staff should also be made available to Board members and, where appropriate, made mandatory. <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/63	University Strategy update	
	<p>Received: An update on the development of the new University Strategy to 2030</p> <p>Reported: The PVC for Strategic Change Projects presented a report on progress in developing the new University Strategy. It had been six weeks since the Board Strategy Development Day took place and work had continued since, with progress including;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The re-working of some of the statements around mission, vision, values and themes based on Board feedback at the Strategy Development Day; • A stakeholder dinner event had been hosted at the University to engage external organisations in consultation; this had been very well received and partners were supportive of the direction of work; • The PVC Strategic Change Projects was planning to identify some high-level targets and a plan for 2024/25 to help operationalise the strategy once launched; • Marketing staff were giving consideration to how the University website could 'bring the strategy to life'; • Faculty leadership was working to review areas of academic strength within the portfolio; • The importance of Welsh culture as a strength and hugely important pillar was noted; members were keen to ensure this strategic commitment was clear within the strategy; <p>Members welcomed this report, noting the progress being made and the intention for Board to consider the draft at its meeting in July 2024. It was noted that this timescale should allow the incoming Vice Chancellor to provide input, with an appointment expected in April 2024. Members suggested that they would be keen to explore how the strategy, once approved, would be built into operational planning.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/64	Financial Management Report	
	<p>Received: University Group Financial Management Report as at 31st January 2024</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director of Finance presented the FMR and highlighted the following headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full year consolidated forecast was a group surplus of £3.56m against a budgeted surplus of £0.1m • The full year operational surplus forecast stood at £0.43m against a budgeted surplus of £1.1m • Revised trading forecasts for GIL now showed a loss of £166k over and above the budgeted loss of £304k which was an improvement since the October forecast. • Glyndwr Services and NWS forecasts remained as per budget. • The sale on the Dean Road site completed in October resulting in the profit on disposal falling into this financial year. 	

	<p>Members thanked the Executive Director of Finance and colleagues, highlighting the high quality of the report and work that underpinned it. It was noted that the current year’s financial position was reasonable, however a more challenging picture was expected next year. During the discussion it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff costs were up this year, driven in part by increases to the teacher’s pension scheme and a number of projects; • Members welcomed the addition of financial information around Transnational Education, collaborative provision, and the HEIW contract to the report. In relation to partnerships, it was noted that MBS College and IST (both in Greece) remained a concern with significant amounts owed to the University; staff in Finance and the Partnerships office were working to resolve; • With regards to subsidiaries, it was noted that GIL’s forecast had improved slightly since Quarter 1. NWS remained stable however the impact of the real living wage increase (due April 2024) had not been factored in; NWS Board were considering how this would be managed, including the impact on differentials on other staff roles; • The Board were encouraged by student applications to undergraduate programmes for 2024/25, however the University’s ability to convert applications to enrolments was a concern. It was hoped that conversion rates would improve for 2024/25, which would boost the University’s financial position; • Members queried why the University paid international agent fees up front. It was reported that as the University required international students to pay their full fees up front (unlike many other Universities), this approach was considered fair. <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/67	Academic Partnerships	
	<p>Received: Update report on Academic Partnerships</p> <p>Reported: The PVC Strategic Change Projects presented an update on matters relating to Academic Partnerships, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a new Academic Partnerships Procedure which had been approved by Academic Quality and Standards Committee at its February meeting, subject some amendments. It was noted that this procedure would provide more robust mechanisms for the approval of proposed new academic partners and ensuring quality assurance, enhancement and effective monitoring and governance oversight of all existing academic partnerships. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quality review of all existing academic partnerships had been initiated. • The Partnerships Office was currently developing an Academic Partnerships Strategy, which would be co-produced alongside an International Strategy to ensure alignment at a strategic level. <p>The Board welcomed the report and related developments around academic partnerships, and highlighted the importance of having this standing item at Board meetings. It was noted that under the new Academic Partnerships Procedure, any new Partnerships would be approved by the Board as an interim measure until the Board and regulator were confident the procedure had been fully embedded.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/68	QA Action Plan	
	<p>Received: QAA Review action plan</p> <p>Reported: The PVC Strategic Change Projects presented an update on the progress of the QAA review action plan, which was a standing item on Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee, Academic Board, and Academic Quality and Standards Committee as well as reported to VCET and Board. Members noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All actions were on track and progressing well, and the action plan was reviewed in monthly monitoring meetings with HEFCW in addition to internal University committees. • The February meeting with HEFW had been positive, where the University was able to provide assurance on various matters including student engagement. • It was noted that the University intended to reduce reliance on external consultants for future actions, with the intention of ensuring leadership and ownership of changes by its own staff. This move had been welcomed by HEFCW. <p>Members welcomed the update, which was a useful reference point in helping to inform Board decisions.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/70	Research Degree Awarding Powers	
	<p>Reported: The PVC Research provided a verbal update on the University's application for Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAPs). It was reported that the final report from the QAA was expected on the 22nd March, with the University invited to provide commentary by the 29th March. Members thanked the PVC Research and colleagues for their work to support this process and noted the expected date for an outcome.</p>	

	<p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
<p>BG2324/71</p>	<p>Campus 2025</p>	
	<p>Received: Update and progress report on Campus 2025 developments</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director of Operations and Executive Director of Finance presented an update on several matters in relation to the Campus 2025 strategy and delivery programme as follows:</p> <p>1. <u>Legal updates</u></p> <p>The Heads of Terms for the sale of surplus University land on Crispin Lane to Wrexham Football Club to facilitate the new Kop development had been agreed in principle, save for the valuation of the land to be sold/transferred. Discussions were ongoing with Welsh Government as to the market value of adjacent land they were also selling to the football club; a decision had therefore been taken by the University to not agree any purchase price until Welsh Government had confirmed their position to ensure parity in costs per hectare for both deals. The University had chosen to sell the minimum amount of land that the football club required to build the new Kop, retaining some land to enable the expansion of student accommodation if and when required. As part of the deal to sell the land, Wrexham Gateway Partnership had agreed to include the funding of design and planning for student accommodation on Crispin Lane to the value of £500k. It was noted that this had been agreed on an open book basis; the University would not receive the benefit of any underspend on that amount, but Wrexham Gateway Partnership would cover any overspend. A full proposal would be presented to Board of Governors at a future date.</p> <p>2. <u>Capital projects</u></p> <p>2.1. HEIQ Phase 2A (ground floor refurbishments/remodelling of Bevan building) had been completed and was now in use by staff and students. Feedback from users had been very positive.</p> <p>2.2. HEIQ Phase 2B (new build multi-storey extension to Bevan building) had received planning approval. A tender process was underway with work envisaged to take place over summer 2024.</p> <p>2.3. The EEOC building work had commenced following a turf-cutting event with external stakeholders on 22nd February 2024.</p> <p>2.4. The Science and Engineering Quarter project was underway with a view to completion of work in July 2024.</p> <p>2.5. The tender process for replacement of the Local Area Network was complete and the total price inclusive of VAT for the winning bidder (Insight Direct Ltd) was £405k. Strategy and Finance Committee gave delegated authority to the Vice Chancellor and Executive Director of Finance to</p>	

	<p>approve the Contract Award Report at its meeting on 9th February; a project board was now being established to oversee the project.</p> <p>2.6. Members noted a brochure that had been produced to outline the University's intended vision for the Northop campus, which would support pre-application discussions with Flintshire County Council regarding the scope for development on the site.</p> <p>2.7. Works had commenced on the Cyber Innovation Academy with completion expected in May 2024.</p> <p>3. <u>Student accommodation</u></p> <p>Scoping was underway to review design options and understand the likely scale of demand for future student accommodation with a view to expanding the accommodation offer on the Plas Coch Campus.</p> <p>As part of negotiations with Wrexham Football Club and Wrexham Gateway Partnership regarding sale of land to support the build of the new Kop stand, it had been agreed that the Partnership would fund the costs of the University designing and obtaining planning permission for new accommodation to be built on the campus. Board approval and endorsement was therefore sought to proceed with the redesign and planning application; Strategy and Finance Committee had considered at its meeting on 9th February and recommended that the Board approve.</p> <p>It was noted that the ultimate development was not funded within current Campus 2025 plans. As a result the Executive would seek external input to explore options to procure and fund any development and make recommendations. A full business case would be presented to the Board at a future date, at which point detailed finance and funding options would be considered.</p> <p>4. <u>North Wales Science</u></p> <p>The Executive Director of Operations reported that NWS had been successful in securing UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to the value of £1.6m. Elements of the funding award included work to re-roof the building at Xplore!, at a value of approximately £730k. It was reported that the Capital Projects Manager was in the process of writing up the contract. Members noted that NWS was subject to the University's Financial Regulations and therefore Board approval was required for the work, despite the project being fully funded by the UKSPF allocation.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To APPROVE the submission of student accommodation redesign and planning permission application To APPROVE works to the roof of NWS/Xplore! to the value of £730k</p>	
BG2324/72	Corporate Risk Management	

	<p>Received: Report on approach to corporate risk management at the University</p> <p>Reported: The Chair of Audit and Risk Committee presented a report which outlined progress with regards to the reporting of corporate risk management at the University. The risk reporting framework was currently under review, and a session at the Board's Strategy Development Day in January had drawn out inconsistencies in approaches and understanding of risk which had been the subject of further exploration since. A proposal for a new Risk Management Process would be presented to Audit and Risk Committee in March. To ensure that there was not a further hiatus in risk review and reporting whilst a new process was being developed, a current corporate risk summary and 'heat map' would also be presented to that Committee.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/73	Academic Board report	
	<p>Received: Report of Academic Board</p> <p>Received: The Vice Chancellor presented a report of activity undertaken by Academic Board at its meetings held on 7th February and 23rd February. Members noted that full minutes of those meetings had been made available separately.</p> <p>The Board was also asked to approve the Annual Report for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, to be sent to the Concordat and published on the University's external web pages.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To APPROVE the Annual Report for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers</p>	
BG2324/74	Application of the University Seal	
	<p>Received: Report on use of the University Seal</p> <p>Reported: The Clerk reported on instances of the application of the University Seal since July 2023, in line with the resolution made by the Board in November 2017. Members noted that the seal had been applied to the following contractual documentation following approval of the award of contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with Bellway Homes for the sale of land at Dean Road, Wrexham (September 2023) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with Appollo Engineering for hydrogen consultancy work as part of the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre (EEOC) project (October 2023) • Contract with Gwynedd Council (on behalf of North Wales Economic Ambition Board) for the EEOC funding agreement (January 2024) • Contract with C. Wynne & Sons (trading as Wynne Construction) for the EEOC build (January 2024) • Contract with Quantum Design Ltd for the supply and delivery of an Interferometer for OpTIC/EEOC (January 2024) • Contract with Lambda Photometrics Ltd for the supply and delivery of an Electron Microscope for OpTIC/EEOC (January 2024) • Contract with Perkinelmer AES Ltd for the supply and delivery of a Spectrometer for OpTIC/EEOC (February 2024) <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/75	Tuition fees and financial support	
	<p>Received: Update on tuition fee limits and financial support for higher education students</p> <p>Reported: The Clerk presented a report following an announcement in February 2024 the Welsh Government announced that the undergraduate tuition fee limit would increase from £9000 to £9250 per year, in line with English institutions. The statement also included changes to the postgraduate financial support system, moving from a grant to a loan from 2024/25.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/76	Strategy and Finance Committee report	
	<p>Received: Report of Strategy and Finance Committee</p> <p>Reported: The Chair of Strategy and Finance Committee presented a summary report of the meeting held on 9th February 2024.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To NOTE that full minutes had been shared with members separately</p>	
BG2324/77	People and Culture Committee report	
	<p>Received: Report of People and Culture Committee</p>	

	<p>Reported: The Chair of People and Culture Committee presented a summary report of the meeting held on 22nd February 2024. The Board were also asked to approve the revised Freedom of Speech Code of Practice, which had been considered by the Committee who recommended approval.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To NOTE that full minutes had been shared with members separately To APPROVE the Freedom of Speech Code of Practice</p>	
BG2324/78	Nominations and Governance Committee report	
	<p>Received: Report of Nominations and Governance Committee</p> <p>Reported: The Chair of Nominations and Governance Committee presented a summary report of the meeting held on 21st February 2024.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To NOTE that full minutes had been shared with members separately</p>	
BG2324/79	Academic Quality and Standards Committee report	
	<p>Received: Report of Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC)</p> <p>Reported: The Chair of Academic Quality and Standards Committee presented a summary report of the meeting held on 23rd February. The Board was also asked to approve revised Terms of Reference for AQSC, which had been considered by the Committee who recommended approval.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To NOTE that full minutes had been shared with members separately To APPROVE the revised AQSC Terms of Reference</p>	
BG2324/80	Minutes of meetings of subsidiary companies	
	<p>Reported: Members noted that minutes of meetings of subsidiary companies had been made available separately</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	

BG2324/81	<p>Board and Committee meeting dates 2024/25</p> <p>Received: Provisional dates for Board and Committee meetings in 2024/25</p> <p>Reported: The Clerk presented a list of provisional meeting dates for 2024/25, highlighting the following key changes to the cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November meetings of Strategy and Finance Committee, Audit and Risk, and Board of Governors would be scheduled one week later than previous years to allow additional time for the completion of external audit before accounts were submitted to the regulator. • An additional meeting of Academic Quality and Standards Committee would take place in the autumn term to allow for scrutiny of the Annual Quality Assurance Statements prior to approval of the Board and submission to the regulator. <p>Resolved: To NOTE the meeting dates</p>	
BG2324/82	<p>Fee and Access Plan – tuition fee increase</p> <p>Received: Proposal regarding a variation to the University’s Fee and Access Plan (FAP)</p> <p>Reported: The Vice Chancellor presented a proposal to increase the undergraduate tuition fee to the permitted maximum of £9250 per year from September 2024, following Welsh Government’s decision to lift the limit (Minute BG2324/75 refers). It was reported that the FAP for 2023/24 and 2024/25 was approved by the Board in May 2022 and stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University reserves the right to change that maximum fee in line with Welsh Government permitted maximum; • Any change must be done in consultation with the Students’ Union; • Any change must be clearly communicated to affected students. <p>It was noted that Strategy and Finance Committee had approved the fee increase at its meeting in February, subject to a clear communication plan to students affected. Following VCET consideration of the current recruitment cycle and the wording of the offer letter, it was decided that new students in 2024/25 would commence their studies on £9,000 and move to £9250 in subsequent years. The £9250 fee would apply to all continuing students from 2024/25.</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the variation to the Fee and Access Plan, and to delegate authority to the Chair to sign such a variation</p>	

