

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held at 9.00 am on Friday 24th November 2023, 1887 Room, Wrexham University

- Present:** Dr Leigh Griffin (Chair)
Richard Campbell
Professor Martin Chambers
Dr Sarah Dubberley
Maisie Head
Professor Maria Hinfelaar
Claire Homard
Diane McCarthy
David Subacchi
Will Naylor
Fabrizio Trifiro
Richard Thomas
Maureen Wain
Liam Wynne
- Officers:** David Clarke (*Clerk to the Board*)
David Elcock (*Executive Director of Finance*)
Professor Aulay Mackenzie (*Acting DVC*)
Professor Ieuan Ellis (*Interim PVC Strategic Change Projects*)
Pete Gibbs (*Executive Director of HR*)
Lynda Powell (*Executive Director of Operations*)
- In attendance:** Professor Jeremy Bradshaw (*Observer, QAA RDAPs panel*)
James Dawson (*Director of Student Programmes & Student Administration, for minute ref. BG2324/34 to BG2324/37*)
- Apologies:** Amy Anglesea
Paul Barlow
Dr Karen Heald
Professor Sandra Jowett
Sally Lambah

Professor Richard Day

Minute ref.	Agenda item	Action
BG2324/24	Report of Remuneration Committee	
	<p>Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Report of Remuneration Committee held on 26th October (ii) Annual Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 <p>Reported: The Vice-Chair of the Committee presented a report on the meeting held on 26th October, including the Annual Pay Policy Statement which the Committee recommended to the Board for approval.</p>	

	<p>With regards to the Annual Pay Policy Statement, members noted the University's pleasing progress on the gender pay gap. In relation to the University's approach to identifying and managing talented staff, it was noted that succession planning and use of schemes such as Aurora were used but no formal processes were in place; it was suggested that a formal talent management programme might be worthwhile.</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the 2022/23 Annual Pay Policy Statement.</p>	
BG2324/26	Welcome and apologies	
	<p>The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies.</p> <p>Professor Jeremy Bradshaw, (QAA) was observing the meeting as part of the RDAPs application review process.</p>	
BG2324/27	Declarations of conflicts of interest	
	<p>Reported: Liam Wynne declared an interest in the proposal for investment in the University's network infrastructure, as a non-Executive Director of Advatek (Minute BG2324/45 refers). It was reported that following advice of the General Counsel and University Secretary, the conflict would be noted and this member would be allowed to remain for the discussion. At this stage the University was seeking for Board approval for investment and to progress to procurement to test the market; if consideration of tenders or further discussion was required at a future Board meeting then this declaration would be reviewed again.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the conflict of interest</p>	
BG2324/28	Minutes of last meeting	
	<p>Received: Minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2023</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting</p>	
BG2324/29	Action log	
	<p>Received: Report on ongoing actions and actions completed since the last Board meeting.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the action log</p>	
BG2324/30	Students' Union report	
	<p>Received: A report from the Students' Union</p> <p>Reported: The Students' Union Vice President presented a report on SU activity and progress with projects. The Board welcomed the report and the ongoing insight into the student experience. Members thanked the SU for its proactive work around cost of living and suggested that there may be scope for partnership work with Coleg Cambria particularly around cooking affordable meals.</p>	

	<p>Members also noted the SU's ongoing work to support sporting societies to secure sponsorship, highlighting that while Hockey had done well, Netball and Football teams had struggled as there was a lot of competition for support from local businesses.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/31	Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive's report	
	<p>Received: Report from the Vice Chancellor</p> <p>Reported: The Vice Chancellor presented her report to the Board and highlighted the following key points:</p> <p><u>Sector news:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data produced by UCAS had indicated decreasing levels of participation in HE in Wales. The University was continuing its work around outreach, marketing and recruitment however a HE participation rate of less than 30% of school leavers was a growing sector concern which was attracting the attention of politicians at a regional and national level. • The UK Government had confirmed funding for the North East Wales Investment Zone (NEWIZ) in the Autumn Statement. This was positive news for the region and the VC had been involved in the development of proposals as a member of the steering group. The NEWIZ would predominantly focus on advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors. Further details and business plans would emerge in due course. • The VC had attended a Welsh government briefing session regarding the launch of CTER. The new registration process for institutions was not expected to be implemented until 2026, and a consultation on the detail of the new processes was underway. • HEFCW would cease to exist from April 2024, with a handover to take place ahead of the transition to CTER. HEFCW staff would migrate to the new regulator, however the HEFCW Chief Executive had announced that he would be stepping down from HEFCW by February. The VC reported that she would be meeting with the new CTER Chief Executive in January. <p>Members noted that the recent success of the University's EEOC project fitted well with the news regarding the NEWIZ.</p> <p>The Board also shared the sector-wide concern regarding the declining HE participation rate in Wales. Members suggested it would be useful to see a regional breakdown of that data when it was available, as well as data on the destinations of Welsh school leavers that were not entering HE. It was noted that improving pathways and partnerships between HE and FE providers would be a likely focus of CTER, and it was reported that this was also a priority for local authorities including Flintshire County Council. Members noted that the Deans were leading on proactive work to strengthen partnerships with schools and FE providers at faculty and department level.</p> <p>Members also queried the status of the relationship between the University and Coleg Cambria. It was reported that this had improved in recent years through</p>	

	<p>initiatives including the Children’s University, the flow of students into Allied Health programmes, and work around Welsh medium provision. However it was noted that Coleg Cambria had existing agreements, articulation routes and partnerships with other Universities and further exploration of the possible areas for collaboration with Wrexham was required. Members noted a sense that the operational relationship with Coleg Cambria was strong, however the strategic relationship needed strengthening.</p> <p><u>HEFCW Visit</u> The Vice Chancellor and Chair of the Board had hosted a visit to the University from the Chair and Chief Executive of HEFCW on 23rd November. This had been a valuable opportunity to showcase the amount of campus development at the University, as well as engage in informal discussion around CTER and the ongoing delivery of action plans. This had been the first visit to the University from HEFCW since 2019, and it was reported that the visitors had acknowledged the clear progress being made. It was reported that the meeting was constructive, and that it was clear that transition to CTER would be a lengthy and phased process.</p>	
BG2324/32	Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022/23	
	<p>Received: Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022/23 (i) Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report 2022/23 (ii) Internal Audit annual report 2022/23</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director of Finance presented the draft annual report and financial statements for year ended 31st July 2023. The paper had also been received by Audit and Risk and Strategy and Finance Committees who recommended it to the Board for approval. It was reported that from a financial perspective, 2022/23 had been a difficult year which had been managed to an acceptable outcome. The key headlines of the accounts included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in total income levels for the University Group to £50.9m • An operational loss of £1.379m • The sale of Dean Road was planned to complete prior to year-end but was delayed until October 2023, contributing to the reported deficit. • Increase in cash reserves to £27m at year end (up to £33m at the time of this meeting) • Increase in total net assets to £60.6m <p>It was reported that the draft annual report and financial statements had involved input from a wide range of staff and stakeholders, and had been signed off by the external auditors.</p> <p>The Board noted that 2022/23 had started with a forecast deficit of £3.5m, and the University had performed well to recover that figure over the year. It was noted that a post-balance sheet event had been created to explain the impact of the delayed sale of Dean Rd, which would have left the University in surplus had it been completed in 2022/23 as originally planned.</p> <p>Members highlighted that income had risen approximately 40% over a three-year period, and that the University’s cash position was extremely positive. It was noted that Wrexham was not experiencing the same financial challenges as</p>	

	<p>some other Universities, however the financial outlook for the sector remained bleak. The challenge of recruiting and retaining full-time UK undergraduate students would remain the priority area of focus.</p> <p>It was noted that the University was exploring options regarding treasury management, and an appropriate balance of risk and reward to ensure the best return on its cash deposits over short, medium and long term.</p> <p>The Board also noted the breadth of work undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee, and the positive assurances received through internal audits. It was reported that the internal auditors had commented on the supportive and receptive response from University management to audits, and all audits undertaken in 2022/23 had resulted in substantial or reasonable assurance.</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the annual report and financial statements for year ended 31st July 2023 To APPROVE the annual report of Audit and Risk Committee 2022/23 To NOTE the internal auditors annual report 2022/23</p>	
BG2324/33	Board of Governors Annual Report 2022/23	
	<p>Received: Board of Governors annual report 2022/23</p> <p>Reported: The Board received an annual report from the Clerk which summarised Board activity and work undertaken in 2022/23</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the annual report</p>	
BG2324/35	ASSuR 2023	
	<p>Received: Annual Sustainability Assurance Report (ASSuR)</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director (Finance) presented a report on the underlying evidence to allow the completion of the ASSuR. It was reported that information within ASSuR was intended to enable Governors to satisfy themselves that the institution is financially sustainable. It was therefore an important part of the narrative underpinning Governors' assurance within the Annual Report and Financial Statements that the institution is operating as a going concern.</p> <p>The Board thanked the Finance team for a technical report, which members noted was an important part of the governance process.</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the Annual Sustainability Assurance Report (ASSuR) and its submission to HEFCW</p>	
BG2324/36	Attainment and Completion report 2022/23	
	<i>The Director of Strategic Planning and Student Administration attended for this item</i>	

	<p>Received: Attainment and completion report 2022/23</p> <p>Reported: The Director of SPSA presented a report on attainment (which examined the achievement between different groups of students in regard to the proportion of students achieving a good degree outcome), and completion (which examined differences in achievement between different groups of students in regard to the proportion of students achieving a positive completion outcome).</p> <p>The Board highlighted that ‘success’ was subjective and relative to the personal circumstances of each individual student, and as a result attainment gaps did not tell a full story. Members suggested that a measurement of ‘learning gain’ or ‘distance travelled’ by each student would be a particularly helpful metric to define for Wrexham and its profile of students. It was suggested that the University might explore the use of these measures going forward, possibly drawing on UK-wide projects where measurement of learning gain had been discussed by UUK and the Student Policy Network in relation to the TEF.</p> <p>Members noted that the University intended to refresh its Learner Engagement and Retention Strategy in 2024, and suggested that it may be useful to bring continuation data into that work to help inform forward planning.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	JD
BG2324/38	Q1 Forecast 2023/24 outturn position	
	<p>Received: Quarter 1 financial management report 2023/24</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director (Finance) presented the University group financial forecasts as at the end of Quarter 1 for the 2023/24 academic year. In relation to student enrolment and anticipated levels of tuition fees expected within the year, it was reported that the shortfall in planned UG Home recruitment was nearly offset by increases in International PG and Degree Apprentice students. GIL was forecasting a year end deficit that was approximately twice the original budget position (£656k), with the other subsidiaries forecasting a balanced position. The sale of Dean Road had been completed in October 2023 and the profit on disposal would now appear within the 2023/24 forecast (not 2022/23 as originally budgeted). This had led to a net surplus forecast of £3.486m. However the forecast operating surplus had reduced somewhat from the original budget of £1.104m to £0.236m, largely as a result of the impact of September enrolment. While this was the forecast for Quarter 1, it was reported that there remained the possibility of recovering to closer to the operational target of £1m surplus within the year.</p> <p>During the discussion it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising that this was the early stages of forecasting, and the position was likely to shift, members welcomed the outlook which was indicative of healthy financial management. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases to the real living wage expected in 2024 would likely impact on the University's financial position. It was noted that this would likely have a wider impact on pay scales which was being monitored by the Executive Directors of Finance and HR. With regards to international student recruitment, the Board discussed how the governing body receives assurances regarding the University's sponsorship duties. It was noted that the recent UKVI audit had been positive, and that data and statistics were received by the Acting DVC as the named sponsor for the University. It was agreed that performance in relation to UKVI requirements should be added as a Corporate KPI for 2023/24 and reported to the Board annually as part of that process. The financial position of GIL had been the subject of lengthy discussion at both Audit and Risk and Strategy and Finance Committees. The view of both Committees was that the current level of loss was unacceptable, although it was recognised that a solution was not simple and members were aware of the wider benefits GIL brought to the University. A revised turnaround plan (reducing the scale of the projected deficit and further recovery in subsequent years) was due to be discussed by GIL Board and shared with Strategy and Finance Committee in the next few weeks. <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	AM/JD
BG2324/39	RDAPs	
	<p>Received: Update on QAA RDAPs review process</p> <p>Reported: The Vice Chancellor presented a report on progress in relation to the University's application for Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAPs) which had been submitted to the Privy Council on 1st September 2022. Following the extensive review process by the QAA panel a report with a recommendation would be passed to the QAA's Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers for consideration; following ratification by the full QAA Board in March they would pass their recommendation on to the Welsh Government, which would then go back to the Privy Council. An outcome was expected around April 2024.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/40	Research Development Concordat	
	<p>Received: HR Excellence in Research 10-year review</p> <p>Reported: The Board received a 10-year review report on the HR Excellence in Research Award, which the University first received in 2013. The award was mapped against the new Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, which the University became signatories of in 2022. The report outlined progress made by the University and its intended focus areas for the next three years which would inform the development of a new action plan 2023-2026.</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the report</p>	

BG2324/41	Academic Partnerships: Framework for Partnership Approval	
	<p>Received: A revised set of academic partnerships procedures A proposed reporting structure to the Board for the standing item on partnerships</p> <p>Reported: The Acting DVC presented proposals for revised approval and monitoring of academic partnerships. The proposals had been considered by Academic Quality and Standards Committee. The Board welcomed these proposals and noted that they were a positive step towards addressing actions arising from the QAA and IRR action plans. The proposals aimed to establish a ‘business as usual’ process, with an additional overlay which provided extra Board assurance that would remain in place until the processes were fully embedded.</p> <p>During the discussion members highlighted a number of points for further consideration including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighting of certain indicators, or identification of indicators that could be sufficient enough to stop due diligence (eg. significant reputational damage). • The creation of a flowchart that clearly outlined the stages of Board involvement. • Production of a written narrative/cover note that clearly outlined the changes made in response to issues raised in the action plans. • Consideration of how risk assessment and monitoring of partners that recruit low student numbers could be built into processes to trigger timely conversations about the ongoing value of partnerships. <p>Members noted that decision making in relation to academic partners was not an exact science; there would always be an element of subjectivity and discussion involved however a clear set of processes and frameworks would provide assurance on the criteria used to inform those decisions. The introduction of the Partnerships reporting template for the Board was welcomed, as was the approach to continuous risk-based monitoring of partners.</p> <p>Resolved: To AGREE to delegate final approval of the partnerships procedures and reporting template to a special meeting of Academic Quality and Standards Committee</p>	
BG2324/42	Academic Partnerships: Manchester Campus	
	<p>Received: Update on the status of the Manchester Campus</p> <p>Reported: The Acting DVC presented an update on the status of the Manchester Campus, which had been first approved by the Board in July 2021, with an MoA approved by the Board in January 2023. The campus was proposed to be delivered under a partnership arrangement with a commercial partner – initially restricted to the delivery of business programmes (UG and PG) to international students. The University had sought approval from HEFCW for this development, however no response had been received.</p>	

	<p>The Board noted that although an MoA was in place, the University was not subject to any contractual obligations. It was noted that four years had passed since the proposal was first conceived, and two years since initial Board approval. The Board agreed that the context had changed significantly in that time, and institutional priorities had potentially shifted. It was therefore agreed that the approval should now be considered to have lapsed. It was noted that the Office for Students had signalled its intention to focus on English institutions entering into commercial partnerships aimed at international recruitment to business programmes, which was indicative of regulatory concerns across the sector.</p> <p>It was agreed that HEFCW should be approached for an update regarding the regulator's position on the proposals. An outline proposal would then be re-considered by the Board if required.</p> <p>Resolved To NOTE the update</p>	AM
BG2324/43	HEFCW Annual Quality Assurance Statements	
	<p>Received: Annual Standards Overview report 2022/23</p> <p>Reported: The Acting DVC presented a report on quality and standards which was mapped against the six Quality Assurance Statements set out by HEFCW. The report and a wide range of supporting evidence provided under each statement was provided, which had been considered in detail by Academic Quality and Standards Committee as well as Academic Board.</p> <p>The Board welcomed the report, noting the depth of supporting documentation and the high level of scrutiny undertaken by AQSC and Academic Board. It was noted that no concerns had been raised by the regulator around the quality of delivery, and the Board concluded that there was appropriate and robust evidence to enable it to affirm the statements to HEFCW.</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE confirmation of the six assurance statements to HEFCW in December 2023 and for the Chair of the Board to sign the assurance document.</p>	
BG2324/44	QA Action Plan	
	<p>Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Tracker document indicating progress of the Action Plan (ii) 'Progress Summary' template <p>Reported: The Acting DVC presented a report on progress of the Quality Assurance Action Plan. It was reported that all items were completed or on track, except for actions relating to Academic Partnerships which were being considered by the Board on the agenda of this meeting (Minute BG2324/41 refers). A 'progress summary' template was also presented, which proposed a structure for a tool to provide comprehensive progress reporting to relevant Committees. Members welcomed this tool which had been discussed at Academic Quality and Standards Committee as a comprehensive and clear method of reporting, which included live links to supporting evidence and documentation.</p>	

	<p>Resolved: To NOTE the updates</p>	
<p>BG2324/45</p>	<p>Campus 2025</p>	
	<p>Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Annual Report on Estates Performance 2022/23 (ii) Local Area Network business case (iii) Campus 2025 phasing plan <p>Reported:</p> <p><u>BG2324/45.1 Annual Report on Estates Performance 2022/23</u> The Executive Director (Operations) presented the annual report which had also been considered by Strategy and Finance Committee, highlighting the breadth of work undertaken across the year which demonstrated progress in relation to campus development plans and the University's commitments to net zero. The Board welcomed the excellent format and content of the report and thanked the Estates team, noting the outstanding work of the Head of Estates and Campus Management, and the Capital Projects Manager. Members commented on how the rebrand and new external lighting had given the campus a significant uplift.</p> <p><u>BG2324/45.2 Local Area Network business case</u> The Executive Director (Operations) and the Executive Director (Finance) presented a business case for the purchase and installation of a next generation Local Area Network. The proposal had been considered by Strategy and Finance Committee who supported the business case and recommended its approval to the Board. Members noted that the quality of the network was an ongoing issue that was resulting in negative student feedback and having a detrimental effect on the on-campus experience for all visitors. An external specialist company had deemed the current network to be at end of life, and therefore investment in digital infrastructure was a high priority. Members also noted that failure to invest may impact on the University's ability to gain Cyber Essentials accreditation, which would in turn affect research and funding in addition to the student, staff and visitor experience. The University was seeking Board approval of the business case for procurement, purchase, and installation of a new network at a total capital cost of £600k.</p> <p><u>BG2324/45.3 Campus 2025 phasing plan</u> The Executive Director (Operations) and the Executive Director (Finance) presented an update on the Campus 2025 phasing plan which had also been considered by Strategy and Finance Committee. It was noted that EEOC funding had been secured and building would commence in February 2024, while planning permission was being sought for HEIQ Phase 2b. The University would continue to monitor availability of funding and grants to support developments wherever possible. An emerging priority was increasing the amount of student accommodation; options were being explored and proposals would be brought to the Board in due course. Members noted that no funding plans were in place regarding student accommodation which meant that options would likely include third party developers and private providers, in addition to borrowing. Interest in the city's rising profile meant that private sector investment was a likely possibility. It was noted that the approach to bring each individual scheme of work within Campus 2025 for full Board approval provided space to review the original plans in the light of emerging and changing priorities.</p>	

	<p>Resolved: To NOTE the Estates Annual Report 2022/23 To APPROVE the business case for procurement, purchase and installation of a new Local Area Network at a total capital cost of £600k To NOTE the Campus 2025 phasing plan</p>	
BG2324/46	2022 Staff Engagement Survey	
	<p>Received: A presentation on analysis of outcomes from the 2022 Staff Engagement Survey</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director (HR) presented an analysis of 2022 Staff Engagement Survey results, with a focus on areas relating to Organisational Culture (linked to the action plan arising from QAA review). The survey had been undertaken bi-annually since 2016. Responses to 51 questions had been analysed. An average score across all 51 questions had been taken from 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 responses to demonstrate staff satisfaction in the organisational culture and the contribution to, and embodiment of, organisational values.</p> <p>The trajectory in average score across the 51 questions had risen from 75% in 2016 to 87% in 2022. The Board noted this incredibly positive trajectory which was a credit to all involved, particularly in light of wider societal and sector-specific issues including increasing cost of living and staff disputes. Members thanked the leadership for their work in fostering a positive culture at the University.</p> <p>The Board noted that the University was about to enter a period of transition with recruitment of a substantive Deputy Vice Chancellor, and a new Vice Chancellor in 2024; this change at senior level was likely to impact organisational culture. Members suggested that this would require strong and consistent communication to provide continuity and reassurance to staff.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/47	Chair's report	
	<p>Received: Verbal update from the Chair</p> <p>Reported: The Chair provided a verbal update to the Board and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress was being made on recruitment to the substantive DVC post, as well as the VC post following Prof. Hinfelaar's announcement that she intended to retire in 2024. The University was working with Perrett Laver who were leading the search for candidates with support from the Executive Director (Human Resources). Perrett Laver were undertaking stakeholder conversations with governors to inform the process, and Selection Panels had been established for both posts which included the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, and the Chair of Remuneration Committee. Appointments to both posts were expected by Spring 2024. • The Chair had recently attended a meeting of the Committee of University Chairs. A focus of discussion had been around lifelong 	

	<p>learning and the announcement of a new Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) which would entitle students in England to access to a student loan up to the age of 60. The launch of the LLE was expected in 2025; the CUC hoped that devolved nations would also adopt in due course however it was reported that Wales would continue monitor developments ahead of the 2025 rollout before making any announcements. Also on the CUC agenda were discussions around the role of Universities and Chairs in working proactively with the media to strengthen the case for the social and economic benefits of HE in response to negative narratives, and increasing focus on degree apprenticeships which was a particular area for development in Wales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair highlighted the recent announcement that Elen-Mai Nefydd, the University's Head of Welsh Language Academic Development, had been appointed as Deputy Chair (Culture) for the 2025 Eisteddfod which would be held in Wrexham. The Board extended its congratulations to Elen-Mai and noted the benefits that hosting the Eisteddfod would bring to the city. • The Chair highlighted the receipt of the Civic Mission Annual Report, which the Board welcomed. It was noted that the report reflected a huge amount of important work which was central to the University's mission and values. Members extended their thanks to the Head of Public Policy Engagement and colleagues for their work in this area. <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/48	Academic Board report	
	<p>Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Report from Academic Board (ii) Research Integrity Statement 2022/23 <p>Reported: The Vice Chancellor presented a report on the meeting of Academic Board held on 8th November 2023. It was noted that Academic Board had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved a proposal for an effectiveness review of Academic Board, to be led by the Interim PVC • Agreed to recommend assurance to the Board of Governors that relevant Fee and Access Statements could be confirmed • Approved proposed establishment of a new Widening Access Group, and Recruitment and Retention Committee • Approved the Annual Quality and Standards overview report 2022/23 for consideration by Academic Quality and Standards Committee, to inform confirmation of the HEFCW quality assurance statements • Endorsed recommendations for the implementation of new Academic Regulations in 2023/24 • Approved the Reporting Matrix for oversight of reporting key datasets across the institution, which would be published in the Academic Board handbook • Approved minor changes to the Policy on Reporting and Record Keeping Responsibilities to UKVI • Noted the Strategy for Supporting Student Learning and Achievement (SSSLA) Action Plan for 2023/24 • Noted the Completion Gap report 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the new University Skills Framework for phased implementation with validation/revalidation of programmes • Approved the revalidation of the UG and PG Computing suite of programmes <p>The Board also received the Annual Research Integrity Statement 2022/23, which Academic Board recommended for approval and publication via the University website.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To APPROVE the Annual Research Integrity Statement 2022/23</p>	
BG2324/49	HEIRF Monitoring Report	
	<p>Received: Report on the HEIRF</p> <p>Reported: The received an update from the Director of Student Programmes and Student Administration as per the terms and conditions of funding received through the Higher Education Recovery and Investment Fund (HEIRF) in 2020/21. Having required monitoring reports in March, July and October 2021 HEFCW moved to annual reports for 2022 and 2023. The University had three projects in priority areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening technical infrastructure to support blended learning • Retaining staff capacity • Supporting skills and employability <p>All projects had been completed and final reporting approved by SLT and submitted to HEFCW in summer 2023.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/50	Report of Academic Quality and Standards Committee	
	<p>Received: Report on the meeting of AQSC held on 14th November 2023</p> <p>Reported: The Vice-Chair of the Committee presented the report of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting had been circulated separately. It was noted that the following two items were on the main agenda for Board consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEFCW Quality Assurance Statements, which AQSC recommended that the Board approve following scrutiny of supporting evidence at the meeting (Minute BG2324/43 refers) • Proposed amendments to the University's risk management and approval process for academic partnerships. It was recommended that the Board delegate final approval to AQSC subject to amendments (Minute BG2324/41 refers) <p>It was also noted that the Committee's Terms of Reference would be revised to include reference to academic partnerships.</p>	

	<p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/51	<p>Report of People and Culture Committee</p>	
	<p>Received: Report on the meeting of People and Culture Committee held on 26th October 2023</p> <p>Reported: The Vice-Chair of the Committee presented a report on the meeting. It was noted that the Committee had approved the Prevent Duty Annual Accountability Statement for 2022/23, to be signed by the Chair of the Board and submitted to HEFCW as part of the annual assurance return. The Committee had also noted a range of additional reports and updates; full minutes of the meeting had been circulated to the Board separately.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report</p>	
BG2324/52	<p>Report of Strategy and Finance Committee</p>	
	<p>Received: Report on the meeting of Strategy and Finance Committee held on 8th November 2023.</p> <p>Reported: The Vice-Chair of the Committee presented a report on the meeting. The Committee had discussed the following items which required Board consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase and installation of a next-generation Local Area Network, which was on the agenda for Board approval of the business case (Minute BG2324/45.2 refers) • The Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022/23 which was on the agenda, with a recommendation from the Committee that the Board approve (Minute BG2324/32 refers) • For Glyndwr Innovations Ltd, the University was seeking approval to write off £1.5m which had been impaired in 2021/22, as well as an additional £622k. This would leave a balance of £0.525m which the University would seek to recover as part of the turnaround plan being discussed with GIL Board. The Committee had discussed at length and recommended approval of the write-off of a total of £2.15m (£1.528m plus £0.622m) related to GIL • The Annual Sustainability Assurance Report (ASSuR) which was on the agenda, with a recommendation from the Committee that the Board approve (Minute BG2324/35 refers). <p>Members noted that full minutes had been circulated separately.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report To APPROVE the write-off of a total of £2.15m (£1.528m plus £0.622m) related to GIL</p>	
BG2324/53	<p>Report of Audit and Risk Committee</p>	
	<p>Received: (i) Report on the meeting of Audit and Risk Committee held on 9th November 2023.</p>	

(ii) Fee and Access Plan Assurance

Reported:

The Vice-Chair of the Committee presented a report on the meeting. Minutes had been circulated separately. The Committee had discussed the following items which required Board consideration:

- The Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022/23 which was on the agenda, with a recommendation from the Committee that the Board approve (Minute BG2324/32 refers)
- Review of internal and external auditors' performance. The Committee recommended approval of the reappointment of both RSM (internal auditors) and KPMG (external auditors) for another year. The Board noted that following the meeting KPMG had informed the University that they would not be continuing as external auditor. The preliminary procedures had been implemented ahead of a procurement process for a new auditor, which would require Board approval in early 2024.
- A report and supporting evidence to provide assurance regarding requirements relating to the Fee and Access Plan, to be provided to HEFCW. These documents were received by the Board, and following scrutiny at Audit and Risk Committee, it was recommended that the Board approve.

Resolved:

To NOTE the report

To APPROVE the reappointment of RSM as internal auditors

To NOTE the intention to procure a new external auditor

To APPROVE the confirmation of the Fee and Access Plan statements as part of the University's annual assurance return to HEFCW