

# Kingston University London

## **MINUTES BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2009 IN THE TOWN HOUSE, PENRHYN ROAD**

#### **Present:**

Gren Collings (Chair), George Alexandrou, Olrick Coker, Ann Corrigan, Stephen Cox, Sara Drake, Deirdre Ferrier, Robert Green, Stephen King, Peter Kopelman, Roderic Lyne, Phil Molyneux, Tim Oliver, Lawrence Parnell, David Reardon, Peter Scott, David Taylor, Colin Watts and Clarissa Wilks

#### **In attendance:**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University Secretary, Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Affairs), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise), Finance Director, Director of Property Management & Development, Head of Secretariat, Minuting Clerk

#### **16.0 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Beadle, Christine Swabey, Derek Osbourne and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Employer Engagement)

#### **17.0 Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting held on 21 January 2009**

17.1 The Minutes were approved.

#### **18.0 Matters Arising**

18.1 There were no matters arising.

#### **19.0 Vice-Chancellor's Report (Paper BG 27/09)**

19.1 National Developments:

19.1.1 The Vice-Chancellor reported on the annual letter to HEFCE from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), which was attached to the Report as an annex. The four key points in the letter were as follows:

- All universities had been instructed not to increase intakes next year;
- Universities had been advised that if they continued to over-recruit the funding council would be expected to reduce grants accordingly;
- There would be no more Additional Student Numbers (ASNs) over the coming two years;
- The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) would be expected to take action in cases where universities appeared to be failing to maintain standards. This was thought to reflect the DIUS concern over the public perception of degree standards being questioned, as was routinely the case with 'A' level standards.

19.1.2 The Vice-Chancellor reported on recent significant changes in senior personnel at DIUS, and the re-structuring of the Department, which had led to a greater separation of research from higher education and greater focus on employer engagement.

19.1.3 It was reported that the Liberal Democrats had published their future strategy and proposals for higher and further education. This could be significant were the Liberal Democrats to hold the balance of power in a future parliament.

## 19.2 HEFCE grant letter

19.2.1 The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University had received notification of its grant for 2009/10 from HEFCE. The overall increase was 5.3%, which compared favourably with the national average of 4.1%. The main reason for the increase was the significant rise in research funding following the Research Assessment Exercise. It had been agreed at the last meeting of the Research Committee that those units which had achieved 3 and 4 star categories would receive all funding earned. The funding for units with a 2 star category would be put into a central research development fund.

19.2.2 The funding for teaching had increased by 1.15% against a sector average of 1.5%. The reason for the lower increase was due to the changes HEFCE had made in the system, reducing the focus on widening participation. It was noted that the University's increase in core teaching funding increased by 1.62% against the sector average of 1.33%.

## 19.3 Royal Holloway and St George's

19.3.1 The Vice-Chancellor reported that a set of proposals had been put forward by JM Consulting, for a revised partnership, the key features being the creation of a 'College of Health Sciences' incorporating the existing Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences and the SWan alliance; the establishment of a new management board to include representatives from

the governing bodies of both institutions and key stakeholders; and new arrangements for management and administration of the College.

19.3.2 A three-way meeting had been arranged with St George's (SGUL) and Royal Holloway (RHUL) later this month to further discuss the proposals and counter-proposals.

19.3.3 Peter Kopelman noted the importance of inter-disciplinarity and strengthening the relationship between the three institutions. He reported that a joint council committee of the two institutions had considered the relevant issues and developed a programme with regard to the merger. It was proposed that the existing institutions be dissolved and a new college be created within the University of London. It was intended that a bid would be submitted to HEFCE's Strategic Development Fund by September this year, with submission of the proposal for Privy Council approval in November. It was planned that the new institution would be in place from 1 August 2010.

19.3.4 The Board discussed the governance arrangements of the proposed college. Currently, the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences had a management board but no governor involvement and SWan had separate governance arrangements with an annual meeting attended by one member of the Kingston Board. It was intended that an improved single governance structure would cover both the joint Faculty and the collaborative arrangements in SWan.

#### 19.4 Other matters for report

##### 19.4.1 QAA Report

It was reported that the QAA had produced a revised report following its investigation, which had been accepted by HEFCE, and the matter was now closed.

##### 19.4.2 Succession planning

The Board had previously raised the issue of the University's arrangements for succession planning. The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University Secretary would carry out a scoping exercise on this matter to cover all relevant aspects and report to the SMG and Board in due course.

## **20.0 Campus Development Plan – Report and Recommendations** (Paper BG 28/09 - *confidential*)

It was agreed that this minute be confidential.

(*See Confidential Minutes attached*)

## **21.0 Report on the Enterprise Strategy**

(Paper BG 29/09)

- 21.1 The Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research & Enterprise reported on the Enterprise Strategy, which had last been seen by the Board two years ago, and which had been revised to reflect the new streamlined role of enterprise and its links to research through knowledge transfer, commercialisation and focus on student entrepreneurship.
- 21.2 It was noted that KUIL (Kingston University Innovation Limited) was an integral part of the Strategy.
- 21.3 It was reported that the performance of the strategy was monitored by annual statistical returns. Ongoing monitoring reports could be made to the Board to include statistics, and it was agreed that the content of such reports would be discussed and agreed by the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise.
- 21.4 Details of figures and targets would be included in the Implementation Plan which was being developed and would be reported to the Board in due course.
- 21.5 It was noted that the revised Strategy reflected a substantial re-structuring of enterprise activity, which would provide greater clarification in terms of cost and revenue.
- 21.6 The Board noted the report on the Enterprise Strategy.

Actions:            *Regular monitoring reports to be presented to Board  
[Vice-Chancellor & Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise]*

*Implementation Plan to be presented to Board  
[Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Enterprise]*

## **22.0 Approval of an extension to the contract with iQWave Property Partnership**

(Paper BG 30/09)

- 22.1 The Finance Director reported on the extension of the contract with iQWave Property Partnership, which was a continuation of the current lease for 200+ student spaces for a further year. The discount which had originally been negotiated at the start of the contract had been replicated, which covered the risks of occupancy, debt default and an element of management.
- 22.2 It was noted that students were generally interested in a varied portfolio of accommodation and rent. The occupancy rate had been good in the current year, and although final figures were not yet confirmed, it was anticipated that similar occupancy would be achieved next year.

22.3 The Board agreed to approve the extension to the contract with iQWave Property Partnership.

It was resolved that

The Board approve the extension of the agreement for 2009/10 and authorise the Chair to sign the contract

### **23.0 Approval of the KUSU Constitution** (Paper BG 31/09)

23.1 The University Secretary explained that the Board was being asked to approve the revised KUSU Constitution on account of the requirements of the 1994 Education Act, under which governing bodies had an obligation to oversee a number of aspects relating to students' unions, including their constitutions. Further approval would be needed in about 18 months' time, following additional revisions to the Constitution as a result of requirements under the Charities Act for student unions to register as charities. The date of implementation of the Charities Act revisions had not yet been determined, but was unlikely to be before next year.

23.2 The President of KUSU summarised the main amendments to the Constitution, noting that one of the most significant changes was the replacement of council meetings with general meetings every term, which was seen as a more effective and useful forum for the student body.

23.3 It was noted that elected union officers would automatically become trustees, which would increase the level of their responsibilities. This position did not appear to discourage students from standing for election. It was also noted that best practice would be adopted when considering the constitution of the Trustee Board, including external representation.

It was resolved that

The Board approve KUSU's revised Constitution

### **24.0 Report on Health & Safety Update and Metrics** (Paper BG 23/09)

24.1 The Report on Health & Safety Update and Metrics was included for information. One issue to note was that the Health and Safety Executive had carried out a recent inspection and had reported its satisfaction with the University's progress.

24.2 The Board noted the Report on Health & Safety Update and Metrics.

**25.0\* Finance Report for January 2009**  
(Paper BG 33/09)

25.1 The Board noted the Finance Report for January 2009.

**26.0\* Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 5 February 2009**

26.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Estates Committee meeting.

**27.0\* Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 February 2009**

27.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting.

**28.0\* Minutes of the Employment & Diversity Committee meeting held on 18 February 2009**

28.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Employment & Diversity Committee meeting.

**29.0\* Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 23 February 2009**

29.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting.

**30.0 Any Other Business**

30.1 There was no other business.

**31.0 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Governors was scheduled for Wednesday 20 May 2009 in Room FL6138, Frank Lampl Building at Kingston Hill

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.30am.