

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Scrutiny

13 November 2024; 10.30am; Knox-Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College

In attendance

Mr R Hopwood (Chair)
Dr R Lloyd (Secretary)
Dr S Cowley
Professor W Evans
Dr N Habib (from Item 6)
Dr M Parker Dixon
Dr J Plummer Braeckman
Dr O Rath Spivack
Dr B Spagnolo

Apologies

Dr R Doubleday
Dr M Gehring
Dr F Mir

Guest: Professor B Vira, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education & Environmental Sustainability (Item 7)

Ms S Greaves (Administrator)

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Drs Doubleday, Gehring and Mir.

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were noted. The Administrator will circulate declaration forms.

Action: Administrator

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024 (Paper A) were received and **approved** with one amendment. Minute 4 should read:

It was agreed to recommend that the Discussion of the 30th Report be held in person to encourage more engagement in the findings of the Board.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes not already on the agenda

It was noted that the Administrator is collating matters arising from the discussions for the working groups to discuss further.

Action: Administrator

5. Report from the Proctors

It was noted that there had not been a Council meeting since the last meeting.

6. Discussion of focus areas for the Board's work

Dr N Habib arrived.

The Board **agreed** to start drafting the themes for this year's report, to keep a record of discussions as they progress. This would include the conversations in the groups.

Action: Chair & Administrator

The groups are encouraged to arrange meetings in Lent Term which will ensure that these can be included in the Report, which will be drafted in Easter Term.

The Secretary confirmed the membership of the groups, including convenor and co-convenor roles. It was noted that any Board member could attend the group meetings if they so wished. The Secretary will provide the remits for the convenors and co-convenors of the groups.

Action: Secretary

7. Guest: Professor Bhaskar Vira, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education & Environmental Sustainability

Professor Vira joined the meeting.

The Board welcomed Professor Bhaskar Vira, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education & Environmental Sustainability, and the following topics were discussed:

- The effect on education of cuts in resources;
- The drop-out rates of students;
- Fraudulent applications;
- Balancing research and teaching with administrative duties;
- Supporting the transition of early career academics to permanent teaching posts;
- Sustainability.

Professor Vira left the meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Dr Cowley offered to organise a financial briefing session for Board members who are interested.

Action: Dr Cowley

The next meeting will be at 11.30am on Thursday 5 December 2024. Mr A Odgers, Chief Financial Officer, will be the guest.