

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCRUTINY

MINUTES

**Monday 20 May 2024 at 3.30pm
in the Anna Bateson Room at Newnham College and via Zoom**

Present:

Dr Rob Doubleday (Chair), Mr Rob Hopwood (Secretary), Mrs Rachel Rowe (Support Officer), Dr Charles Read (Junior Proctor), Rev'd Andrew Hammond (Senior Proctor) (via Zoom), Dr Markus Gehring (Senior Pro-Proctor), Dr Fraz Mir (Junior Pro-Proctor) (via Zoom), Dr Richard Lloyd, Dr Stephen Cowley, Dr Judith Plummer Braeckman (via Zoom), and Dr Nazia Habib.

The meeting began at 3.35pm.

1. Welcome and apologies:

Apologies were received from Dr Orsola Rath Spivack.

2. Declarations of Interest:

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024:

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising:

None.

5. Report from Proctors:

The Board received a brief update on recent Council business from the Junior Proctor.

6. Guest – Professor Anne Ferguson-Smith, PVC for Research:

The Board welcomed Professor Anne Ferguson-Smith, and the following topics were discussed:

- i.) How the University can better support researchers at all levels to be successful in grant applications;
- ii.) How the renewed uptake of EU funding can be supported by the University;
- iii.) An update on the current strategic international partnerships pursued by the University;
- iv.) The current declining trend in successful bids for CDTs by the University;
- v.) Preparations for REF 2029;
- vi.) An update on research grant income, the Research Transformation Programme and the workings of the Research Office;
- vii.) The importance of workload considerations when launching new initiatives; and
- viii.) Reflections on what has gone well during Professor Ferguson-Smith's term in office.

7. Any other business:

The Support Officer reported that she will be leaving her role in August 2024.

8. Dates of future meetings:

Full Board meetings:

- Tuesday 4 June at 11.15am with the Vice-Chancellor invited to attend from 11.30am (to be held in the Pavilion Room at Newnham College). Lunch will be provided.

The formal part of the meeting ended at 5.06pm.

Rachel Rowe (Support Officer)