

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Scrutiny

1 July 2025; 10.30am; Council Room, Murray Edwards College

In attendance

Mr R Hopwood (Chair)
Dr J Plummer Braeckman (Secretary)
Dr S Cowley
Dr M Gehring
Dr N Habib – *to item 5*
Dr M Parker Dixon
Dr O Rath Spivack
Dr B Spagnolo

Apologies

Dr R Doubleday
Dr R Lloyd
Dr F Mir

Ms S Greaves (Administrator)

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Drs Doubleday, Mir and Lloyd.

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were noted.

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 June 2025 were approved.

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

None.

5. Board Effectiveness

The Chair invited the Board to reflect upon its own effectiveness. The following points were made:

- The Terms of Reference for the Board and the Statute guiding them did not require change. They provided sufficient levers to the Board to be able to conduct its work. The Chair noted that, with the EFT, the reporting of Chest allocations was due to change in 2027.
- Longer-term attention to themes could be planned over more than one year, where beneficial.
- Board requests for information had been met in a less timely way than previously and greater pressure needed to be brought to bear to obtain it.
- Subjects of enquiry for the Board needed to represent University and Board-wide concerns rather than repetitious concerns of individual members or cases.
- The role of Chair should include contributing to University Discussions on the University's Annual and Chest Allocations reports
- Reflections noting University operations were considerably better in a different environment many years ago were unlikely to be effective in bringing about constructive change.

Dr Habib left the meeting.

6. Initial consideration of recommendations for the Annual Report

The Board considered the structure of its Annual Report and the recommendations that they may wish to make. Members of the Board were allocated sections of the Report to write, a draft outline of which will be considered at the next meeting.

Action: Board members

7. Any Other Business

The arrangements for the election of new members were noted.

The next meeting will be at 4.30pm on Tuesday 22 July 2025 at Murray Edwards College.