

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCRUTINY

MINUTES

Wednesday 17 February 2021, 10:30am

Remote meeting via Zoom

Present:

Mr Graham Allen (Chair), Mr Ian Wright (Secretary), Mrs Rachel Rowe (Support Officer), Dr Karen Ottewell, Dr Annamaria Motrescu-Mayes, Professor Martin Jones, Mr David Goode, Professor Richard Mortier, Dr John Fawcett, Dr David Butterfield and Dr Gilly Carr.

The meeting began at 10:31am.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Dr Mark Smith. Ms Saba Alai was not in attendance.

2. Declarations of Interest:

None.

3. Minutes of meeting on 3 February 2021:

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

4. Guest – Professor Stephen Toope, Vice-Chancellor:

The Board welcomed Professor Stephen Toope, and the following topics were discussed:

- i.) Reflections on his term so far, and objectives for the future;
- ii.) The medium-term outlook for the University;
- iii.) The University's response to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- iv.) How the University has changed over the past year as a result of the pandemic;
- v.) The decision to suspend regular publication of The Reporter in 2020;
- vi.) The suspension of the University's reward, recognition and benefits policies in light of the pandemic;
- vii.) Leading the change of the University's finance system;
- viii.) The roles of the Gold Team and the Senior Leadership Team regarding decision-making in governance; and
- ix.) The controversy regarding the Council's Freedom of Speech proposals.

5. Matters arising:

a.) Supplementary Report on the Allocations Report:

The Chair gave a brief report on the reception of the Board's Supplementary Report at the recent Discussion.

6. Preparation for future meetings with Senior Officers:

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

7. Updates from Working Groups:

It was agreed that the HR Working Group should arrange a date to meet.

8. Any Other Business:

None.

9. Date of next full Board meeting:

The next full Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 March at 10:30am via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 12:30pm.

Rachel Rowe
Support Officer