

# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCRUTINY

## MINUTES

**Wednesday 18 January 2017, 10:45am**

**Peter Richards Room, Hughes Hall**

**Present:** Dr Lydia Drumright (LD) (Chair), Mrs Gwyneth Barton (GBa) (Support Officer), Ms Saba Alai (SA), Dr Gemma Burgess (GBu), Mr Gordon Chesterman (GC), Dr Simon Frost (SF), Mr David Goode (DG), Dr Stephen Kell (SK), Dr Carmel McEniery (CMcE) and Dr Cristiano Ristuccia (CR).

### **1. Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Tim Milner (TM) and Dr Liz Morfoot (LM).

### **2. Declarations of Interest:**

None.

### **3. Minutes of Meeting on 10 January 2017:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising:**

#### Discussion of the Annual Report of the Council

A Discussion of the Annual Report of the Council was due to take place on 24 January 2017. A brief statement had been circulated to Board members before the meeting on the role of the Board of Scrutiny in relation to the Annual Report of the Council. It was agreed that the Chair would submit this statement in her name and ask for it to be read out at the Discussion on her behalf.

#### Terms of Reference of the Governance Review

The Chair reported that she had not yet received the terms of reference of the Governance Review. She agreed to chase them up.

#### Former Board Member

The Board formally recorded its thanks to David Secher, who had been obliged to step down from the Board upon appointment to the Finance Committee from 1 January 2017.

### **5. Guests - Jon Beard, Director of Undergraduate Recruitment and Sam Lucy, Director of Admissions:**

The Board welcomed Jon Beard, Director of Undergraduate Recruitment, and Sam Lucy, Director of Admissions. The following items were discussed:

- i) The success of this year's admissions round to date and the quality of the applications received
- ii) How different Triposes and Colleges have managed with the absence of AS level grades this year; the effectiveness of new forms of assessment; and lessons for future years
- iii) The effect of pre-interview testing as compared with at-interview testing

- iv) The scope to develop remote interviewing, particularly to recruit international students
- v) The likely impact of Brexit on applications and admissions and the extent to which an increase to EU fee levels would adversely affect the University's ability to admit the best students
- vi) The impact of efforts to attract more women to STEM subjects; generally to improve representation in all areas of the University; and to mitigate the effects of unconscious bias in the admissions process.

**6. Any Other Business:**

None.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 1 February 2017, 10:45am

Guest: Leszek Borysiewicz, Vice-Chancellor

Venue: Peter Richards Room, Hughes Hall

The meeting closed at 1.30pm.

**Gwyneth Barton**  
**Support Officer**