

**Board of Governors**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022**  
**EE1106, Edward Elgar**

**21/43 Attendance**

- 43.1 Present  
Mr J Bateman OBE Independent Governor, Chair

## **21/44 Declarations of Interest**

44.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **21/45 Minutes**

45.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 [BG 21/48] were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting

45.2

47.9 Members discussed opportunities for increasing bursaries and scholarships for students in light of the worsening economic situation and for gaining more philanthropic support for the University

47.10 The Board received the Vice Chancellor's report.

## **21/48 Students' Union Business [SG2150]**

### **48.1 Students' Union Report**

48.1.1 The Students' Union officers presented their update on the Students' Union activities. The following points were highlighted:

- the success of the 'Flood Fair' held in March, to mark University Mental Health Day.
- the Students' Union officer elections were record breaking with the highest number of candidates on record and the highest voter turnout.
- Just under 700 nominations were received for this year's Students' Choice Awards, and the TeamWork Awards event is to be held at Sixways Stadium this year with up to 500 students able to attend to celebrate the achievements.
- The annual Varsity against Gloucester returned for the first time in two years. The trophy was won by Gloucester, however the event engaged over 600 athletes and 3000 spectators.

### **48.1.2 [NOT FOR PUBLICATION]**

48.1.3 The outgoing officers thanked the Board for their support during the past year.

48.1.4 The Board received the report.

## **21/49 Strategic Discussion Levelling Up Impact Report [SG2151]**

49.1 The Board received a presentation from the Pro Vice Chancellor Students on the Purpose Coalition Levelling Up Impact Report. The following points were highlighted:

- the Levelling Up White Paper of February 2022 sets out six focus areas to drive levelling up (physical, human, intangible, financial, social and institutional), each area the University has a part to play in. However, there is a stark omission of reference to universities, especially in relation to human, social and institutional capital.
- the Purpose Coalition brings together businesses, policy makers, charities and universities focussed on working together on 14 levelling up goals. Worcester is one of 15 universities in the Coalition. The report maps the University against the 14 goals and the presentation highlighted the University's achievements in the areas of 'Successful school years' and 'Right advice and experiences'.

49.2 Members reflected on the report in discussion groups and fed back to the Board.

## **21/50 Reports from Committees**

### **50.1 People & Culture Committee [SG21/52]**

50.1.1 The Committee Chair presented the report on the Committee meeting of March 2022. The Committee agreed an approach to assessing staff morale and received an update on the work of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

50.1.2 The Committee discussed the #Cantbuymysilence University Disclosure Agreement (NDA) pledge that the Minister for Higher and Further Education has encouraged universities to sign to end the use of NDAs to silence complaints in sexual harassment cases. Members noted that UEB had decided since the Committee meeting to sign the pledge.

50.1.3 The Board received the report.



