



HARTPURY

Minutes of the Meetings of Hartpury University and Hartpury College Boards 10am Wednesday 13th May 2026 Glynne Holford, Hartpury House

Members

Edward Keene
Alison Blackburn
Patrick Brooke
Robert Brooks
Gareth Smith
Barbara Buck -
Andy Collop (Professor)
Alastair Grizzell
Ben Thomas
Mary Heslop
Henry Hodgkins
Thomas Legge
Melissa Orritt
William Marshall
Chris Moody
Bill Meredith
Lucie Hammond
Ian Robinson (Professor)
Sue Blake
Rose Stephenson
Fiona Reece

In Attendance

Mick Axtell
Rosie Scott-Ward
Gillian Steels
Claire Whitworth
Lesley Worsfold
Joanne Graham

University Board

Present (Chair)
Present (Co-opted Governor)
-
Present
Present (HE Student Governor)
-
Present (Vice-Chancellor)
-
-
Present
Present (HE Staff Governor)
-
Present
Present
-
Present
Present (Vice-Chair)
Present
Present

Present (Chief Operating Officer)
Present (Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)
Present (Clerk to the Board)
-
Present (Chief People Officer)
Assistant Principal (FE Report)

College Board

Present (Chair)
-
Apologies
Present
Present (Executive Principal)
Present (Vice-Chair)
Apologies (FE Student Governor)
Present
-
-
Apologies (FE Staff Governor)
-
Present
Present
-
-
Present
-
-

Present (Chief Operating Officer)
-
Present (Clerk to the Board)
Apologies (College Principal)
Present (Chief People Officer)
Assistant Principal (FE Report)

		ACTION & ACTION DATE
01/05/26	Welcome	
	Apologies and Confirmation of Quoracy Apologies as detailed above. It was confirmed the meetings of the University Board and the College Board were quorate.	
02/05/26	Declaration of Interest	
	The Clerk advised that members' interests would be taken as those disclosed in the Register of Members Interests.	

	Standing Interests – Chair, Vice-Chancellor/Principal and Chris Moody members of both University and College Boards.	
03/05/26	Minutes of the meetings The Minutes of the University Board and the College Board meetings held on the 18th March 2026 were agreed by the respective Boards to be true and accurate records, subject to a minor clarification of wording relating to student loan repayments. The Minutes of the Meeting of the FE Board 5th May 2026 were agreed to be true and accurate records. The Notes of the Strategy Days were NOTED.	
04/05/26	Matters Arising An action log had been provided updating on issues raised at previous meetings. The update was NOTED.	
05/05/26	Vice-Chancellor and Executive Principal Update The Vice-Chancellor and Executive Principal gave a briefing which covered the External environment, Hartpury highlights & updates and China visit / TNE update External Environment • AoC letter to Prime Minister – 175 signatories (numbers, VAT, Pay, ...) – confirmed that Hartpury had signed up to the letter. • Strategic Transition Planning Statement to be submitted by 6th July (qualification reform) – timing a challenge to respond to the changes, this would be taken to FE QuEST. Given the focus on 2026/27 this would be a brief document at this stage. • DfE visit re qualification reforms – opportunity for Hartpury to highlight plans and concerns. Noted LANDEX CEO also to attend. • University of Sussex won free speech high court challenge – Judgement OfS made "errors in law" & showed possible bias – position to be kept under review. • Northampton University on "special measures" – breach of B-conditions – confirmed that Hartpury kept these under ongoing review as part of its HE QuEST work. Noted that the reports related to a case from 3 years ago, and that Northampton University was disappointed at the issue being highlighted in this way after actions had been taken. Governors queried the specific breach which had occurred and were advised that it was a historic breach relating specifically to business and computing courses. • Draft CUC Code of Governance – consultation closed 10th May – the final version would be discussed at the Search and Governance Committee and the University Board updated.	
	Hartpury Highlights & Updates	
	College Rugby Success Hartpury Lions (3rd XV) AoC National Premier Champions Hartpury Stags (5th XV) England Colleges Cup Winners The Continental Tyres Schools RFU ACE Girl's final winners Charlie Robb - Leading UK University Golfer Top of BUCS Order of Merit Exeter Trophy – Winner English and Welsh Championships - Winner	

	Women's 6 Nations - 30 players with links to Hartpury Cool Ridings Training Day Hartpury Netball AoC National Cup Champions AoC National Champions AoC Premier League Champions England Netball National Schools Runners-up Hartpury FC - Finished 7th in Southern League Div. 1 Hartpury RFC - 6th place & Playoffs (vs Coventry) & New mascot 2026 Hartpury Research Conference From Insight to Impact: Participation, Partnership & Practice Thursday 9th July 9.30am – 4.30pm 2026 Hartpury College Prize Day - Hon. Fellowships – Jim and Carole Leng Friday 19th June Charity Cycle Ride - St Davids to Campus – practice ride taken place – purpose to support inclusive sport – through supporting <i>Goals Beyond Grass</i>, a disability sport and inclusive cycling charity. It was being undertaken by students, staff and governors who would be supported by a range of sports performance and support students.	
	The Vice Chancellor and Executive Principal's Report was NOTED.	
	11.25am Joanne Graham, Assistant Principal, Joined the meeting	
09/05/26	FE Report	
	The Assistant Principal outlined the key aspects of the report.	
	POLICY / EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT: the external environment continues to evolve at pace and the key areas of focus for us includes: (in addition to other aspects highlighted in previous Board reports): 1. Qualification Reform – this was significant 2. Further Ofsted updates – it was stressed again that Ofsted were assessing against “secure fit” not “best fit”, the enhanced lens of inclusion was reiterated. Much work had been undertaken, and remained ongoing in readiness for inspection. 3. Technical Education Colleges – Gloscol, who Hartpury had partnered, had been successful and an update on planned actions was awaited. It was stressed that this was likely to reflect the greatest period of change for many years, so it was essential that Hartpury positioned itself to navigate the environment effectively. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: we continued to drive forward further improvements, focusing on our Quality Improvement Plan actions and in development of our practices through the lens of the renewed Ofsted inspection approach, whilst planning to transition our qualifications in accordance with the ‘new’ landscape, ensuring we protected recruitment and the quality of provision. A deep dive process had been undertaken as part of the April quality review. This was aligned to the Ofsted Toolkit,	

	and had been a robust process. The Self-Assessment Report and process was being updated to reflect the new framework. The Teaching Learning and Assurance Strategy was being updated. Annual workload had been reviewed and requirement for any adjustments considered. The tracking position from A'levels mocks was highlighted. Governors queried if the commitment that students must complete academic studies to be considered for academy games remained in place, and this was confirmed. It was confirmed that intervention, such as extra revision sessions, classes in half term, communications with parents as well as students was in place. Inclusion was now being considered in more detail through management and governance reporting and meetings. FE Strategy - Feedback from GCC on the Level 1 proposal was awaited. Accountability Statement – this was being progressed in line with requirements. It had been discussed at the FE Board and would be taken to FE QuEST in June for sign off. The updated Local Skills Improvement Plan was awaited for review and inclusion in the Statement as necessary.	
	The FE Report was NOTED. The Board thanked the Team for their work.	
07/05/26	Finance Pack (Monthly Accounts) – February 2026 The finance pack summarised performance for the group as at P7 (February). It was highlighted that the Group had reported a net operating surplus of £2.6m, against a reforecast surplus of £1.9m, delivering a favourable variance of £0.7m. Year-to-date cash generated from operating activities totals £2,622k, with full compliance demonstrated against all HSBC covenants. The improved liquidity was noted. The cash flow forecast indicated an expected year-end closing cash balance of £3.1m, with total fund availability of approximately £8.8m. The projected outturn remained positive. The Finance Pack was NOTED.	
08/05/26	HE Report The Deputy-Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following key points: Student number planning including current recruitment and retention trends was being monitored carefully, with current indications suggested financial growth will be achieved as planned. The new curriculum had been critical to achieving this. Equine numbers were also up, which was pleasing. The changed processes at UCAS had impacted potential students, including for Hartpury and so this was being followed up with students and also UCAS to advise on the need to ensure the changes were understood by parents and potential students.	

	Research and Knowledge Exchange continued to work towards its strategic objectives, while navigating challenging sector timescales and expectations. We continued to navigate the fast moving regulatory and policy developments within the sector.	
	The HE Report was NOTED. The Board thanked the Team for their work.	
10/05/26	Student & Staff Voice HE Student Governor – ULH had been very positively received. Personal achievement at Hartpury highlighted. HE Staff Governor – Graduate Outcomes, Good Honours and use of AI and Academic Integrity were areas of focus. The need to ensure students could effectively use AI whilst continuing to be independent thinkers was discussed. It was noted this was an evolving area at Hartpury and the rest of the sector. The need for clear guidance for students was stressed – given current anxiety. It was suggested it would be helpful to have an update at QuEST. ULH positively received at recent open day and external visitors. Governor Link Activity – the following visits had taken place: RKE – Patrick Brooke – 14th April 2026 Enterprise, Skills and Careers (ESC) – Bill Meredith – 30th April 2026 Safeguarding, Learner Support, Skills for Life, Student Support & Welfare and SEND – Sue Blake 26th April 2026 No issues raised re safeguarding Staff Morale – positive feedback generally Strategic Issues were highlighted. The Chair continued his routine meetings with the Clerk and Vice-Chancellor. It was noted that involvement in the link governor scheme helped to triangulate the information provided at the meetings.	AI – HE QuEST Nov 26
12/03/26	Strategy Finance and Resources Committee Minutes of the meeting 5th May 26 Key Issues/Decisions were highlighted: - EDI Annual Report – good progress - Draft Budget – on track for July 26 Budget approval – key parameters in place - Recommend 3g Pitch Business Case for Approval - Summer Works - supported. - TNE Update – progressing – will report to Board. - Operating Cash Management – agreed.	

	Policy Update Approved Under Delegated Authority: • EDI Annual Report • FE International Fees • Financial Regulations – highlighted that if additional draw done of the revolving credit was required when SFR meeting not arranged an electronic meeting would be arranged. A governor noted that a bid had been submitted for capital support for animal. The outcome of the bid was awaited. The SFR Committee Minutes and Update were NOTED. 12.37 Fiona Reece left the meeting	
12/05/26	Search & Governance Committee Minutes of the meeting 20th April 26 Key Points outlined: • Proposals for Re-Appointment • Succession planning – continues to be ongoing – recent appointment process • Widening Board Diversity – continues to be an area of focus. • HE Code of Governance just issued. It was confirmed that the recruitment process was ongoing. It was noted that formal terms of office were also to be put in place for the Hartpur University Charity and subsidiary Companies. The S&G Minutes and Update were NOTED. Re-Appointment Proposals – governors left the room when their reappointment was being considered	
	University & College Board Edward Keene – 5th Term (since 2006, for College, since 2018 for University) - breadth of skills – commercial, farming, business, good attendance and engagement Hartpur events – further to discussions at the Away Day 2025. The University and College Boards APPROVED the RECOMMENDATION that Edward Keene be RE-APPOINTED for a further term of four years (from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2030) and that a formal Chair Succession Plan with shadowing opportunity be put in place. University Board Robert Brooks – 1st term – (since 2022) – breadth of skills – commercial, insurance, risk, good attendance, active link governor, Vice-Chair A&RMC, additional support for Hartpur activities relating sustainability, farm, insurance, risk and business development.	

	The University Board APPROVED the RECOMMENDATION that Robert Brooks be RE-APPOINTED for a further term of four years (from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2030). Lucie Hammond – 1st term – (since 2022) – breadth of skills – audit and accountancy and commercial, good attendance, active link governor, Chair Uni A&RMC, additional support for Hartpury activities relating to equine and local business. The University Board APPROVED the RECOMMENDATION that Lucie Hammond be RE-APPOINTED for a further term of four years (from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2030). College Helen Wilkinson – 2nd term of office (since 2018) – breadth of skills – safeguarding, education – schools, SEND, curriculum planning, OFSTED, quality, it was noted that whilst attendance had been lower due to work constraints this had now improved, following a move to consultancy. It was agreed Helen’s school experience was valuable, and it was noted was not provided through the expertise of any applicants in the recent recruitment round. The College Board APPROVED the RECOMMENDATION that Helen Wilkinson be RE-APPOINTED for a further term of two years (from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2028). Co-opted A&RMC member Clive Stainton term ends 2026 – appointed for one year – has contributed additional challenge to IT and cyber. Agreed these were important on-going skills areas for Boards. Recognising Clive’s skills and experience The University and College Boards APPROVED the RECOMMENDATION that Clive Stainton be RE-APPOINTED to the University and College Audit & Risk Management Committees as a co-opted member for a further term of two years (from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2028).	
	Update on Training & Development Plan for Governors – interaction with online training was set out.	
13/05/26	Application of the Seal - none	
14/05/26	Any Other Business	
	CUC Code of HE Governance – role of Senior Independent Governor – noted this would be discussed with the final version of the code at Search & Governance.	
	The meeting closed at 1pm	

APPROVED