



HARTPURY

MINUTES

Meeting Hartpury College Board of Governors 11.30am Tuesday 4th February 2026 Gordon Canning & Teams Hartpury House

Present:		
	Edward Keene (Chair)	University and College Board
	Andy Collop (Professor)	Vice-Chancellor & Principal
	Barbara Buck	College Board (Vice Chair)
	Mary Heslop	College Board
	Melissa Orritt	College Board – Staff Governor
	Bill Meredith	College Board
	Patrick Brooke	College Board
	Sue Blake	College Board
	Helen Wilkinson	College Board
	Alastair Grizzell	College Board
	Chris Moody	University and College Board
	Ben Thomas	Student Governor
In Attendance:		
	Mick Axtell	Chief Operating Officer
	Claire Whitworth	College Principal
	Gillian Steels	Clerk to the Governors
	Lesley Worsfold	Chief People Officer
	Ian Robinson	University Governor
	Robert Brooks	University Governor
Apologies		
	Raphaella Knight	Deputy Student Governor

		Action & Action Date
FE01/2/26	Welcome The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.	
FE02/02/26	Apologies – as detailed above.	
FE03/02/26	Quoracy It was confirmed the meeting was quorate.	
FE04/02/26	Declarations of Interest It was noted that the Chair, Vice Chancellor & Principal were also Members of the University Board.	
FE05/02/26	Minutes November 2025 (already approved by Board but included for reference)	
	The Minutes from the November FE Board were NOTED.	

		Action & Action Date
FE08/2/26	External Landscape	
	New Ofsted Framework 19 providers inspections published post-Christmas, mainly small, independent providers - School examples - Awaiting Gloucestershire and Yeovil College reports - Reminder – secure fit rather than best fit, most colleges are gearing to get 'expected standard' - Increased ad hoc data demands - Planning calls are key - Case sampling will provide significant evidence base - Serious complaints – review (as before) - FESIT and inclusivity data - A good college that was inspected in 2022 was inspected again in 2024 – no risk triggers - Kate Murrie training for governors - Governor briefing sheet - Our further reflections on grading & our current risk areas	
	Governors discussed the current grading and queried whether the cost of targeting exceptional was of sufficient benefit, recognising the key issue was the student experience. The College Principal confirmed this remained at the heart of Hartpury's focus, and commented that we were targeting making a transformational difference. The work being done to support inclusion was highlighted, it was recognised that there was a resource implication in accessing additional data which was being built in.	
	Governors agreed it was important to challenge for best possible performance.	
	T'level Update	
	- Student feedback – Agriculture – mixed and improving - Student feedback – Animal – positive - Student attendance – positive - Agriculture OS exams – Crops – going well, Ag Engineering, challenging - Middle Year Placement – Agriculture – all retained to date expect 1 (during placement year). - DfE / C&G visit – very supportive, opportunity to shape Governors noted the developing areas and the areas of strong performance. The positive introduction of Animal T'levels to date was highlighted.	
	Technical Excellence Colleges (TEC) were outlined: - work with employers, representative bodies, trade unions, strategic authorities, and local government to provide people with better training and job opportunities, and to provide the highly trained workforce that local economies need. - existing colleges that are awarded 'technical excellence status' to recognise deep specialisms in priority skills areas. - Each TEC will be a hub of excellence in a specific sector, with advanced facilities and resources, including expert staff, cutting-	

		Action & Action Date
	edge course materials, and strong employer and industry partnerships. ☐ Colleges appointed as TECs will support other providers that deliver provision in their sector, so that the opportunities and benefits that TECs create are spread across regions and learners. Hartpury was proposing to work with Gloucestershire College in relation to agri tec cyber within a wider cyber TEC. Feedback on this was awaited from the DfE.	
	The College Board NOTED the External Landscape Update.	
FE09/02/26	Accountability Statement Update	
	Noted that work on this was continuing to progress.	
	The Accountability Statement Update was NOTED.	
FE10/02/26	Ofsted Governor Briefing Document	
	The document was noted. Minor changes were suggested and an update was agreed.	Complete
FE11/02/26	Any Other Business None	

Dates of Future Meetings - all scheduled to commence at 11.30am except where noted.