



HARTPURY

MINUTES

**Meeting Hartpury College Board of Governors
11.30-1pm Thursday 8th February 2024
Gordon Canning, Hartpury House**

Present:		
	Edward Keene (Chair)	University and College Board
	Andy Collop (Professor)	Vice-Chancellor & Principal
	Barbara Buck	Apologies
	Patrick Brooke	College Board
	Mary Heslop	College Board
	Melissa Orritt	College Board – Staff Governor
	Chris Moody	University and College Board
	Alastair Grizzell	College Board
In Attendance:		
	Sue Blake	Co-opted Committee Member QuEST
	Max David	Deputy College Student Governor
	Mick Axtell	Chief Operating Officer
	Claire Whitworth	Deputy-Principal Further Education
	Gillian Steels	Clerk to the Governors
	Lesley Worsfold	Deputy-Principal Resources
Apologies		
	Helen Wilkinson	College Board
	Nick Oldham	College Board
	Amy Tranter	College Board – Student Governor

		Action & Action Date
FE01/01/24	Welcome and Scene Setting The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.	
FE02/01/24	Apologies – as detailed above.	
FE03/01/24	Quoracy It was confirmed the meeting was quorate.	
FE04/01/24	Declarations of Interest It was noted that the Chair, Vice Chancellor & Principal & Chris Moody – were also Members of the University Board.	
FE05/01/24	Minutes 7th November 2023 It was noted that the minutes had already been approved by the Board but were included for reference.	

		Action & Action Date
FE06/01/24	Update on College Reclassification into the Public Sector	
	Following on from the re-classification of colleges into the public sector, governors had received a briefing on implications in February 2023. An update on this was provided at the meetings. It was noted that the Remuneration & Employment Committee would consider the advice relating to Remuneration in more detail and an update would be brought to the Board in July, and that SMT would continue to keep a watching brief on other aspects and update the Board as necessary.	
	The Update was NOTED.	
FE07/01/24	Ofsted Residential Accommodation Inspection Action Plan Update	
	The Deputy Principal Resources confirmed, as previously advised that the Action Plan continued to be progressed. A visit from Ofsted was awaited. A monitoring visit was expected 6 months after the Report of the inspection, but no date had been advised at this time.	
	The ground floor of Dingle had now been changed to twin beds, and the same process would take place in Summer 2024 for the first floor. There had been positive feedback from students on the changes.	
	The Update was NOTED.	
FE10/01/24	Any Other Business	
	<p>In response to a query from governors it was confirmed that Hartpury had an Offensive Weapons Policy in place which included knives. This was subject to regular review. General random checks were not in place for knives, but confiscation would be applied., and there were spot checks in agriculture to ensure students only had knives for specific required activities, and that the rest of the time their knives were handed in.</p> <p>It was confirmed that students had to have lanyards and id badges with them at all times, and that there was ongoing work to enforce this. For example, the staff governor advised in tutorials students would be required to exhibit. Badges were being used for entrance, photocopying, to pay for café services to encourage a cultural of wearing/carrying.</p>	
FE08/01/24	Update Skills Review and LSIP	
	<p>Accountability Statement & Local Needs Duty Changes in Reporting</p> <p>The Deputy Principal Further Education advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New guidance had aligned and simplified requirements for the Annual Accountability Agreement and statutory duty – the Accountability Statement ▪ The DfE had decided to remove the requirement for colleges / designated institutions to report separately every three years on the outcomes of the Local Needs Duty. Colleges will now be able to demonstrate they are fulfilling their statutory duty by completing their annual Accountability Statement ▪ Deadline 30th June 2024 for website publication and return ▪ This will be linked to the Accountability Framework (previously the Funding Agreement) <p>Work to meet the requirements was ongoing.</p>	

		Action & Action Date
	<p>Accountability Statement 2024 Requirements</p> <p>The Board was updated that the DfE wanted this to include how we are contributing to National Skills Priorities. The National Skills Priorities had been agreed across Government and were areas with high volumes of vacancies which were expected to increase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction ▪ Manufacturing ▪ Digital and Technology ▪ Health and Social Care ▪ Haulage and Logistics ▪ Engineering ▪ Science and Mathematics ▪ LSIP priorities must be considered. <p>It was confirmed these were areas being covered across the county.</p>	
	The Update was NOTED.	
FE09/01/24	T Levels Update	
	<p>Provision for 2024-2025</p> <p>T-Level in Agriculture, Land Management & Production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops • Livestock • Agricultural Engineering <p>A steering group was in place to monitor and oversee the implementation. Training was ongoing to support staff and ensure the required facilities and processes were in place. Governors queried whether horticulture was still part of the core, this was confirmed, and that work was ongoing to maximise attractiveness. The approach used at another college of scenarios rather than units continued to be investigated.</p> <p>To date there had been 270 applications for T'levels. Work to ensure conversion was strong was active. It was noted there was no option for students who wanted to follow these areas of study. Governors queried whether potential students understood T'levels. The Deputy Principal Further Education advised that this had been targeted in outreach activity. The response had been mixed. Some schools were already promoting, but not all. The mixed position of university progression was a potential issue, lobbying on this continued, and it was hoped the position would change over time.</p> <p>It was confirmed that currently the staffing position was strong, and work was ongoing to retain the staff.</p> <p>A Foundation / Transition Programmes was also being developed to maintain access for students. It was thought this would attract a similar number of students as the extended certificate (approximately 30). This would be a City & Guilds qualification to align to the City & Guilds T'levels.</p>	
	The Update was NOTED.	

		Action & Action Date
FE10/01/24	2030 Strategy – Curriculum Development & Growth	
	Progress against the 2025 Strategy was noted. There had been a growth of 500 students since 2015, numbers had been static overall for the last 3 years, having approximately met target. Work had been on going to increase the landbased proportion to meet this key need. It was noted that agriculture enrolments had increased, animal had reduced by c 30 since 2015 and equine had reduced slightly. The increased weighting for landbased courses, which reflected the increase in costs for delivering was considered. Work to maximise retention remained ongoing. It was highlighted that apprentices had increased from 40 to 63.	
	The Qualification Reform Landscape was discussed noting the movement to T'levels and A'levels, with sport remaining a separate qualification to these. Planned reforms at Level 2 and level 1 were also raised. Of Hartpury's provision GCSEs and A'levels would remain as currently whilst qualifications in all other areas would change. DfE had highlighted the need to align strategies to the changing curriculum.	
	Challenges to increasing growth were considered. The availability of on-site beds for 16-18year olds was a key limiting factor. New curriculum areas being considered were arboriculture, countryside management and level 1 in animal. A proposal on this would come to Quest at its next meeting. Access to HE Business had been explored but was not planned for 2024/5 delivery.	
	The proposed key points of the 2030 strategy were considered. Proposals were to grow to 2250 full time students, 100 Apprentices, With Increased full cost activity (£200k? pa target) This assumed all Land based subjects transitioned to T-Levels and therefore further additional funding.	
	Reasons why current applicants did not progress to enrolment at Hartpury were discussed. Accommodation was a significant factor.	
	The changes in funding timing and amounts were discussed. Governors commented that the increase in landbased weighting from 1.3 to 1.975 was very welcome and reflected better the additional costs of this type of provision. It was confirmed this covered equine, animal and agriculture. It was agreed it was a significant step in making this type of provision secure. The importance of maintaining Hartpury's specialist status was emphasised.	
	Governors noted the proposed timeline and interdependencies of the 2030 strategy, noting that the numbers for animal could not be increased until the new animal capital projects were in place. It was noted the proposed strategy would be discussed further at the Board Away Days in March. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal advised that a range of scenarios and related costs were currently being explored for discussion in March. It was noted that nationally the numbers taking animal were increasing. Governors commented that the 2030 strategy was compelling but noted the limitations on resources and beds and queried if there were other areas funding/resources were required. It was confirmed there had been significant investment in Sport, so this was not an area requiring additional funding. The College Learning Centre was already at capacity and students were using Graze. Risks were being	

		Action & Action Date
	<p>mitigated to date. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal commented that maintaining our USPs was important. Governors queried how any additional beds would be allocated. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal advised that currently it was envisaged that any additional beds would be split 50:50 between HE and FE. It was noted that 10 extra HE beds would support and extra 30 students, whilst in FE it was only 5 – reflecting the number of years accommodation was offered.</p> <p>Governors queried if offering new provision would make existing provision less attractive. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal commented that this was not expected to be an issue. Locations to meet FE and HE student requirements were being considered. The provisional cost of building a room was currently priced at £90k per room. Advice on options was being obtained. A long term, medium term and short-term strategy were to be developed.</p> <p>Governors queried the flow from FE to HE. They were advised that progression was generally good, although there was variation.</p> <p>The UPDATE was NOTED.</p>	
FE11/01/24B	Any Other Business.	
	Confirmed Ofsted would provide a weeks notice of inspection.	

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

APPROVED