

**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors
held on Thursday 17 October 2024, 4:00 PM — 6:00 PM BST**

Present

Andreas Raffel (*Chair*)
Charlotte Adams (*SBSU President & Student Governor*)
Duncan Brown (*Independent Governor*)
Danny Clegg (*Academic Staff Governor*)
John Cole (*Independent Governor*)
Helen Coleman (*Independent Governor*) (via teams)
Ruth Farwell (*Independent Governor*)
Tim Fransen (*Staff Governor*) (items 1-7)
Paul Hayes (*Independent Governor*)
Mark Lemmon (*Independent Governor*)
Areej Mansuri (*Union Council Chair and Student Governor*)
Ola Obadara (*Independent Governor*) (via teams)
Jeremy Parr (*Independent Governor*)
David Phoenix (*Vice Chancellor and Group CEO*)
Vinay Tanna (*Independent Governor*)

Apologies

Shona Brown (*Independent Governor*)
Jennifer Thomson (*Independent Governor*)

In attendance

Alex Bush (*Chief People Officer*)
Samuel Curtis (*Group Company Secretary*)
Ola Dejo-Ojomo (*Governance Officer*)
Deborah Johnston (*Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Framework*)
Martin Jopp (*Director of Financial Performance*) (*Deputising for Simon Cruickshank*)

Pre-board presentation: League tables

The Board received a presentation on league tables, and LSBU's strategies and initiatives to sustain and improve its rankings in them.

Governors' private session

The Board met in camera to receive an update from the Chair of the Remuneration Committee and to consider a board resolution to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. Chair's business

The chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Shona Brown and Jennifer Thomson.

The Board noted the summary of the recent Group Engagement Day.

2. Declarations of interest

No member declared an interest in any item in the agenda.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting on 24 July 2024 and the proposed redactions for publication.

4. Matters arising

The Board noted that matters arising from previous meetings, and that a review of governance processes would be considered at the Board's next meeting.

5. Students' Union update

The Board received an update from the President of the Students' Union.

The Board congratulated the SU on how effective and engaging it had been in the recent Welcome Week, with feedback being wholly positive.

The Board also noted that the SU had specific KPIs for increasing engagement of nursing students, though it currently proved challenging to engage students at the Croydon and Havering campuses. The Board also noted that work was underway to increase the interaction between the LSBU SU and student representative bodies at the Group's other entities.

The Board **noted** the update from the Student's Union.

6. **Update from Committee Chairs (verbal report)**

The Board considered the following updates from its sub-committee chairs:

Finance and Investment Committee: the committee had recently focused on the Group's financial viability and estates management. Current year recruitment appeared better than anticipated, though liquidity remains under review whilst the Executive continue to effectively manage the challenges. Lessons had been learnt from recent developments in the SBC estates programme which continues to progress.

Strategy and People Committee: the committee had considered how student voice channels were used to drive improvement, LSBU's proposed approach to meeting the new OfS E6 condition of registration regarding sexual harassment, and how to facilitate better graduate outcomes.

Group Audit and Risk Committee: the committee considered the Group internal audit annual plan from the recently appointed internal auditors, noted that a review of LSBU's overseas students' compliance provided an opportunity to expediate a review of how student records information is stored and retrieved, and also considered the risk register.

The Board **noted** the updates from the LSBU Sub-Committee Chairs.

Items to discuss

7. **Vice Chancellor's report**

The Board discussed the Vice Chancellor's report and noted the following:

- Apprenticeship achievement rates for 2023/24 is 57.4%, which is still below the required rate of 60% but higher than the 2022/23 figure of 49.6%
- LSBU has retained its 601st position in the Times World University Ranking and moved to 64th from 71st in the UK.

█ [REDACTED]

- The recruitment and retention figures could not be confirmed until November 2024. Early recruitment figures indicate a deficit of

approximately 200 home undergraduate students, noting this included approximately 100 transfers to other institutions.

- Current figures also indicate a higher number of overseas students than anticipated. Current retention figures indicate approximately 3% increase in the pass rate for exams.
- There will be a series of VC briefings with staff throughout November 2024 to update them on the current environment. This will also be used to communicate the details of the proposed pay award.
- Heads of terms have been signed with L&G for the SBC development plans.

The board **noted** the report and **approved** the 24/25 pay award.

8. **CFO report**

The Board received an update from the CFO, including a discussion regarding the management accounts.

The Board noted the following:

- [REDACTED]
- There has been no change to the overall costs of TSAAM strand 1.
- Different contingency plans have been included in the budget. The autumn statement will be looked at closely, including any impact of a change in NI contributions.

The board **noted** the report.

9. **Annual LSBU business plan - Prior year performance**

The board considered the business plan for 2023-2024, noting the progress made against the KPIs associated with each of the plan's Deliverables.

The board **noted** the report.

10. **Corporate risk report**

The board considered the corporate risk register which had been updated and reviewed by the Group Audit & Risk Committee.

The board discussed Risk 1 (Group effectiveness) and **agreed** that, given the current low number of transitions from SBC to LSBU, the risk rating should move from Low (green) to Medium (amber).

The board **noted** the risk register.

11. **Annual declarations of interest**

The Board **authorised** the declared interests as set out in the paper.

12. **Any other business**

The board **noted** that there was one item below the line.

13. **Committee membership**

The Board **noted** the committee membership for the 2024/25 academic year.

Date of next meeting

4:00pm on Thursday, 21st of November 2024

Confirmed as a true record

..... (Chair)