

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

---

PRESENT:	Professor L Berry (Chair) Dr P Bonfield (to Minute 22.27) Professor G Meikle	L Phillips (Deputy Chair) (to Minute 22.25.7) J Robson Professor F Ross
IN ATTENDANCE:	A Coates, Northumbria University (Observer) J Lamarque (Minutes)	E McMillan (Clerk) S Recaldin
APOLOGIES:	J Cappock	I Wilmot <sup>1</sup>

---

**22.24 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

22.24.1 The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting.

22.24.2 Apologies were noted as above.

22.24.3 The Chair confirmed that there were no requests to discuss items of business not on the agenda.

22.24.4 There were no declarations of interest.

**22.25 EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW WORKING GROUP OUTCOMES REPORT**

22.25.1 Fiona Ross - Chair, Effectiveness Review Working Group (ERWG) and Elaine McMillan - Clerk to the Court of Governors and Head of University Governance (the Clerk) presented the Effectiveness Review Working Group outcomes report (Document NOM 230517A).

22.25.2 The ERWG Chair reported that the members of the sub-groups prioritised the recommendations from the Halpin review, recognising areas for improvement, quick wins and those that required further investigation.

22.25.3 The ERWG Chair thanked all involved for their work, in particular Jane Robson who acted as a Critical Friend.

22.25.4 The Clerk informed members that recommendations will be submitted to the Court meeting on 24 May 2023, with an implementation and action plan and timeline submitted in July 2023.

22.25.5 Members agreed that a paragraph on how the Working Group prioritised their work should be added to the report before submission to Court.

22.25.6 Members confirmed Recommendations 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 as proposed.

22.25.7 Members made the following suggestions for enhancements to the recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1 - Reflective discussion on contribution to the 2022-29 priorities:** Add a reference to Recommendation 16c.
- **Recommendation 2 - Strategic review:** Amend text to provide more clarity about the mid-term strategic review.
- **Recommendation 3 - Stakeholder engagement:** Remove Recommendation 3c as it is covered by Recommendation 3a.
- **Recommendation 5 - Colleague voice:** Remove the list of colleague networks from the text so that the recommendation is clearer.

---

<sup>1</sup> Acting University Secretary and Chief Operating Officer

## APPROVED

- **Recommendation 8 - Governor expertise:** Add a note that the proposed profiles are to support colleagues to draw on governors' expertise.
- **Recommendation 9 – Governor appointments and succession planning:** Remove Recommendation 9b. The process for recruitment of colleague governors will be explored further as part of the business of the Committee in 2023/24.
- **Recommendation 12 - Risk appetite:** Add clarification of when workshops will take place.
- **Recommendation 13 - SDG monitoring and reporting:** Amend Recommendation 13b to those responsible for people, culture and wellbeing.

22.25.8 In response to a member's query on Action D, the Clerk confirmed that this is in response to a recommendation from Halpin to research universities in a higher position in league tables on what their governing bodies are doing to progress EDI.

22.25.9 The Clerk confirmed that documents provided to the Working Group confirmed existing good practice.

22.25.10 **AGREED** To enable timely publication of the Court papers, members delegated updating of the report and recommendations to the Clerk.

22.25.10.1 **ACTION Clerk to the Court** to update the report and recommendations as discussed.

### 22.26 COURT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

22.26.1 The Clerk presented the Court and committee membership update (Document NOM 230517B).

22.26.2 **AGREED** Members recommend to the Court that Nandini Aggarwal is appointed as a co-opted (student) governor for a second one-year term with effect from 1 July 2023.

22.26.3 **AGREED** Members recommend to the Court that Taruna Bangia is appointed as a co-opted (student) governor for an initial one-year term with effect from 1 July 2023.

22.26.4 The Chair updated members on the process to recruit new independent governors. Members heard that the large number of applications were received, and 17 individuals have been included in the longlist. Members noted that longlisted candidates will be interviewed by the executive search agency prior to the shortlisting meeting.

22.26.5 The Clerk reminded members that the Committee's agreement of recommended appointments will take place via correspondence at the end of June.

### 22.27 KING'S HONOURS LIST

22.27.1 Peter Bonfield, Vice-Chancellor, updated members on nominations for the King's Honours list.

### 22.28 HONORARY AWARD NOMINEES

22.28.1 Sheena Recaldin, Executive Manager, Vice-Chancellor's office, presented the Honorary Award nominees (Document NOM 230517C).

22.28.2 In response to a member's query, the Executive Manager confirmed that a prior link with the University is not necessary, and nomination of individuals without an existing relationship can be beneficial in creating new links to the University. The Chair commented that it should be made clear to the Court that a prior link with the University is not a requirement of receiving an honorary award.

22.28.3 **AGREED** Members recommend to the Court that the University confers honorary awards on the following individuals:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

## APPROVED

### 22.29 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- 22.29.1 **AGREED** Members confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2023 (Document NOM 230517D) as an accurate record, subject to a change to Minute 22.18.4.
- 22.29.2 Members noted the summary of progress against actions and matters arising from previous meetings (Document NOM 230517E).

### 22.30 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 13 September 2023  
Wednesday 28 February 2024  
Wednesday 15 May 2024

Meetings start at 4.30pm and take place via Microsoft Teams<sup>2</sup>.

### 22.31 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 22.31.1 Members did not raise any other items of business.

### 22.32 COMPLIANCE WITH ONGOING REGULATORY CONDITIONS – ANNUAL REPORT

- 22.32.1 Members received assurance on compliance with ongoing regulatory conditions (Document NOM 230517F).

### 22.33 REGISTER OF PEOPLE WITH SIGNIFICANT CONTROL – ANNUAL UPDATE

- 22.33.1 Members noted the updated Register of People with Significant Control (Document NOM 230517G).

---

<sup>2</sup> Onsite facilities can be arranged for those who have difficulties participating remotely