

## BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE &amp; NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025  
10 AM VIA MS TEAMS

**Present**

Dr Stephen Critchley  
Anne Frost (*Chair*)  
Rev'd Canon Simon Jones  
Dr Sacha Mason

**In attendance**

Craig Ferguson, Secretariat, Alumni Relations & Ceremonial Officer (*Minutes*)  
Tom Dannatt, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) and University Secretary (*Clerk*)  
Catherine Sykes, Governance Consultant (*Items 1 to 6*)

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Welcome</b>	
1.1 The Chair, Anne Frost, welcomed members to the second Governance & Nominations (G&N) Committee meeting of the 2024/25 academic year.	
1.2 The Chair also welcomed Rev'd Canon Simon Jones (SJ) as the new Diocesan Representative on the committee, and External Governance Consultant Catherine Sykes (CS).	
<b>2. Apologies</b>	
2.1 There were no apologies for absence, as all members were in attendance.	
<b>3. Declarations of Interest</b>	
3.1 The Chair declared an interest in Item 9.1 and will be invited to leave the meeting whilst this item was discussed.	
<b>4. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting</b>	
4.1 The minutes of the G&N Committee Meeting held on 4 November 2024 were CONFIRMED as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the Chair was AUTHORISED to sign them.	
<b>5. Matters Arising</b>	
5.1 <u>Action Table</u>	
5.1.1 The action table with progress against remaining actions was NOTED.	
5.2 <u>Any Other Matters</u>	
5.2.1 There were no other matters arising following the previous meeting.	

**6. To Receive the “Horizon Scanning” Document from Catherine Sykes**

6.1 Members RECEIVED and NOTED the Horizon Scanning Document provided by CS.

6.2 CS HIGHLIGHTED the following key points to NOTE:

- Autumn Budget 2024.
- Office for Students (OfS) focus on financial sustainability in the sector.
- Freedom of Information Act.
- OfS Strategy and Financial Sustainability Consultations.
- Changes to Ofsted Inspection Framework.
- Compliance requirements relating to Harassment and Sexual Misconduct.
- Benefits of Artificial Intelligence relating to governance and oversight implications.

6.3 Members RAISED the following questions and comments:

- Members NOTED their thanks to CS for producing the report and HIGHLIGHTED that the information provided was useful.
- Has BGU responded to the OfS Strategy and Financial Sustainability consultations?
  - The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) & University Secretary, Tom Dannatt (TD), NOTED that responses to both consultations had been submitted.
  - TD NOTED that he would confirm the date that the consultation responses were submitted and would report back to the committee. TD
- Members asked if a report could be brought to University Council to provide assurance that BGU is complying with the new E6 Condition of Registration with the OfS, which relates to Harassment and Sexual Misconduct.
  - It was CONFIRMED that this assurance could be provided to University Council. TD
- Members asked if there could be a discussion at the Academic Assurance Committee (AAC) regarding the changes to the Ofsted Inspection Framework. TD
- Members asked if there could be a session for University Council to explore the implications of the OfS Consultations for BGU. TD
- Could cost and risk implications of recommendations from future horizon scanning reports be incorporated where possible?
  - The Chair NOTED that these elements would be beneficial to be included in any future reports to University Council.
- Members REQUESTED that a cover note from the Executive be provided with future horizon scanning reports to highlight responses to recommendations? TD
- Members REQUESTED that the Horizon Scanning document be included in the next DVC Report to Council TD

*Catherine Sykes left the meeting.*

**7. University Council Members Recruitment**

7.1 The Chair noted that the Vice-Chancellor would form membership of this committee effective from 22 April 2025.

7.2 The Chair NOTED that she would be meeting with Professor Karen Stanton (KS) to discuss joining University Council as a full member and NOTED that any application from KS would follow the normal University Council Recruitment Processes.

**8. Key Items for University Council**

8.1 The key items for University Council were:

- The "Horizon Scanning" Document from CS.
- University Council Vacancies and Recruitment.

**9. Any Other Business**

9.1 Chair's Expression of Interest to continue for a second term

9.1.1 The Secretariat, Alumni Relations & Ceremonial Officer, Craig Ferguson (CF), NOTED that the Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office had received a formal Expression of Interest from the Chair to continue for a second term of governance.

9.1.2 Members discussed the Expression of Interest and RAISED the following question:

- What was the end of the second term?
  - CF NOTED that the Chair of Council first term would conclude in July 2025, therefore her second term would commence in August 2025 and end in August 2028.

9.1.3 Members were CONTENT to RECOMMEND a second term of governance for the Chair to University Council for formal approval.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10.1 The next meeting of the Governance & Nominations Committee will take place on Monday 16 June 2025 at 10:00am via MS Teams.

Signed 

Date 16 - 06 - 2025

