

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

TIME /DATE / VENUE	1030, Wednesday 19 June 2024, St Andrew's Court 0.32
PRESENT	<p>David Madoc-Jones (Chair)</p> <p>Roger Burke-Hamilton</p> <p>Madeline Denmead</p> <p>Professor Graham Galbraith</p> <p>Vineet Khurana (via zoom) (to minute 76)</p> <p>Stacey Parrinder-Johnson (to minute 81)</p> <p>Sukkanya Siva</p> <p>David Willan</p> <p>Christopher Williams</p>
IN ATTENDANCE	<p>Dr Rich Boakes, Staff Representative</p> <p>Wayne Bowen, Head of HR Strategic Planning (minute 76)</p> <p>Chris Chang, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (minute 79)</p> <p>Mark Carter, Deputy Director of Finance (minute 78)</p> <p>Temidayo Dosunmu, UPSU Elected Officer</p> <p>Seamus Gillen, Value Alpha Consultant</p> <p>Vicky Gosling, Head of Digital Solutions (minutes 83 and 84)</p> <p>Professor Sherria Hoskins, Provost (minute 75)</p> <p>Dr Adrian Hull, Staff Governor</p> <p>Julian Lintel-Smith, Deputy Chief Information Officer (minutes 83 and 84)</p> <p>James Morris, Head of Reward and recognition (minute 76)</p> <p>Jonathan Sandling, Principal London Campus, via zoom (minute 78)</p> <p>Kate Smith, Company Accountant, via zoom (minute 76)</p> <p>Mary White, Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>Jon Ward, Chief Information Officer (minute 83 and 84)</p> <p>Tahir Ahmed, Director of Estates and Campus Services (minute 80 to 82)</p>
SECRETARIAT	<p>Peter Aldred, Interim, Executive Director of Corporate Governance</p> <p>Helen Malbon, Senior Governance Officer (from minute 70, via zoom)</p> <p>Papers were tabled in support of minute number 78 and 79.</p> <p>Some items were taken out of the published order to accommodate guest availability.</p>

## **69 Welcome, apologies, and declarations of interest**

- i. The Chair welcomed:  
Sukkanya Siva, external governor  
Seamus Gillen observing as part of his Board effectiveness work  
Mary White, Chief Financial Officer  
Peter Aldred, Interim Executive Director of Corporate Governance  
to their first meeting of Committee.
- ii. There were no apologies for absence or interests to declare.
- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate and could proceed to business.

## **70 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Following discussion, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record, subject to amending minute 66v to read

Committee agreed that it would be helpful to have some appropriate financial data included on the grid such as a column showing spend approved so far as well as one showing anticipated final costs. It was acknowledged that some items such as moving service cables spanned several projects.

**Action: Director of Estates and Campus Services**

## **71 Matters actioned and matters arising**

- i. Five items were noted
  - a. Property Negotiation  
At the meeting held on 26 March 2024, the Board approved the proposal for rapidly and effectively negotiating land and property acquisitions and disposals in support of the University's Estates Masterplan and Reset Savings programme.
  - b. Estates projects  
At the meeting held on 26 March 2024, the Board approved the financial commitment to progress the design phase of the key Estates Masterplan projects.
  - c. Estate project approval route  
The Corporate Governance team were working with the Director of Estates and Campus Services to establish an approval framework for key decision points in the Estates Masterplan which may require the establishment of additional committee/Board meetings and/or the use of the Exceptional and Urgent Approvals Committee.
  - d. Approval outside meeting  
Committee noted that in line with the Financial Regulations in place on 20 March 2024, the Executive Director of Corporate Governance approved acceptance of a single quotation above the £100k threshold to migrate telephony front-end services to a cloud hosted system that was covered by a

managed service arrangement that was more resilient than the physical data centres.

e. Project tracker

- i. Clarification provided as to why it was proposed a medical school update would go straight to the October 2024 Board without first coming to this Committee. It was stated that if the original business case was on track, then there was no requirement to first come to Committee.
- ii. It was noted that the Digital Plan was coded amber due to the a) extra work required by Reset and b) the short gap between the current Chief Information Officer leaving and the new permanent appointee arriving. Capable deputies had been appointed to cover the interim but some project implementation would necessarily be slower due to capacity issues.
- iii. In response to a question, it was stated that the green rating for all estates projects was realistic, although each was progressing at a different rate. Committee noted that in January it had been informed that the completion date for the student hub project was October 2025 but this had now changed to June 2026. It was acknowledged that each time the tracker was presented, it was capturing the situation at that current time and was not retrospective. It was agreed that the previous RAG rating should be shown on the tracker so movement was captured.
- iv. Following discussion, it was agreed that some means of capturing the inter-dependencies within the estate's masterplan plan should be developed.

**Action: Chief Financial Officer**

- v. The current external governor membership of project boards was noted:  
Victoria Park: Chris Williams  
Masterplan Advisory Group: Madeline Denmead and Chris Williams  
Digital Plan: Roger Burke-Hamilton  
It was noted that the London Campus project board had ended and moved to a business as usual operation. The London Campus Strategic Management Committee and UoPL Strategic Partnership Board now had oversight.

- f. As appropriate, in the future post-implementation project reviews would take place. Following discussion, it was agreed that a review should be conducted for Ravelin Park Sports Centre and the previous Victoria Park scheme, capturing details of benefits realised (financial and non-financial), lessons learned and reviewing if the stated objectives had been achieved.

**Action: Chief Financial Officer**

- ii. There were no other matters arising.

**72 Chief Financial Officer report including management accounts**

Mary White, Chief Financial Officer, presented a report. Key items covered were:

- i. Sector context  
The Office for Students' (OfS) report into the financial health of the sector published in May 2024 had highlighted that the sector's financial performance was notably weaker in 2022-23 than in 2021-22. This was a change from last year's report, which described finances as being 'generally in good shape'.
- ii. confidential

**73 Portsmouth Technopole – confidential****74 Budget 2024/2025– confidential****75 Reset Update – confidential****76 Pension model proposal – confidential**

Vineet Khurana had to leave the meeting at this point due to another commitment. Committee noted that his term of office ended on 31 July 2024 and that he had made the decision not to take up the option of serving a second term of office due to work commitments. He joined in August 2020 when based in Spain but has very diligently continued his commitment to early online meetings and travel to the UK for Strategy days once posted to the USA within a few months of accepting the role. The Chair thanked him for his valuable contribution and Vineet responded that it had been an honour to serve and wished the University well for the future.

**77 Investment update – confidential****78 London Campus – confidential****79 Langstone accommodation – confidential****80 Eldon car park – confidential****81 Student Hub – confidential**

**82 Estates update – confidential**

**83 Cyber security annual report – confidential**

**84 Library and Information Services Report – confidential**

**85 Electronic approvals outside the meeting**

Two papers were circulated for approval outside the meeting:

i Financial Regulations update

ii Review of Student Accommodation Strategy

By 25 June 2024 sufficient positive responses had been received such that Committee could recommend them to the Board meeting on 3 July 2024.

**Action: Senior Governance Officer**

**86 Record of thanks**

It was the last meeting for some members of Committee:

- i. Temidayo Dosunmu finishes his term of office as an Elected officer of the Students' Union on 30 June 2024. Temi was thanked at the Board in March 2024 but Committee also wished to acknowledge his contribution
- ii. Thanks to Vineet Khurana were recorded earlier in meeting.
- iii. In absentia, Committee thanked Simon Taylor, Interim Director of Finance, whose fixed term contract ends later in the month and Claire Dunning, Executive Director of Corporate Governance, who had left the University at the end of May 2024.

**87 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be on 11 September 2024 from 1030.