

Confirmed Minutes – without reserved items.

Board of Governors

Held on 21 November 2024, at 09:30

Present:	Dame Julia Unwin	Chair of the Board of Governors
	Neil Braithwaite	Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors
	Jennifer Adams	Chair, Audit Committee
	Alison Davies	Chair, People Committee
	The Rt Revd Richard Frith	Chair, Foundation Committee
	Prof. Karen Bryan OBE	Vice Chancellor
	Abinash Chaudhary	Student Governor
	Dr Ernestine Gheyoh Ndzi	Staff Governor
	Andrew Chang	Governor
	Brian Chiyesu	Governor
	Dr Avijit Datta	Governor
	Andy Falconer	Governor
	Mark Fordyce	Governor
Pauline Waterhouse OBE	Governor	
In attendance:	Prof. Richard Bourne	Pro Vice Chancellor (PVC): Education
	Dr Rob Hickey	Chief Operating Officer
	Kathryn Kendon	University Secretary & Registrar
	Prof. Rob Mortimer	PVC: Research & International
	Mia Bryden	Head of Governance and Compliance
Apologies:	Christopher Howell	Minuting Secretary
	Mohammed Ali OBE	Governor
	The Very Revd Dominic Barrington	Governor

06/24 Welcome, Apologies, and Chair's Business

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. The Chair extended a further warm welcome to Avijit Datta who was officially attending his first meeting of the Board of Governors.

The first Board meeting of the year focussed on a range of strategic matters, as well as approvals for a range of statutory items.

The Chair reflected on recent successes for the University. First, the previous week's graduation ceremonies had been a success, demonstrated great effort and skill, and continued to play a significant part in the student experience at York St John. The Board asked for their thanks to be passed on to everyone involved in planning and delivering the ceremonies and related dinner.

Secondly, the institution had recently been named the University of the Year for Social Inclusion 2025 by The Times and The Sunday Times. The Board praised this fantastic outcome for the University. The Executives advised that the award had been, and would continue to be, promoted to students (current and prospective) and staff through a variety of means.

Reflecting on Board membership, the Chair noted that she continued to communicate with the Church of England's National Society Council regarding a replacement for former Governor Rt Revd Paul Ferguson.

The Chair also reported a recent visit to York Minster, which is currently building a Centre of Excellence that would help protect their environmental, financial and heritage sustainability going forward and make a striking contribution to the City of York. The Chair reported that she was impressed by the plan and vision for the Centre. Apprenticeships were being supported by York College and Askham Bryan College, but the Board noted there may be potential opportunities for the Minster and York St John to collaborate through the Centre in the future.

07/24 Declarations of Interest

The Chief Operating Officer declared an interest in agenda item 6, Vice Chancellor's Strategic Update (BoG.24.02.03, M11/24), due to being a Governor at York College. The paper referenced the University's partnership with York College.

08/24 Board of Governors' Statement of Primary Responsibilities and Schedule of Business

Paper BoG.24.02.02 was received. The University Secretary & Registrar spoke to the paper.

Annually, the Board reviews its Statement of Primary Responsibilities and schedule of business.

There were no proposed amendments to the Statement of Primary Responsibilities. On the recommendation of Academic Board and Executive Board, there had been consideration of adding a new responsibility on harassment and sexual violence; however, it was agreed that a new responsibility was not required because the new Office for Students (OfS) condition on harassment and sexual violence was covered by point no. 14: 'To comply with registration conditions required...'.

The schedule of business had undergone minor amendments, mainly to better reflect the names of items and rebalance the schedule.

It was agreed that the Chair of Audit Committee would share ideas for items of assurance on academic governance with the Chair and University Secretary & Registrar. The ideas came from a Universities UK meeting of Audit Chairs.

JA

The Board of Governors received the report and:

- a) **approved** its Statement of Primary Responsibilities.
- b) **approved** its schedule of business.

09/24 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July and 30 September 2024

The minutes from the meetings held on 18 July and 30 September 2024 were **approved** as an accurate record with the following amendments being made to reserved items:

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

10/24 Matters Arising

There were six matters arising:

.1 Proposed Audit Committee name change

The Chair of Audit Committee proposed Audit Committee changed its name to Audit & Risk Committee. The change was proposed to better reflect the Committee's remit and align with other Higher Education (HE) institutions where the Audit & Risk title was more commonly used.

There were no proposed changes to the work undertaken by the Committee, and other sub-Committees would still oversee risks related to their areas.

Members of Audit Committee and Governance & Nominations Committee had advised they supported the name change at their October 2024 meetings.

The Board of Governors:

- a) **approved** Audit Committee changing its name to Audit & Risk Committee.
- b) **noted** that the University Secretary & Registrar, Head of Governance & Compliance, and Governance Officer would ensure all documentation was updated to reflect the name change.

.2 M72/23 - Sexual Harassment and Violence policy: Governors asked the University to make sure the policy clearly outlined how police involvement impacted the University's own processes.

The Head of Governance & Compliance advised an appendix had been added to the Sexual Harassment and Violence policy to detail how police and court involvement impacted the policy and investigation process.

The Vice Chancellor, in her capacity as Academic Board Chair, had signed off the updated policy via Chair's action in August 2024.

On the above basis, the Board of Governors **closed** this action.

.3 M75/23 - University and Students' Union Code of Practice:

Governors requested that section 2.26, which related to sexual misconduct, referenced the new Sexual Harassment and Violence policy.

The University Secretary & Registrar advised that the York St John University & Students' Union Code of Practice had been updated in relation to harassment and sexual misconduct.

The Code had also been amended in relation to Freedom of Speech. In July 2024, the new Government announced a pause to the implementation of the HE (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023. The Code had previously referenced expected incoming requirements related to the Act.

The Chair of the Board of Governors had taken Chair's action to sign off the updated Code on 01 August 2024.

On the above basis, the Board of Governors **closed** this action.

.4 Revised Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech

The University Secretary & Registrar advised that due to the Government's pause of the HE (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom had been amended.

This Code had been updated and approved at the Board's July meeting to reflect the incoming Act. In most cases, the original changes to the Code were points of clarification and incorporation of best practice and had remained. However, there were a few instances where additions were solely a result of the new Act and these had been removed.

The Chair of the Board of Governors had taken Chair's action to sign off the updated Code on 01 August 2024.

The Board of Governors **noted** the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom update.

.5 YSJ Innovations Ltd: Actions arising from the Board of Governor's 30 September extraordinary meeting

This item was covered by agenda item 16, Establishing YSJ Innovations Ltd – progress update (BoG.24.02.12, M30/24).

.6 Disciplinary hearing outcome

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

The University Secretary & Registrar provided a verbal update to the Board on a disciplinary hearing outcome.

11/24 Vice Chancellor's Strategic Update

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

Paper BoG.24.02.03 was received. The Vice Chancellor spoke to the paper.

Since the paper had been written, the Government had announced changes to National Insurance levels and thresholds, as well as an increase to the Real Living Wage. The Government had also suggested that Level 7 degree apprenticeship funding via the apprenticeship levy would be removed from 2025-26

In November, the OfS published a review on the sector's financial sustainability. The report estimated that the number of UK undergraduate entrants would be 10% lower than currently forecasted by the sector and 23% lower for non-UK entrants. Along with the Government's budget announcements, the OfS expected the financial context for the sector to become even more challenging. Without mitigating action, the OfS predicted up to 72% of providers would face a deficit in 2025-26.

The Vice Chancellor and PVC: Research & International had attended graduation ceremonies for York St John's Dubai partner, Lincoln University of Business and Management (LUBM). LUBM's focus on employability and enhancing the life chances of its graduates had been clear. It was also noted that almost 50% of LUBM's recent graduating cohort were women. The University was continuing to work on expanding the current partnership with the addition of new academic provision.

A range of other partnership developments had taken place. This included the University deciding to end its partnerships with the Benedict Education Group and Nanyang Institute of Management, and to create a new partnership with the College of Allied Educators. The University and York College were continuing to consider ways to strengthen their partnership. It was noted that Executive Board had rejected requests to establish partnerships with two private providers in the UK due to quality concerns and lack of strategic fit.

The University was exploring ways to engage with employers from a wider geographical area. The York and Humber graduate job market was decreasing, and it was important to consider focussing on areas such as North Yorkshire, Bradford, South Durham, Leeds, and Manchester. Opportunities for York-based students to explore graduate opportunities in London were also being considered.

The Board noted that the University's relationship with the new North Yorkshire Combined Authority continued to develop positively. York St John had recently tendered for, and subsequently been awarded, the opportunity to undertake research in partnership with the authority. The project explores connectivity barriers to post-16 provision, helping to inform the delivery of the Combined Authority's skills strategy.

The Board **noted** the update.

12/24 Key discussion item: Strategy – Indicators of Success

The Vice Chancellor delivered a presentation.

Following the creation of the new University for Social Impact Strategy, the presentation provided an update on the delivery of the Strategy and how the ten Indicators of Success would be measured going forward.

Since sign-off by the Board in July 2024, the Strategy had been: added to the University's website; circulated to all staff; and, presented at individual Directorate and School sessions. Work was ongoing to develop the Frameworks (Financial Sustainability; Equality, Diversity & Inclusion; Research & Innovation; and, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience), School Roadmaps, and Enabling Plans that would deliver the Strategy.

The Director of Strategy & Projects had created an Indicators of Success Scorecard. This was a live document that continuously measured key factors aligned with the ten Indicators of Success; progress would be underpinned by data, qualitative insights, commissioned impact reports, and strategic projects.

The presentation included a baseline report of initial progress against the Indicators of Success. According to the key measures within the Scorecard, the following Indicators were deemed to be 'on track':

- Demonstrate students and staff from all cultures and backgrounds feel valued within the YSJ community;
- Score consistently above national benchmarks for quality; and,
- Maintain a resilient financial position.

The following Indicators were deemed to have 'minor concerns':

- Score consistently in the top quartile of student satisfaction measures; and,
- Maintain successful partnerships domestically and international.

In terms of student satisfaction, the University was ranked in the first quartile for the Postgraduate Taught Survey and scored above the national average in the International Student Barometer. However, in the National Student Survey (NSS) and the Postgraduate Research Survey (PRES), York St John had featured in the second quartiles.

In relation to partnerships, data for measuring this Indicator was limited at the current time. It was anticipated that the development of Frameworks, Roadmaps and Enabling Plans would identify further partnerships arrangements and provide more data to measure in the future.

It was too early to update on progress on the following final five Indicators, but the presentation included a baseline for delivery:

- Double the scale of our research and innovation;
- Evidence increased societal and economic impact;
- Demonstrate an increase in educational equality and opportunity;
- Reduce our environmental footprint; and,
- Empower more students to secure meaningful employment or progress onto further study.

The Board of Governors received the item and:

- a) **discussed** the presentation;
- b) **noted** that the baseline review of the institution's status against each indicator of success appeared very stringent and that in some indicators the picture appeared more positive than that being presented. Board members were keen to ensure appropriate oversight of the key measures at sub-committees and the full Board; and,
- c) **noted** that this approach replaced the old Key Performance Indicator regime, but reflected more accurately the fast-changing environment in which the University operates.

13/24 Home Undergraduate Fees

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

Paper BoG.24.02.04 was received. The Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper.

14/24 Students' Union President's report

Paper BoG.24.02.05 was received. The Students' Union (SU) President spoke to the paper.

The report updated the Board on the latest activities of the SU.

Supporting student wellbeing and mental health continued to be a key focus of the SU. This included promoting awareness of support services and encouraging student engagement. While progress was being made, it was recognised that there would be an increasing need to support wellbeing and mental health for the foreseeable future across higher education and other sectors. The SU was working with the University to deliver the Mental Health Charter, which would help York St John provide a strong level of support in this area for students and staff.

Cost-of-living pressures continued to have a considerable impact on students. The SU were working on a wide range of initiatives and measures to support students. This included: communicating with the University to find ways of making accommodation more affordable; working with City leaders to reduce the cost of travel; improving access and the process for applying for support funding; and, providing essential items for students who arrived at the University in financial difficulty.

The SU was working closely with the London Campus to ensure that students received the same level of support and experience as those at the York Campus. This included working with YSJ Active to explore sports and games opportunities. Actions from the SU's recent Representation Review would further enable the SU to provide appropriate support and opportunities for all students. The Board was keen to hear the outcomes of the Representation Review once actions were fully implemented.

The Board noted the breadth of work being undertaken by the SU to support York St John students. The importance of the SU working with the University on matters of shared importance, such as work to reduce instances of academic misconduct, was also noted.

The Board of Governors **noted** the report.

15/24 Letter of Representation from the Board of Governors to the External Auditors

Paper BoG.24.02.06a was received. The Chair of Audit Committee and the Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper. The processes undertaken to enable the letter to be recommended to the Board were discussed.

The Letter of Representation:

- a) acknowledged the responsibilities of the Board of Governors;
- b) confirmed that the Board of Governors was not aware of any irregularities or occasions where legal or regulatory requirements had been breached; and,
- c) confirmed that the auditors had full access to all records and information required for their audit.

The Board of Governors **approved** the Letter of Representation from the Board of Governors to the External Auditors.

16/24 York St John University External Audit Highlights Memorandum

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

Paper BoG.24.02.06b was received. The Chair of Audit Committee and the Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper.

The Board was informed that the audit work was substantially completed and BDO anticipated issuing an unmodified audit opinion on the University's financial statements for the year ending 31 July 2024. The audit process had been positive and robust, with the University being cooperative and open. The work had been carried out in a timely manner and the relationship between BDO and University departments continued to be strong. Audit Committee had gained assurance that the University remained a going concern.

BDO were still waiting for information from North Yorkshire Pension Fund, before their work could be officially completed; however, this information was not expected to have any material impact on their opinion of the University.

In terms of key risks, the audit showed there had been:

- no indication of management override of controls as at the date of the report;
- no errors identified in relation to existence of deferred income; and,
- no errors identified in relation to the completeness, existence and accuracy of deferred income balance in relation to fees received in advance.

The Board of Governors received the report and:

- a) **approved** the Audit Highlights Memorandum and Management Letter.

17/24 York St John University Annual Report and Financial Statements

Paper BoG.24.02.06c was received. The Chair of Audit Committee, Chair of Finance & Capital Development Committee (FCDC), and the Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper.

Each year, the Board reviews and signs off the Annual Report and Financial Statements as part of York St John's statutory financial return.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements had undergone several layers of scrutiny prior to the meeting, including by Audit Committee, Finance and Capital Development Committee, and Executive Board.

Governors noted a minor amendment had been made to the report following the circulation of the meeting's papers. The amendment was to remove three footnotes in the Independent Auditors section; these had been left on the document in error. The amendment had no material impact on the report and the updated version was accessible to Governors via the Board's SharePoint site.

The Board agreed that the Annual Report and Financial Statements accurately reflected their views of the University, including its financial position and key risks. The University had performed robustly in a difficult financial environment and compared positively to many in the sector. This performance had been underpinned by strong international student recruitment, improved student retention, and early and effective cost control. Members of Audit Committee and Finance and Capital Development Committee noted that the Committees had gained assurance that the Annual Report was an accurate reflection of the situation at the University. Governors congratulated Executive Board and the Finance team for delivering this strong performance during difficult circumstances.

The Board also praised the quality of the report and asked for their thanks to be passed on to all of those who were involved in its creation.

The Board of Governors **approved** the York St John University Annual Report and Financial Statements.

18/24 Reappointment of the External Auditors

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

The Chair of Audit Committee and University Secretary & Registrar spoke to the verbal item.

19/24 Revenue and Capital Budget

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

Paper BoG.24.02.06d was received. The Chair of FCDC and the Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper.

20/24 Five-year forecast

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

Paper BoG.24.02.06e was received. The Chair of FCDC and the Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper.

21/24 Capital investment plan

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

Paper BoG.24.02.06f was received. The Chair of FCDC and the Chief Operating Officer spoke to the paper.

22/24 Governance & Nominations Committee constitution and terms of reference

Paper BoG.24.02.07 was received. The Chair and the University Secretary & Registrar spoke to the paper.

The Board reviews Governance & Nominations Committee's constitution and terms of reference on an annual basis.

The constitution and terms of reference had been amended to update the Committee's membership and to include appropriate references to YSJ Innovations Ltd.

The Board of Governors **approved** Governance & Nominations Committee's constitution and terms of reference.

23/24 Academic Board constitution and terms of reference

Paper BoG.24.02.08a was received. The Vice Chancellor spoke to the paper.

The Board reviews Academic Board's constitution and terms of reference on an annual basis.

Minor amendments had been made to the constitution and terms of reference to update membership changes and to increase the student membership of Academic Board to a maximum of three representatives.

The Board of Governors received the report and:

- a) **approved** the Academic Board's constitution and terms of reference.

24/24 Degree Outcome Statement

Paper BoG.24.02.08b was received. The Vice Chancellor spoke to the paper.

The Degree Outcomes Statement outlined the University's commitment to protecting the value of the institution's degrees. It demonstrated a transparent, consistent and fair approach to academic standards.

In 2023-24, the percentage of students achieving first-class or upper-second class honours degree fell by 0.1% from 2022-23. This outcome reflected a stabilisation of awards following the removal of Covid measures and evidenced that there were no concerns around grade inflation at the institution. The Board noted that the current level of first-class honours degrees was acceptable, but there would be a cause for concern if the level dropped notably further as that would make York St John an outlier in the sector.

Significantly, there was a reduction in the awarding gaps for students from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds and for students from the most deprived areas, which indicated that work to address these gaps was proving valuable.

The Board of Governors noted that Academic Board and Quality & Standards Committee would continue to closely monitor degree outcomes to ensure the University was providing students with a high-quality education.

The Board **approved** the Degree Outcomes Statement 2023-24 for publication on the University website.

25/24 Research Ethics and Integrity Annual Report

Paper BoG.24.02.08c was received. The PVC: Research & International spoke to the paper.

The University annually provided details of actions and improvements to ethics processes as part of its commitment to the Concordat on Research Ethics and Integrity. The report also formally records any misconduct investigations.

This year, York St John had run its first conference for research ethics and integrity. The Only Way is Ethics conference focused on the challenges faced in ethical review and was themed around reflecting and learning from research after ethical approval.

In 2023-24, a case study on good practice showcased a pilot run in the School of Education, Language and Psychology that introduced doctoral level students to the review process. Post-Graduate Research students were invited to read, review, and give feedback on ethical proposals. After reviewing the pilot, a new role of Associate Reviewers had been proposed to all School-level committees, which would give all doctoral students the opportunity to be involved in the ethical review process from the perspective of a committee reviewer.

The Board of Governors **approved** the Research Ethics and Integrity annual report.

26/24 Student Casework annual report

Paper BoG.24.02.08d was received. The Head of Governance & Compliance spoke to the paper.

The Board receives an annual overview of student casework cases to ensure oversight and accountability regarding how the University addresses student complaints and disciplinary matters. The report affirmed that policies, procedures, and mechanisms were in place to address student concerns and complaints, including issues related to harassment and sexual misconduct.

It was reported that disciplinary cases had significantly increased and that the sector had seen a similar rise in cases. There was no single reason for the increase, but it was likely due to a combination of factors including: better reporting; a lack of social interaction during the Covid-19 pandemic; conflicting views on global events; and, increased behavioural issues evident at primary and secondary schools.

In terms of harassment and sexual violence, over the last two years the University had worked to enhance its ability to respond effectively and promote a safe, supportive environment for students. This work was ongoing and had included the appointment of two full-time Student Casework Investigators. The OfS had recently introduced a new condition of registration, E6, that required universities to have appropriate measures in place to tackle harassment and sexual violence.

A rise had also been seen in academic misconduct cases, partially caused by an increase in students using artificial intelligence tools inappropriately. A working group was being established to explore possible explanations, as well as to better define the difference between poor scholarship and academic misconduct. Data enhancements were also being explored to allow reporting by student characteristic.

The SU was also supporting students and working with the University to reduce student misconduct across all areas.

The Board of Governors received the report and:

- a) **discussed** the Student Casework annual report.

27/24 Prevent Duty Report and Risk Assessment

Paper BoG.24.02.09 was received. The University Secretary & Registrar spoke to the paper.

The report provided assurance to the Board and to the OfS on the University's approach to Prevent during the year from 01 August 2023 to 31 July 2024.

The University did not make any Prevent returns during the 2023-24 academic year. As in previous years, the University was assured it had proportionate and appropriate processes and approaches to fulfil the Prevent Duty.

The Board noted that there had been renewed government and OfS focus on obligations under the Prevent Duty in 2023-24. This was primarily in response to the activity across the UK that was sparked by military activity in the Middle East. The sector experienced protests, encampments and other activity. In response, Universities UK provided support to institutions to help them to balance meeting their obligations under Freedom of Speech and Prevent.

The new mandatory training package on safeguarding and Prevent was briefly discussed, with reference to data on the uptake of the training being made available in future Prevent reports.

The Board of Governors received the report and:

- a) **discussed** the Annual Prevent Report 2023-24
- b) **discussed** the Prevent Duty Risk Assessment and Action Plan (updated September 2024)
- c) **approved** the University's Prevent Data Return and declarations for onward submission to the OfS.
- d) **noted** the new Prevent Policy (previously incorporated within the Safeguarding Policy), approved by Executive Board on 6 November 2024.

28/24 Modern Slavery Statement

Paper BoG.24.02.10 was received. The Head of Governance & Compliance spoke to the paper.

In accordance with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, an annual Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking statement must be made and approved by the Board of Governors. It must be published on the University's website, with a link on the home page, within six months of the financial year-end.

The Board of Governors **approved** the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement.

29/24 Annual Health & Safety Report to the Board of Governors

Paper BoG.24.02.11 was received. The University Secretary & Registrar spoke to the paper.

The report provided an overview of Health & Safety activity across the University in 2023-24. It had been produced to assist the Board in the discharge of its collective and individual responsibilities for health and safety.

The Board noted several key highlights:

- The number of incidents had decreased, despite the increase in student numbers. Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee had a robust discussion on this matter and was assured this was due to good control safety measures, rather than a poor reporting culture.
- The completion rate of Health & Safety training was 97% (85%-90% is classed as acceptable). Considerable improvements had been to completion rates over the last few years.
- No major concerns had been raised during Health & Safety audits undertaken by internal Health and Safety staff, with action plans being implemented in a timely manner to address minor issues.
- There had been 27 car insurance claims. This was a similar level to previous years, with only one claim being of a significant value following an accident.
- There had been no major incidents. There had been one 'incident of concern'. This related to a glass panel shattering with no identifiable cause. Safety film has been applied to other glass in the area.

In answer to a query, the Board was assured that there was no concern around asbestos on York St John sites. The University knew where the limited

amount of asbestos was located and appropriate safety measures were in place.

The Board noted that cyber security training was mandatory for staff, but was not provided for students; however, induction packs did include guidance on appropriate use of IT equipment and software. Executive Board agreed to review if any further steps were needed for students.

KK/RB/RH

The Board of Governors received and **approved** the report.

30/24 Establishing YSJ Innovations Ltd – progress update

Reserved minute: commercially sensitive and Freedom of Information exempt

Paper BoG.24.02.12 was received. The University Secretary & Registrar spoke to the paper.

31/24 Committee reports from: Academic Board; Audit Committee; Finance & Capital Development Committee; Foundation Committee; Governance & Nominations Committee; Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee; and, People Committee

Paper BoG.24.02.13 was received. The Chairs of their respective Committees spoke to the paper.

The report provided an overview of the meetings held by Academic Board, Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee, and sub-Committees of the Board of Governors between October and November 2024.

The Chair of Audit Committee noted the risk rating of student accommodation had decreased from 'high' to 'medium'. This followed improvements to the supply of accommodation in the short and medium terms. The Chair of Audit Committee also noted that the Internal Audit report on the OfS B3 condition provided good assurance around the University's academic governance.

The University Secretary & Registrar, in her capacity as Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee Chair, advised that the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, also known as 'Martyn's Law', was expected to receive royal assent in the near future. The Bill aimed to increase preparedness for, and protection from, terrorist attacks at public venues. The Estates Management team had already begun implementing measures in preparation.

The Chair of People Committee noted that no industrial action was currently underway.

The Board of Governors **noted** the report.

Part D of the agenda

The following starred items were in the Part D section of the meeting's agenda. No request was made for these items to be brought forward and therefore were noted without discussion.

32/24* Annual report from Audit Committee to the Vice Chancellor and the Board of Governors for financial year

Paper BoG.24.02.14 was received.

The Board **noted** the report.

33/24* Annual report from Internal Auditors

Paper BoG.24.02.15 was received.

The Board **noted** the report.

34/24 Any other business

There was no other business to discuss.

35/24 Review of the meeting

The Board was happy all items had been covered appropriately.

36/24* Date of next meetings

Friday 31 January 2025 – Discussion Day

Thursday 03 April 2025 – Board of Governors’ meeting

Thursday 15 May 2025 – Joint meeting with the Academic Board

Thursday 10 July 2025 – Board of Governors’ meeting

Action Log

Minute	Action	Responsibility	Board Due Date	Status
M72/23	Sexual Harassment and Violence policy: Governors asked the University to make sure the policy clearly outlined how police involvement impacted the University’s own processes.	KK/MB	November 2024	Closed
M75/23	University and Students’ Union Code of Practice: Governors requested that section 2.26, which related to sexual misconduct, referenced the new Sexual Harassment and Violence policy.	KK/MB	November 2024	Closed

M08/24	Academic Governance: It was agreed that the Chair of Audit Committee would share ideas for items of assurance on academic governance with the Chair and University Secretary & Registrar.	JA	April 2025	New action
M11/24	Partnerships: The Board requested partnerships was added to its list of future discussion topics.	CH	Immediate	Closed
M29/24	Cyber security: Executive Board agreed to review if any further steps were needed for students.	KK/RB/RH	April 2025	New action