



## CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY HELD AT 4.00PM ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2020 BY TELECONFERENCE

**Present:** Mr F Martin (Chair), Ms J Armitt (Deputy Chair), Sir I Johnston (Deputy Chair), Ms S Appleby, Dr A Eyden, Mr P Fletcher, Ms J Harding, Bishop R Hudson-Wilkin, Ms P Jones, Mr P Kloppenborg, Ms C Nolan, Mr Q Roper, Revd. R Stevenson, and Professor R Thirunamachandran (Vice-Chancellor)

**In Attendance:** Professor H James (Deputy Vice-Chancellor)  
Professor C Holland (Dean of KMMS) [Item 6]  
Ms C Lambert (Director of Planning and Academic Administration) [Item 13]  
Mr D Leah (Director of Finance & Chief Financial Officer)  
Ms M Makinde (Strategic Lead: Closing our Gap) [Item 12]  
Ms A Sear (University Solicitor & Clerk to the Governing Body)  
Professor M Weed (Pro Vice-Chancellor [Research & Enterprise])  
Ms E Currie (Governance & Legal Services Assistant)

#### 135. Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was said by Mr Philip Fletcher.

#### 136. Apologies for Absence [Item 1]

Apologies for absence had been received from Ms N Ahmed, Mr S Brown, Mr J Faber and Ms M Peachey.

#### 137. Declarations of Interest [Item 2]

No declarations of interest were made by members of the Governing Body.

#### 138. Chair's Communications [Item 3]

The Chair welcomed Bishop Rose to her first Governing Body meeting. The Chair had spent time with Bishop Rose during her induction. He was very pleased that Bishop Rose was joining the Governing Body at this time.

The Chair said the current Covid-19 pandemic was placing a great strain on members of the University's Senior Management Team, and he expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and SMT. He said that these circumstances presented a challenge in addition to the considerable financial strain that was already felt across the sector. He considered that the Government would have to respond to avoid a large-scale failure of several Higher Education Institutions.

The Chair noted that the Clerk to the Governing Body had apologised that due to the working from home arrangements for many staff, her team had been unable to provide hard copy packs of the Governing Body meeting papers on this occasion. The Chair commented that this could test members' appetite to move to paperless meetings in the future.

The scheduled visits to the Students' Union and Student Support, Health and Wellbeing had been postponed, but Governors were invited to raise questions or commentary on the information packs that had been circulated.

The Chair said that the Governing Body would welcome Professor Chris Holland, Kent and Medway Medical School Dean for the Strategic Discussion Item, Ms Cathy Lambert for the KPIs update, and Ms Mary Makinde, Strategic Lead: Closing Our Gap for the update on Closing our Gap.

#### **NOTED**

**139. Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Body held on 26 November 2019 [Item 4]**

The minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body, held on 26 November 2019, were agreed and signed as a true record.

**140. Matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda [Item 5]**

There were no matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

**141. Strategic Discussion Item: Update on KMMS and Introduction to the Dean [Item 6]**

The Governing Body welcomed Professor Chris Holland, KMMS Dean to present an update on the Kent and Medway Medical School.

The Dean set out his aspirations to deliver a first-class Medical School for Kent and Medway having a parity of esteem for its excellent programmes of study. He said that his aim was to increase inclusivity by focussing on the widening participation agenda and there would be no dilution of standards.

The Dean updated the Governing Body on the Fundraising position, which was positive. The fundraising target for both Universities was £30M: £3.9M had been pledged already from individuals; £2M had been received from the NHS with a further £4M from the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnership fund over the next 3 years; an £8M SELEP grant had been agreed; and donations had been received from the Pears Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation. SardJV had nominated KMMS as its Charity of the Year, and its staff were actively engaged in

fundraising activities. The Dean also reported the creation of a number of scholarships, covering both academic fees and living expenses, many of which targeted local communities having a demographic of low participation in higher education.

The Dean said that significant Outreach activities were ongoing, engaging pupils from Primary School through to Further Education. Secondary School and Further Education students were engaged via the 'Future Doctors' and 'Inspiring Minds' schemes respectively. Given that non-selective schools in the county were moving into delivering BTECs, consideration would be given to offering a Foundation Year programme. This would enable such students to convert their BTEC qualifications in order to be recognised as equivalent to A-level in terms of entry tariffs.

The admissions cycle for 2020 entry opened in September 2019 and 1500 applications had been received for 100 places. Admissions staff had worked to ensure KMMS was well positioned by converting these into offers to excellent students. The Dean acknowledged the potential for problems due to summer assessments not taking place because of the pandemic, and staff would consider all regulatory guidance on how to proceed.

Given the current situation it was positive that KMMS has adopted a 'technology first' approach, as demonstrated by its virtual open day which had been viewed 2000 times, to date. This approach was considered a sign of innovation and other Medical Schools had expressed a wish to hold similar events.

The Dean spoke to the photographs in the presentation materials of the University's Building 2 (STEM Building) including the simulation wards and anatomy suite. He said that he was in discussion with a large multinational corporation regarding a potential donation to KMMS in exchange for naming rights and he hoped to be able to provide an update in the future. In terms of design, he showed a photograph of a lecture theatre in Building 2 which had been constructed around the concept of collaborative learning, with seats arranged in L shapes to encourage interaction. In response to a question from a Governor about the potential for construction delays due to the pandemic, the Dean said that Health and Safety on site was the University's and the building contractor's top priority, and they would be led by Government regulations.

A Governor asked the Dean about progress towards academic accreditation. The Dean said that the course had passed both stages of academic accreditation at the two universities. In terms of GMC accreditation, the process would be ongoing until the first cohort graduated in 2025. The GMC would visit the University bi-annually going forward. The face to face GMC visit scheduled for June would not take place due to the pandemic, but a quality control exercise would be undertaken virtually, which KMMS welcomed and was well prepared for, due to their technology first ethos.

A Governor asked if KMMS was prepared for learning off campus if social distancing measures due to the pandemic were still in place in September. The Dean assured the Governing Body members that KMMS had always envisaged a modern provision, which included digital capture and use of technology. Contingency plans were in place given the circumstances and the likelihood of national disruption to external placement opportunities for medical students. KMMS management was engaged

with industry networks and working with all Medical Schools to consider and react to the potential impact of this scenario. Students would not be put at risk.

The Dean requested that Governors continue to champion the Medical School throughout their own networks in the region, to raise awareness and create fundraising opportunities.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Dean for the excellent stakeholder engagement he had facilitated and leadership he had demonstrated.

The Chair thanked the Dean on behalf of the Governing Body for his engaging presentation and for his dedicated work.

#### **142. Report of the Vice-Chancellor [Paper M90] [Item 7]**

The Vice-Chancellor was invited to present his report to the Governing Body. The Vice-Chancellor said that managing the Covid-19 pandemic had presented him with the most difficult set of circumstances he had ever faced in his career. The pace of change and the lack of control made responding to events incredibly challenging. He was sincerely grateful to every one of his colleagues, and to the student body for the support they had shown the University.

Two response groups had been set up, both chaired by the Director of HROD. The Gold group was responsible for strategic direction, whilst the silver group was operational. The University and College Union and the Students' Union were both represented. The University was committed to following Government and Public Health England advice, and the health and safety of students, staff and visitors was the University's top priority. To date, there had not been a confirmed case of Covid-19 within the University's staff or student community.

Key decisions taken as a response to the pandemic were:

- Transition to learning off campus. This change had been required to happen exceptionally quickly. Some challenges had been encountered and work was ongoing to resolve these as quickly as possible.
- Alternative arrangements for assessment of students. The University had prioritised arrangements for final year and postgraduate students, to enable them to graduate and move into employment or further study without delay. Assessments for Foundation and First Year students would not take place, and progression would be at the discretion of academic tutors on the basis of the principle that there would be "no detriment" to students.
- Clarity over admissions. The University was proceeding on the assumption that the 2020/21 academic year would start in September as expected. The University had not changed any offers to unconditional, and as requested by the OfS would not do so. A moratorium period of two weeks in the admissions process, required by Government had been observed and the University had simply contacted all current applicants with a supportive message. It was noted that before the pandemic, applications had been 4.6% lower compared to the same time in 2019.

The Vice-Chancellor said that although the Dean of International had made a promising start, work towards the September intake of international students was severely affected. It was noted that the overall impact of the pandemic on the

University's international income stream would be less severe than other institutions due to the low numbers of international students. The University was considering postponing the start of some programmes for international students to January 2021 in order to ease anxiety.

Although the University could not be shut down and was not required to do so, the majority of the University's physical campuses had been temporarily closed in line with Government advice. The last remaining buildings Augustine House and the Drill Hall Library had closed on 23 March. There remained a number of students in the University's residences who would receive support from the University. This included students who were self-isolating, international students, students who were estranged from family, those who had entered University directly from care, and students whose immediate family were classified as vulnerable individuals. All students who were able to return home had left. The University would incur a loss of income of approximately £2M due to its decision to not charge those students who had left their accommodation fees from that point.

All professional services and academic staff who could were working from home. The University was considering the furlough scheme recently proposed by the Government for staff who were unable to work from home.

The Vice-Chancellor said that three of the University's strategic projects: MOSI, Building 2 (STEM Building), and the sale of the Broadstairs campus had been negatively impacted by the pandemic and delays were anticipated.

In terms of Building 2 the University was actively engaging with the contractor and developments would be overseen by the Project Board and the Finance and Legal Oversight Group. The contingency plan developed for a no-deal Brexit would be utilised in the event it was considered likely that the building would not be completed in time for the 2020/21 academic year. Labs and other facilities currently in use on the North Holmes Road Campus would remain open for use by STEM students as required until the opening of the new facilities.

Recruitment to key roles for the MOSI project had gone live as planned, and although the recruitment process would be challenged due to the measures in place to mitigate the effect of the pandemic, the MOSI team was optimistic that vacancies would be filled. If the project was delayed, new students would be enrolled using the new SITS system but returning students would remain on the existing student record system.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the exchange of contracts for the Broadstairs campus would not happen by 31 March as anticipated. He said that the buyer was still interested, but the extent of the financial impact of the pandemic on the proposed disposal was still unclear.

The University had been able to donate valuable personal protective equipment to the NHS, and had agreed in principle that stem cell labs at the Medway campus could be used for Covid-19 testing by the NHS Medway Foundation Trust. The Vice-Chancellor declared an interest, as a board member of the NHS Medway Foundation Trust, but he had not and would not be involved in the negotiation of the agreement. Supplies of toilet paper and hand sanitiser had been donated to a local charity for

the homeless. The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the University would be led by its values in its response to the pandemic.

A Governor urged the University to make full use of the financial support available from the Government. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University intended to benefit from any schemes, subject to the usual due diligence in terms of the implications. The Vice-Chancellor considered it extremely likely that a package of financial aid targeted at Universities would be developed; he continued to lobby for this support via Universities UK and MillionPlus.

A Governor requested that the University convene further additional meetings of the Governing Body, ahead of the next full Governing Body meeting at the end of June. The Chair of the Governing Body supported the idea. It was agreed that the Clerk would convene additional Governing Body meetings, for one hour in duration, in April and May to enable Governors to consider an updated report on the University's response to the pandemic.

It was positive that the new 'Home' page and 'Study Here' pages of the refreshed outward facing website had gone live in March. This would be the central focus for applicants, both undergraduate and postgraduate. The Business-to-Business page had also successfully launched in January. Feedback from staff and students had been positive. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications and his team for the work that had been undertaken.

#### **RESOLVED**

That additional Governing Body meetings, for one hour in duration, be convened in April and May 2020 for consideration of the University's response to the pandemic.

#### **143. Termly Report of the Students' Union Termly Report [Paper M91] [Item 8] [Taken before Item 6 (Strategic Discussion)]**

The Governing Body considered Paper M91, Termly Report of the Students' Union, presented by the Student Governor and President of the Students' Union. The Student Governor said that the annual Varsity sports competition had been well attended, good for a sense of community, and had been considered a success even though Team Christ Church had ultimately lost to the University of Kent Team.

The Student Governor confirmed that all Students' Union staff were now working from home. An online student body community was in development, which had already engaged over 1000 students to date. Union staff were considering proposals for an 'online summer ball' given that all student social events had been cancelled.

The Chair asked the Student Governor about the reactions of the student body to the University's handling of the pandemic. The Student Governor responded that students had expressed that the University was responding well generally, and it was understood that any uncertainty originated from the Government's response rather than from the University. He said that the student body would appreciate earlier engagement on University decisions that concerned them going forward, as far as possible.

The Chair thanked the Student Governor and Students' Union President for his work for the Union, and his contribution to the Governing Body over the previous two years, for which the Governing Body were extremely appreciative. He noted that the June Governing Body meeting would be his final Governing Body meeting.

**NOTED**

**144. Students' Union Leadership Election: Report of the Certifying Officer [Paper M92] [Item 9] [Taken before Item 6 (Strategic Discussion)]**

The Governing Body considered Paper M92, SU Leadership Election: Certifying Officer's Report, presented by the Student Governor and President of the Students' Union. The Student Governor said that Becky Thompson had been elected as Students' Union President for 2020/21. Becky currently held the post of the Students' Union President: Development. The Student Governor confirmed that the elections had been undertaken in a fair and democratic manner.

The Chair said that he looked forward to welcoming Becky Thompson to a future Governing Body meeting.

**NOTED**

**145. Report on the University's Financial Position for the Six-month Period to 31 January 2020 and Budget Update [Paper M93] [Item 10]**

The Governing Body considered the Report on the University's Financial Position for the Six-month Period to 31 January 2020 and Budget Update [Paper M93], presented by the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance. The Chief Financial Officer highlighted the half year position which had been calculated before the financial impact of Covid-19 was felt. He reported a Year to Date surplus of £294K, which was £137K better than budget. Although there had been some loss of income, this had so far been offset by achieving savings in payroll costs. Income was negatively impacted by a larger than usual number of credit notes issued in respect of withdrawn students. This was due to the data cleansing exercise undertaken to improve the University's student data quality as part of the MOSI programme. The loss of a significant contract for pre-sessional language classes for Algerian PhD students had also had a negative impact on income together with lower than expected income in respect of Research and Knowledge Exchange activity.

The Chief Financial Officer reported that several strategic savings initiatives had been implemented in response to these income shortfalls. The current position indicated that the University would finish the year with a £899K deficit against a deficit of £295K which had been approved by the Governing Body in November. The forecast deficit still allowed the University approximately £600K of headroom in order to avert any breach of the University's Net Debt to EBITDA covenant with the banks.

The Chief Financial Officer provided assurance that the Capital Programme was under close scrutiny in order to maintain liquidity.

There were four strands of work underway to realign the future year forecast through investment in growth. Members of the Finance and Resources Committee commented that although during the Committee's review of the budget it had

acknowledged the difficulties. Those Committee members were assured that strategic investment in growth projects was the best course of action. The Chief Financial Officer said that although the University was currently in crisis management mode, it would endeavour to maintain progress on these strategic initiatives, which would ensure income diversification and growth when the pandemic had passed.

A Governor asked about the University's plan to offset the loss of income if the Broadstairs Campus was not sold. The Chief Financial Officer said that the continued maintenance of positive relationships with the banks was key, and that there was head room for further drawdown against the approved Revolving Credit Facility of £47M. The University was considering the best course of actions with KPMG debt advisers. It was noted that it may be advantageous to secure further liquidity at this stage.

The Chief Financial Officer said that while he hoped a sale of the Broadstairs campus would be achieved, a contingency plan for an alternative use of the site would be developed. Maintaining the empty site cost the University approximately £250K per year and he noted that the current economic situation might not improve for 2 to 3 years.

The Chair proposed that the Governing Body delegate authority for the purpose of authorising the University to draw down further on the revolving credit loan facility, up to the maximum amount of the facility, in the event that a decision was required to be taken quickly. The Governing Body unanimously agreed and resolved that authority would be delegated to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Deputy Chair/Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, and the Vice-Chancellor. It was agreed that the Governing Body would be notified of any decision taken collectively by these 3 individuals pursuant to such delegated authority.

In terms of costs and loss of income associated with the pandemic, the Chief Financial Officer said that it was expected the University would be able to recoup some losses from the Government, but this was not yet certain. He expected that a significant number of Higher Education Institutions would return a deficit this year, due to the pandemic exacerbating existing financial strains.

#### **RESOLVED**

To endorse the actions taken to realign expenditure and investment in line with institutional performance.

To approve the delegation of the Governing Body's authority to approve the further draw down from the revolving credit loan facility, up to the maximum amount of the facility to: the Chair of the Governing Body, the Deputy Chair/Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, and the Vice-Chancellor.

#### **146. Governance Effectiveness Review Update [Paper M94] [Item 11]**

The Governing Body considered the Governance Effectiveness Review Update [Paper M94] presented by the University Solicitor and Clerk to the Governing Body. The Clerk reported that the University had responded to the CUC Draft code following consultation with the Governing Body. The Governance Effectiveness Review would take place once the final CUC Code had been published, which was expected to be in May. The Chairs Committee had recommended for approval a new timetable for the review. The review would be planned in summer 2020 and submitted to the

Governing Body in September for approval. The Clerk's office would co-ordinate mid-year Governor Informal Feedback reviews in the October to enable Governor input into the review. The Chairs' Committee's recommendations and next steps would be presented to the Governing Body in November 2020 for its approval. The review of the University's Articles of Association would be carried out within the 2020/21 academic year.

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the revised approach and timetable for the Governance Effectiveness Review.

#### **147. Closing Our Gap: Progress Report [Paper M95] [Item 12] [Taken after Item 9]**

The Governing Body considered the Closing Our Gap: Progress Report [Paper M95]. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor presented the paper and the Strategic Lead: Closing Our Gap dialled in to provide an update on her work. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor said that the paper was intended to update the Governing Body on governance and management arrangements that had been put in place, provide up to date data, and give an idea of the University's approach. The University had developed a framework for tackling the gap, which focussed efforts on three areas: Culture, Curriculum and Community. She said that although the direction of travel was correct the data did not show considerable improvement from last year. The data from the previous year was not received until the spring so the efforts to close the gap had started late in the cycle, and were not yet showing results. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor clarified that focus was on the disparity between Black and White students, as there was not a substantial gap between White and Asian minorities. Further to the attainment gap, Black students at the University were also overrepresented in Student Procedures and it was evident that they were more likely to consider their treatment to have been unfair. On a positive note, Black students considered themselves more engaged with the University, and were also more actively engaged with the Students' Union than White students.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor said that Human Resources would support the process through staff training such as the Unconscious Bias Training, and by reviewing the University's policies. Work was also underway to support the proactive recruitment of BAME academic and professional services staff, which would increase BAME students' sense of belonging by providing positive role models. Student Support Health and Wellbeing was being specifically considered to be crucial in this respect, as it currently employed no BAME student counsellors.

The Strategic Lead: Closing our Gap reported that she had been meeting with students and staff across all three campuses to establish the work which was already underway to tackle the attainment gap, and where staff felt they could improve. A common theme across all three campuses, but especially at Medway and Tunbridge Well had been requests for more training and awareness on how to talk about race and how to embed issues around race and racial literacy into the curriculum. They also requested more support on how to deal with complex issues students may have with race. The Strategic Lead: Closing our Gap would work with Equality and Diversity staff within HROD to provide this training, and to ensure it was specifically targeting Higher Education.

The Strategic Lead had also considered why Black students were overrepresented in student procedures. She had worked with the Student Procedures Office to consider why Black students had a much higher rate of plagiarism cases. The Strategic Lead had considered the composition of appeal panels and reported that she now regularly sat on these panels. She had also liaised with the Students' Union to consider how to better involve the Students' Union in the academic journey, and counter the impression that the Students' Union was a purely social organisation.

A focus group to gather qualitative data on the University's Black students' experiences had been postponed due to the pandemic.

The Strategic Lead said preparation for the 2020/21 cohort was underway, and she was actively working with learning developers across faculties to consider how best to support Black students through the transition from Further Education to Higher Education, and how to enable them to succeed in Higher Education.

A Staff Governor, and Director of Learning and Teaching said the Governing Body recognised in September 2019 the amount of work that was required to tackle the attainment gap, and that this was the first time the work been mapped in a coherent and co-ordinated way. This would facilitate progress immensely. The Strategic Lead said that the work was in line with the University's 5 Year Access and Participation Plan and UUK's five recommendations to tackle to attainment gap and also mapped onto the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Strategic Lead for such an engaging presentation and said they had the full support of the Governing Body in this endeavour. The Governor Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion offered to liaise with the Strategic Lead to offer Governing Body support as required.

#### **NOTED**

#### **148. Key Performance Indicator Monitoring Report 2018/19 [Paper M96] [Item 13]**

The Governing Body received the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Monitoring Report 2018/19. The Director of Planning and Academic Administration dialled in to present the report. She said that the report had been approved by both the Academic Board and the Audit Committee. The KPI set had been refreshed in 2018/19, and the Governor subset consisted of 14 KPIs covering three core missions: Transforming individuals; Creating Knowledge; and Building a sustainable future. The Director of Planning and Academic Administration said that five of the fourteen Governor subset KPIs had exceeded the target expectation. These were: Postgraduate Research Students; Postgraduate Taught Students; Research and Enterprise Funding; Estates Condition; and Borrowing as a percentage of income.

The Director of Planning and Academic Administration recognised the challenging environment in which the University was operating, particularly in relation to student recruitment. She said some KPI targets might have to shift to align with this environment going forward.

The Chair of the Audit Committee noted that the report had been thoroughly considered by the Audit Committee.

## NOTED

### **149. Access Agreement 2018/19 Monitoring Return [Paper M97] [Item 14] [Taken before Item 13]**

The Governing Body received the Access Agreement 2018/19 Monitoring Return [Paper M97]. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor said that the Governing Body had approved this return on 27 February via electronic means and the paper confirmed that it had been successfully submitted to the OfS on 28 February 2020. She said the monitoring return highlighted the financial support for students offered by the University in its capacity as a widening participation University in 2018/19. This was the first year in which the OfS required the Governing Body to approve this monitoring return.

## NOTED

### **150. Termly Health and Safety Report [Paper M98] [Item 15]**

The Governing Body received the Termly Health and Safety Report [Paper M98] presented by the Vice-Chancellor. The revised Health and Safety Governance structure was presented to provide assurance of Health and Safety oversight across the University. The Vice-Chancellor said Health and Safety resources had been stretched by the work required by the introduction of new STEM programmes and facilities in Building 2 (STEM building). However, the Health and Safety team had been obliged to shift focus to responding to the pandemic, which would require considerable resources for the foreseeable future.

The Health and Safety report also updated the Governing Body on the progress of the review of fire safety compliance across the University's estate, as requested by the Secretary of State for Education. The review was underway and work was expected to complete in September.

### **151. Unitemps (Medco (CCCU) Ltd) – Update on Compliance with recent Charity Commission Guidance [Paper M99] [Item 16]**

The Governing Body received the Clerk's Update on compliance with recent Charity Commission Guidance [Paper M99] in respect of Unitemps (Medco (CCCU) Ltd). It was noted that the University had received new guidance about the relationship between a Charity and any wholly owned non-charitable subsidiary companies. Members noted that the Clerk had undertaken a compliance exercise and had evidenced that the relationship was compliant with the Charity Commission guidance in this respect.

## NOTED

### **152. Summary minutes of the meeting of the Chairs Committee held on 5 March 2020 [Paper M100] [Item 17]**

The Governing Body received the Summary minutes of the Chairs Committee meeting held on 5 March 2020. The Chair of the Governing Body reported that the group had discussed the University's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that six nominees had been approved to be awarded Honorary Doctorates, and to date, two of the six had confirmed their acceptance of the award.

**NOTED**

**153. Summary minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 5 March 2020 [Paper M101] [Item 18]**

The Governing Body noted the summary minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 5 March 2020. The Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee said that all items of note which were discussed at the Finance and Resources Meeting had also been discussed at the Governing Body meeting. A Committee member noted that there had been concern raised at the meeting about the impact of the status of the property disposal programme and potential dilapidation costs of the Sidney Cooper Gallery on cashflow.

**NOTED**

**154. Summary minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25 February 2020 [Paper M102] [Item 19]**

The Governing Body noted the summary minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25 February 2020. The Chair of Audit Committee said that committee had discussed the OfS Audit of Student Data Quality and the continuing work in this area. The OfS had signed off the 17/18 outturn data and had received a detailed action plan which demonstrated the progress made and steps to be taken to improve data quality and future HESes and HESA returns. The Vice-Chancellor said that work towards improving student data quality was intrinsically linked to completion of the MOSI project.

**155. Summary minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board meeting held on 19 December 2019 [Paper M103] [Item 20]**

The Governing Body noted the summary minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 19 December 2019.

**NOTED**

**156. Any Other Business [Item 21]**

The Vice-Chancellor said Governors should not be alarmed about a newspaper article suggesting financial difficulties at the University of Kent as the KMMS was a ringfenced project and would not be impacted.

A Governor asked if remote Graduations were being considered, and the Vice-Chancellor said that currently they were not. The primary purpose of Graduation events was to be a celebration of achievement and this purpose would be lost if they were conducted remotely. It was possible that some ceremonies would be postponed. Students would still graduate even if they did not attend a ceremony.

**157. Confidential items [Item 22]**

The discussion around the disposal of the Broadstairs campus, and the nominations for Honorary Doctorates would be kept confidential.

**The meeting closed at 6.15pm**