

# Summary of the Board of Directors meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Summary of the hundred and twenty-fifth Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 10:00 via Microsoft Teams.

## Present Non-Executive Director Members

Aaron Porter	Chair and Non-Executive Director
Ian Creagh	Non-Executive Director and Chair of Academic Council
Prof. Martyn Jones	Non-Executive Director

## Present Executive Director Members (BPP University & BPP Education Group)

Prof. Tim Stewart	Vice-Chancellor, BPP University
Graham Gaddes	Chief Executive Officer, BPP Education Group
Sarah McIlroy	Dean of the Business School & Dean of International Higher Education, BPP University
Richard Simmons	Executive Chairman, BPP Education Group

## Attendees

Associate Prof. Dr Alex Griffiths	Director of Academic Governance & Proctor (Secretary)
Professor Tim Jones	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, BPP University
Associate Prof. Ramita Tejpal	Dean of Academic Quality & Policy, BPP University
Associate Prof. Dr Peter Alston	Dean of Education Services, BPP University (in attendance for matters for information)
Professor David Wooff	Director of Apprenticeship Quality & Regulation, BPP Education Group (for the Apprenticeships Report)

## Apologies

Gary Dart	Group Finance Director, BPP Education Group
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## Introduction

Detailed below are the matters which the Chair of the Board of Directors wishes to draw to the attention of the Academic Council arising from the Board of Directors meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## Annual Prevent Return 2023/2024

The Annual Prevent Return was reviewed and approved for submission to the OfS ahead of the 1 December 2024 deadline. Submission will be made by the Secretary to the Board.

## **Access and Participation Statement**

A revised Access and Participation Statement, updated following the OfS publication of new dataset releases, was re-approved for publication.

## **University Pricing FY26**

The Board reviewed and approved the University's proposed fee setting and pricing structure for AY 2025/26, including rationales for fee increases and discounts.

## **Annual Schedule of Delegation**

The Annual Schedule of Delegation was presented and noted.

## **Vice-Chancellor's Update**

The Vice-Chancellor presented a broad institutional update, highlighting that: the University remains stable in size, with positive recruitment performance and financial growth despite wider sector pressures; the University demonstrated excellent ESFA QAR performance, strong OfS B3 metrics, and further improvements in NSS and PTES. Continued recruitment of high-performing staff and strengthening of staff induction and culture building; The new Dean of the School of Healthcare & Nursing, Dr Rachel Picton, joined in September 2024; Ongoing monitoring of potential sector-wide DfE defunding of Level 7 apprenticeships, with active sector engagement with the issue; Continued preparation for the Lifelong Learning Entitlement, including programme development to support modular and flexible learning; Continued investment in systems and digital infrastructure delivering efficiencies and positive impacts on student experience; and, the University is progressing rapidly in integrating AI into learning, teaching, and scholarship.

## **Financial Report**

The Board received an update confirming continued strong financial performance within a challenging sector. The University contributes to a financially strong Education Group and continues to grow sustainably, supported by enhanced operational efficiencies and diversification of the programme portfolio.

## **Report from Academic Council**

The Board received a summary report of the 79<sup>th</sup> Academic Council meeting.

## **Strategic/Risk Discussion**

### **▪ Risk Register & Regulatory Update**

The Vice-Chancellor informed members of the risks that were required to be brought to the Board's attention, all of which were being monitored and managed effectively.

## **Committee Reports**

The Board received the following sub-committee minutes:

- Audit Committee
- Nominations and Remunerations Committee

## **Annual Reports**

The Board received the following annual reports for discussion:

- Annual Apprenticeships Report
- Annual Prevent Report
- Annual Academic Quality Report

## **Matters for Information**

Members received updates on the following Matters for Information:

- OfS Ongoing Conditions of Registration
- Equality and Diversity
- Health & Safety
- Prevent Duty and Safeguarding
- Anti-Money Laundering Update
- Group Ethics and Compliance Issues Updates & Anti-Bribery and Corruption Update