

Plymouth University

Higher Education Corporation

Board of Governors

Notice of meeting

- 1 The Board of Governors will meet at 0900 hours on Tuesday 07 October, in Rolle 602. This is an extraordinary meeting, with a single agenda item. It has been called without the required 5 working days' notice given the urgency of resolving the position of Chair following Judge Taylor's stepping down from the Board with immediate effect from 1 October 2014.

Election of Chair

- 2 Following Judge Taylor's resignation, the Vice-Chair automatically became Acting Chair. He indicated at that time that he had no wish to take on the appointment on a permanent basis, believing that his skills and expertise were best used by the University in his substantive role as Chair of the Employment Committee, particularly given the resignation earlier in the year of the Chair-elect of that Committee.
- 3 It is acknowledged that the timing of the appointment is not ideal, given the intention to recruit new governors once the ongoing Special Committee process has concluded (irrespective of its outcome), and the wish to involve those governors in discussions about the Chair's role, but HEFCE will expect that the University appoint a full Chair as soon as practicable, irrespective of the period of appointment.
- 4 The Vice-Chair has spoken to independent governors to ascertain the level of interest in taking on the role of Chair. James Brent has indicated that he would be prepared to take on the role for a period of c12 months from 3 November 2014, terminating not later than 31 December 2015. For those members of the Board who do not have details of James' biog, he is founder and Chairman of Akkeron Group of companies, which incorporates hotels, leisure/sport, retail and regeneration businesses. He is also non-executive Chairman of Plymouth Argyle Football Club. He has a commitment to the South West and to Plymouth in particular, and his vision for revitalising the city chimes well with the University's own agendas. James was appointed to the Board in July 2013.
- 5 The current Vice-Chair has suggested that although he is very willing to support a new Chair, and is fully behind James, that it may be appropriate to consider the election of a new Vice-Chair.

Co-option of further governors

- 6 Following two resignations the number of independent governors on the Board has reduced to ten, and the Nominations Committee at its most recent meeting agreed that it would be necessary to strengthen the Board in the short term, pending the appointment of new governors during the course of the current year (given that the University and the Board would want to retain an open and transparent recruitment process but that will inevitably take some time).
- 7 The Nominations Committee identified a number of individuals whom it believed it might be valuable to ask to join or rejoin the Board as co-opted members for a period of twelve months. A number of those conversations are still ongoing, and include efforts to enhance both the HE expertise available to the Board and its gender diversity.

Jane Hopkinson
University Secretary and Clerk to the Board