

EXCEPTIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 17 DECEMBER 2024

REDACTED MINUTES FOR PUBLICATION

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at virtually via Zoom from 12.00noon to 12.15pm on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

Present:	Prof N Braisby (NB)	
	A Clack (AC)	(Chair)
	A Denton (AD)	(Student Trustee)
	J Gill (JG)	
	J Hubert (JH)	(Staff Trustee)
	Prof M Jones (MJ)	
	B McManus (BM)	(Student Trustee)
	J Quinn (JQ)	
	G Ralphs (GR)	
	G Scott (GS)	(Honorary Treasurer)
	A Wheaton (AW)	(Vice Chancellor)
In attendance:	J E Fawkes (JEF) (Deputy Vice Chancellor & University Secretary)	
	L Hughes (LH)	(Clerk to the Board) minute taker
Apologies:	C Augustine (CA)	(Board Apprentice)
	C Costigan (CC)	
	L Gaitskell (LG)	(Board Apprentice)
	N Hughes (NH)	
	Dr S Jackson (SJ)	(Vice Chair)
	R Kerslake CBE (RK)	
	P McCrea OBE (PM)	
	D O'Rourke (DOR)	
	C Thackeray (CT)	(Staff Trustee)

1) APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

13409 1.1) DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

13410 There were no conflicts of interest reported.

13411 1.2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

13412 There were apologies for absence from Chris Costigan, Nick Hughes, Stephen Jackson, Ros Kerslake, Dominic O'Rourke, Charlotte Thackeray and Lucy Gaitskell. Peter McCrea was also absent from the meeting.

13413 **1.3) CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

13414 Jane Fawkes, University Secretary, reminded the Board of the recruitment process held for a new Chair of the Board which took place through the Autumn. A total of 6 candidates were reduced to a shortlist of 3, all of whom met with the Vice Chancellor and the Panel. Standardised questions were asked to all candidates and all gave a presentation on what they would bring to the role of Chair at UCEM. On conclusion of this process, the Panel made a recommendation to the Nominations & Governance Committee that it should appoint Peter McCrea OBE as the next Chair of the Board (Peter's application details had been shared on the Trustee Portal ahead of the meeting). The Committee (excluding Peter himself, who is ordinarily a member) unanimously approved this recommendation via Chair's Action week commencing 9 December 2024. The Board was convened to approve this recommendation.

13415 Panel members commented that Peter's knowledge of the Built Environment sector shone through in the interview, and they feel confident he will approach the Chair role in the right way and hold the Executive properly to account. There had been some concerns about the time available of the alternative appointable candidate who also had less strong links to the Built Environment. The Panel also confirmed they had considered the gender optics of an all-male Board Leadership Group but ultimately felt it must recommend the right candidate for UCEM. The Vice Chancellor confirmed his strong support of the appointment of Peter McCrea.

13416 The Board **NOTED** that all those Trustees eligible to vote but absent for this short meeting were asked to confirm their position via email. At the time of the meeting, 4 of the 6 apologies had written in formally (Chris Costigan, Stephen Jackson, Nick Hughes and Dominic O'Rourke), with the others anticipated in the next few days. All replies to this point were unanimously supportive of the appointment.

13417 Alongside those votes in writing, the Trustees present were unanimously supportive of the resolution and therefore the Board **APPROVED** the appointment of Peter McCrea OBE as the next UCEM Chair of the Board of Trustees with the appointment commencing on 1 February 2025. The appointment will be for an initial period of three years.

13418 The Board **NOTED** that handover will be carried out through January 2025 and **APPROVED** a Reportable Event to the OfS being submitted.

13419 **1.4) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

13420 The Trustees expressed thanks to Amanda Clack for her Chairmanship of UCEM since January 2021. Whilst Amanda will likely conclude her tenure on 31 January 2025, she will attend the latter part of the next Board meeting on 3 April 2025 in order to say farewell properly and in person with all Trustees and UCEM staff.

13421 There being no other items of business raised; the Chair thanked all Trustees for their participation in the meeting.

13422 **1.5) MEETING CLOSE**

13423 The Chair closed the meeting at 12.14pm wishing everyone on the Board a very healthy and happy festive break.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 3 April 2025

Meetings before 3 April 2025:

30/31 January 2025 - Graduation

27 February 2025 – Nominations & Governance Committee (with first part of meeting for full Board on UBE Branding)

20 February 2025 – Quarterly Business Review

20 March 2025 – Finance Committee

24 March 2025 – Built Environment Awards Panel

Signed



Name Peter McCrea OBE

Position Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date 3 April 2025