BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT:           Mr Alex Stephenson (Chair)
                   Professor Cliff Allan
                   Mr Jim Beeston
                   Professor Stuart Brand
                   Mr John Charlton
                   Mr Vic Cocker
                   Professor Graham Henderson
                   Mr Mark Hopton
                   Ms Ann Jones
                   Mr Joe Kelly
                   Ms Jenny Ladbrooke
                   Ms Jenny Loynton
                   Mr Niall Magennis
                   Professor David Roberts
                   Mr Raaj Shamji

APOLOGIES:         Dr Waqar Azmi
                   Lord Bruce Grocott
                   Mr Andrew Jowett
                   Mr Shaun Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:     Ms Christine Abbott, University Secretary and Director of Operations
                   Ms Ajay Burlingham-Böhr, Interim Director of CICT (for agenda item 2)
                   Professor Fiona Church, Pro-Vice-Chancellor
                   Professor Paul Ivey, Pro-Vice-Chancellor
                   Professor Bashir Makhoul, Pro-Vice-Chancellor
                   Ms Helen Matthews, Assistant University Secretary
                   Mr Richard Spilsbury, Director of Finance and Resource Allocation


67/14  MEMBERSHIP

The Chair reported that Dr Waqar Azmi's existing work commitments now precluded him from engaging in the work of the Board on a regular basis. As this situation was unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, Dr Azmi had taken the decision to resign from his position as Governor.

Nominations to fill the vacancy created by this resignation, as well as the existing and forthcoming vacancies, would be considered by the Nominations and Governance Committee shortly.


68/14  PROPOSAL FOR ON-DEMAND IT SERVICES (BGOV.14.10.01)

The Interim Director of Corporate ICT was in attendance for this item and presented updated proposals for On-Demand IT Services, including modified recommendations in respect of Phase 1 of the project. The proposals came forward with the support of the Scrutiny Group established by the Board which had given detailed consideration to the recommendations and provided constructive challenge to the Executive.

The original vision of an "anytime, anywhere, any device" mode of desktop IT delivery for staff and students, which had received in-principle endorsement from the Board, had been modified to reduce risk, increase flexibility and offer an achievable solution relative to the University's current IT position. Employing a mix of technologies appropriate for different elements of the project, the proposals recommended a carefully managed phased approach that was clearly aligned to the University's transformation agenda and its approved estates strategy. The specific recommendations in respect of Phase 1, which were outlined in detail, covered the provisioning of the Curzon building ready for staff and student occupation in summer 2015 and the scoping, feasibility and planning required for the subsequent phases of the project.

In its discussions the Board noted: the Scrutiny Group's endorsement of the proposals as purposeful, practical and representative of value for money; the Executive's assurances that the total anticipated cost of the overall project was affordable both in terms of capital and revenue expenditure; and staff feedback that the revised recommendations provided a realistic and focussed approach that would deliver a significantly improved learning and teaching experience. With specific reference to the latter, members noted that further testing of staff and student views and expectations was being undertaken by means of a series of focus groups.

It was confirmed that regular reports on progress against various aspects of the overall project would be made to the Scrutiny Group, the Finance Committee and the Board. The Board thanked members of the Scrutiny Group for their assistance with this project and agreed to support the proposals outlined in the paper.

RESOLVED:

> That the University proceed with Phase 1 of the On-Demand IT project (as outlined above) in accordance with the total costs for Phase 1 (revenue and capital) recorded in BGOV.14.10.01.

69/14  CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

70/14  CHANGE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE (BGOV.14.10.03)

A paper was received that invited the Board to consider the action to be taken in relation to the University's authorised signatories in light of the forthcoming departure of Professor Paul Ivey at the end of October 2014.

Members noted that Professor Ivey would be resigning his directorships of BCU Enterprise, TIC and TIC Commercial with effect from midnight on 31 October 2014. Recommendations in respect of new appointments to these subsidiary companies would come forward once an appointment to the vacant position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor had been made.

RESOLVED:

> That the authority of Professor Paul Ivey, under the Financial Rules, to act as an authorised signatory to the bank accounts of the University be withdrawn with effect from midnight on 31 October 2014.

## 71/14  DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday 27 November at 4.00 pm.


Chair:        ...............................................................

Date:        ...............................................................