

ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday, 11 September 2024, 12:30 – 14:30, video conference (Microsoft Teams)

1 Present

Professor Emma Hunt (EH)	Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive [Chair]
Professor David Prior (DP)	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Knowledge Exchange [Deputy Chair]
Dr Douglas Brown (DB)	Dean of Faculty of Screen, Technology & Performance and Associate Professor
Professor Russell Crawford (RC)	Pro Vice-Chancellor: Academic Services
David Dickinson (DD)	Director of Student & Library Services, FX Plus
Andrew Harbert (AH)	Technical Staff Member [Elected Member]; Technical & Facilities Manager, Falmouth Campus
Professor Ruth Heholt (RH)	Professoriate Staff Member [Elected Member]; Professor, School of Communication
Robert Ingram (RI)	Senior Head of Academy of Continuing Education
Mandy Jandrell (MJ)	Dean of Faculty of Creative Arts & Communication
Alex Mesterton-Gibbons (AMG)	Head of Employability [Co-opted Member]
David McCarron (DMc)	Head of Recruitment, Outreach & Admissions [Professional Services Staff Member [Elected Member]
Professor Lee Miller (LM)	Head of Postgraduate Research [Co-opted Member]
Dr Jennifer Young (JY)	Dean of Faculty of Business & Design
Robyn Wyatt	Head of Governance Services, and Secretary to the Board of Governors [Co-opted Member]

1.2 Servicing Officers

Dr Brian Hoskin (BH)	Head of Quality Assurance & Enhancement [Secretary]
Mary Flewitt (MF)	Governance and Executive Support Officer [Clerk]

1.3 In attendance

Cathrine Armour	Independent Member of the Board of Governors [Observing]
Dr Adrian Markle	Incoming Academic Staff Member [Elected Member]; Senior Lecturer: BA English & Creative Writing [Observing]
Dr Tadhg Leane	Independent Member of the Board of Governors [Observing]

1.4 Apologies

Jadelle Luckman (JL)	SU President: Falmouth 2024-25 [video briefing provided in absence]
Dr David Devanny (DDv)	Academic Staff Member [Elected Member]; Course Leader, BA Creative Writing

2 Chair's welcome

- 2.1 Noted:** the Chair provided a warm welcome to the meeting observers: Independent Members of the Board of Governors, Dr Tadhg Leane and Cathrine Armour, and the newly elected Academic Staff Member, Dr Adrian Markle, who was congratulated on his

election to the role. Thanks were passed to the departing Academic Staff Member Dr David Devanny for his active and significant contribution to the Board during his tenure. David had provided a thank you message to Members for his time on Academic Board, which was read aloud.

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION

- 3 People Success** (JY) [Presentation] ☐
- 3.1 Received:** to note, an introductory overview of recent People Success initiatives which aimed to enhance the sense of belonging among staff and students and promote wellbeing and EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) initiatives. This included: the revival of the Head of Subject and Course Leader networks; the introduction of department champions for belonging and wellbeing; and student facing initiatives like the Neurodiverse Mellow Vibes club.
- 3.2 Noted:** the strength of the connection of the initiatives to the University's core values was recognised, and Members were encouraged to promote and support these developments. The Chair thanked JY for her work in driving these initiatives forward.

MAIN AGENDA

- 3 Minutes** (EH) [AB/24/073] ☒
- 3.1 Approved:** the minutes of the meeting from 26 June 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 4 Matters arising** (BH) [AB/24/074] ☐
- 4.1 Received:** to note, a report on matters arising from previous meetings, supplemented by verbal updates from Members. Academic Board confirmed completion of 10 actions, the closure of 1, and was satisfied with the progress updates provided for the remaining 6 open actions (3 were scheduled for a later meeting and 1 was on hold).
- 5 Annual academic governance overview and re-induction** (BH) [AB/24/075] ☐
- 5.1 Received:** to note, a paper which provided Academic Board with an overview of current academic governance arrangements and matters, including a summary of the key responsibilities of Members, key governance documents, and related useful information. BH introduced the report.
- a) Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee Terms of Reference** (DP) [AB/24/075A] ☒
- 5.2 Received:** to approve, minor revisions to the Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC) Terms of Reference, with tracked changes left for visibility.
- 5.3 Approved:** the changes were approved as presented.
- b) New Co-opted Member of Academic Board – Online** (EH) [Verbal] ☐
- 5.4 Noted:** it was confirmed that, John Sumpter, Head of Online & Digital Learning, would join the Board from the November meeting as a Co-opted Member. This closed an action from the September 2023 (4.4) meeting, where it was recommended that further online representation within Academic Board would be beneficial.

- 6 Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive's report** (EH) [AB/24/76] ☐

- 6.1 Received:** to note, the standing item report from the Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive which covered sector and University updates. The report encompassed the following topics: academic updates; finance updates; University successes, inclusive of student and staff awards and recognition; and external advocacy developments.
- 6.2 Noted:** the report set the context for the meeting by linking the University's activities and challenges to broader sector developments and emphasising the importance of collective efforts in governance and strategic initiatives.
- 6.3 Noted:** the Chair addressed the challenging economic and financial context for the higher education sector and University, including actions being taken by Falmouth University such as the voluntary severance scheme, and the need for continued focus on financial sustainability.
- 6.4 Noted:** Members were briefed on relevant updates within the sector, this included the announcement that implementation of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 would be paused to allow for consideration of options for the Act, including its repeal; the imposition of a new general ongoing condition of registration by the Office for Students: 'Condition E6: Harassment and Sexual Misconduct' to take effect from 1 August 2025; and the introduction of the [Skills England Bill](#).
- 6.5 Noted:** Members were also informed of the appointment of new Interim Chair of the Office for Students, Sir David Behan; the Chair had previously met with Sir David in February 2024 as part of the independent review he led into the OfS. Their discussion on the OfS and regulatory burden had been echoed within Sir David's [report](#), which acknowledged the significant challenges facing the HE sector and recommended a more proactive, cooperative and agile regulatory model for the future, with a renewed focus on monitoring financial sustainability, ensuring quality, protecting public money and regulating in students' interests.
- 6.6 Noted:** the Chair highlighted the success of the recent graduation ceremonies and the positive feedback received from students, parents, and honorees; and expressed gratitude to Board Members and staff for their ongoing commitment and contributions to student and University success.
- a) Annual Plan Metrics update** (RW) [AB/24/076A]
- 6.6 Received:** to note, a paper on Falmouth University's Annual Plan Metrics, as seven of the institutional strategic metrics and targets fall under Academic Board's remit. The paper shared the latest results against targets, with the exception of the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) perspectives result which was due imminently. Further detail about the results were provided throughout the remainder of the agenda.
- 7 Students' Union President Report (pre-recorded video link)** (JL) [\[Link\]](#) ☐
- 7.1 Received:** to note, the standing item report from the elected Students' Union (SU) president including introductions to the newly elected President and Sabbatical Officers for 2024/25; officer manifestos; officer updates; Students' Union updates; academic representation updates and student feedback. The University had supported the President's attendance at the Advance HE Induction for Student Officers in London, and due to this scheduled absence, the President had pre-recorded a video introduction to her paper, which was played in the meeting (see link above).

- 7.2 Noted:** the President gave an overview of manifesto priorities, which included becoming a voice for race equity. Part of this involved the creation of safer spaces for students to celebrate their cultures through workshops, events and social media. Following collaboration with various University groups, a Black History Month had been organised, with more events planned for the upcoming year.
- 7.3 Noted:** the President spoke on her manifesto priority to reintroduce the student app, Colab and make it more visible and accessible from the Falmouth University Student App; to enable students to easily share ideas, get feedback, and find housing. A launch event for the app was scheduled for January 2025.
- 7.4 Noted:** Members were informed of her commitment to improving employability activities and Employability Team presence for students, in particular during their earlier years of study.
- 7.5 Action:** AMG to arrange a meeting with JL to explore ways in which the Employability Team could increase its presence to students from year one, and work in partnership with the SU to strengthen students' success after their studies.
- 7.6 Noted:** the Board recorded its thanks to the President for her enthusiasm within the role and her strong introductory report. Members were encouraged to contact JL with any queries about her report.
- 8 Pro Vice-Chancellor report: Academic Services** (RC) [AB/24/078] ☐
- 8.1 Received:** to note, the standing item report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) Academic Services, which was mapped to the Terms of Reference for Academic Board and included: study block assessment review; UK Quality Code for HE; policy engagement and developments; and updates on legislative and regulatory movements in the sector.
- 8.2 Noted:** RC introduced an updated compliance map for the OfS B Conditions of Registration as part of the outcomes from the Uniac B Conditions internal audit that had concluded in November 2023; this map also addressed compliance with the [2024 UK Quality Code](#).
- 8.3 Noted:** in response to an action from the May 2024 Academic Board meeting, Members were provided with a review of the 15-week study block structure through the lens of assessment deadlines, feedback, and in response to student views on Individual Learning Plan (ILP) deadlines. This gave a detailed comparison of study block interfaces with extenuating circumstances, adjusted deadlines, and assessment pacing, offering insight for the Board's consideration.
- 9 Pro Vice-Chancellor report: Research & KE** (DP) [AB/24/079] ☐
- 9.1 Received:** to note, the standing item report from the PVC Research & Knowledge Exchange (RKE), which was mapped to the Terms of Reference for Academic Board and included: strategic developments, including the E3 launch; policy engagements; policy development and consultation; Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAPs) updates; research environment updates; live portfolio and pre-award developments; and post-graduate research updates.
- 9.2 Noted:** the PVC informed Members of the formal commencement of the E3 (Expanding Excellence in England) bid that had started in August 2024.

- 9.3 Noted:** the Board welcomed notification that the Falmouth Research Repository (FURR) platform has undergone a refresh to bring it in line with University branding and improve user experience, and was ready for imminent launch, along with an overhaul of the [RKE Intranet](#) pages and a new RKE newsletter to enhance information about RKE at Falmouth and guidance for staff.
- 9.4 Noted:** it was highlighted that the 2024 RDAP (Research Degree Awarding Powers) Survey would launch imminently, with a deadline of 11 October 2024 for completion. The Chair highlighted the importance of full engagement with the survey. DP advised that the RKE Team were available to support survey completion.
- 9.5 Action:** Deans to ensure full engagement with the RDAPs survey (9 September – 11 October 2024). (MJ/DB/JY)
- 9.6 Noted:** an overview of external funding activity was provided, and members were informed of an imminent [press release](#) for a successful consortium bid (by Charismatic.ai, Channel 4, UAL Creative Computing Institute, Falmouth University, Aardman Animations, Sound Reactions and digital ethicist Lisa Talia Moretti and backed by Innovate UK) which had secured £1.04m funding to enable ai-driven storytelling for TV & film industries. Dr Kingsley Marshall, Head of Film & Television secured £103,549 funding for Falmouth University's element of the project. Congratulations were passed to those involved with the project

DECISIONS

- 10 Research & Knowledge Exchange Philosophy** (DP) [AB/24/080] ☐
- 10.1 Received:** to approve, a concise description of the University's approach to Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE), which documented the distinctiveness within the University's approach whilst also asserting alignment to sector best-practice.
- 10.2 Noted:** the philosophy was designed to be an internal frame of reference for RKE plans at department/faculty/Research Centre level, and externally, as a key frame of reference for expressions of RKE approach and environment, including those needed for external funding bids, collaboration agreements, Research Excellence Framework (REF) and Knowledge Excellence Framework (KEF) submissions, and the application for Research Degree Awarding Powers.
- 10.3 Noted:** the RKE Philosophy was intended as a 'sister' document to the Learning & Teaching Philosophy, approved at the 6 March 2024 Academic Board, with the intent to bring to life with case studies, diagrams, and visual references for the different intended audiences.
- 10.4 Noted:** the Board welcomed the approach and discussed the interface between the two philosophies.
- 10.5 Approved:** Members approved the Research & Knowledge Exchange Philosophy as presented.
- 10.6 Action:** DP with the Deans to provide a side-by-side comparison of the two philosophies (Learning & Teaching) and (Research & Knowledge Exchange) for the November Board to enable exploration of efficacy of these two key pieces of work as 'sister' documents, and to reflect on the effectiveness of the philosophies to date, and next steps.

- 11 Research & Knowledge Exchange Environment Plans** (DP) [AB/24/081] ☒
- 11.1 Received:** (1) to note, an overview of the departmental and faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Plans that had been updated for 2024/25. The plans articulated strategic RKE priorities within the three faculties and formed a key part of Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC)'s annual cycle of business - who monitored progress toward achieving strategic priorities and developed initiatives to support activity. (2) To approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, an adjustment to the REF Annual Plan Targets, reflecting the delay of the next REF exercise to REF 2029.
- 11.2 Noted:** the Chair invited the Deans to comment on the efficacy of the plans and the planning approach. The Deans provided supportive comments, emphasising the importance of aligning Research and Scholarly Activity (RSA) time with the delivery of these ambitious plans; early successes linked to the plans; and the role of the Deans and Professoriate in fostering a research-active culture within their faculties. It was agreed that the plans represented a more connected approach to RKE, and that the plans were a necessity to enable strong department and faculty contributions towards achieving the University's RKE ambitions.
- 11.3 Approved:** the recommendation to revise the REF Annual Plan Targets in light of the delay to REF2029.
- 11.4 Action:** RW to capture the Board's recommendation for a change to the Annual Plan Target for the next scheduled review point by the Board of Governors (July 2025).
- 11.5 Action:** Academic Board Annual Plan Metric owners (RC and DP) were asked to ensure that any requests for adjustments to wider metrics and targets within the Annual Plan be provided for Academic Board's consideration ahead of the July 2025 meeting.
- 11.6 Noted:** Members were advised that the word 'environment' had now been removed from the plans, so as to avoid confusion with use of the same word within the REF. For the purpose of the minutes, this had been left in the title, but was to be omitted in future.
- 12 Quick Guide to Academic Regulations and Policies** (BH) [AB/24/082] ☐
- 12.1 Received:** for approval, an updated version of the 'Quick Guide to Our Regulations Policies and Procedures'. This had initially come to the May meeting of Academic Board for review, and had been updated in response to feedback and wider consultation. The completion of the Quick Guide had been contingent on appropriate wording pertaining to the OfS' Freedom of Speech regulatory point. Due to the pause in the implementation of this legislation, this had now been omitted from this version of the Quick Guide.
- 12.2 Approved:** the Board approved the updates to the Quick Guide to Academic Regulations and Policies as presented.
- 12.3 Action:** BH to share the Quick Guide to Academic Regulations and Policies with JL for promotion to students via the SU.
- 13 Intellectual Property Policy** (DP) [AB/24/083] ☐
- 13.1 Received:** for approval, a newly revised Intellectual Property Policy which had been updated to consolidate multiple previous documents, and address significant changes in the sector since the last review point. This included those brought about by the swift move to online delivery caused by the pandemic; developments in case law; the rise of the Open Research movement, and the independent review of university spinout companies.

- 13.2 Noted:** it was highlighted that the publication of Falmouth's Mission, Vision and Values had required an Intellectual Property (IP) policy that could meet the needs of the strategy and external scrutiny. The policy had been through thorough legal, trade union and stakeholder consultation to ensure it was fit for purpose and up-to-date with current regulations and best practices, and had consolidated various documents to provide a single reference point.
- 13.3 Noted:** the policy clarified when staff and students hold intellectual property, and, in the case of staff when IP would be waived in favour of the individual, to ensure transparency, fairness and support for our strategic ambitions. The policy was recognised as a reference point which provided impact across all of Falmouth's business units: on-campus provision, online provision, and on-demand provision. It was due to be published on both staff intranet and student regulations pages, with emphasis given to swift and clear communication to ensure understanding and compliance.
- 13.4 Noted:** the Board provided supportive feedback about the refreshed policy, and discussed IP case studies.
- 13.5 Noted:** following discussion, it was confirmed that student workers were to be treated as staff for IP purposes where their work distinctly differed from their student projects.
- 13.6 Noted:** members praised the stakeholder consultation approach, for this policy and the Consultancy & Contract Research Policy that followed on the agenda, which had been broad and thorough.
- 13.7 Approved:** the Board approved the updated Intellectual Property Policy as proposed, and Members advised a 12-month review to assess learnings following implementation.
- 13.8 Action:** Clerk to add review of the Intellectual Property policy to the autumn 2025 cycle of business to assess implementation effectiveness and lessons arising from its first year.
- 14 Consultancy & Contract Research Policy** (DP) [AB/24/084] ☐
- 14.1 Received:** for approval, a new proposed policy on Consultancy and Contract Research which outlined core principles and expectations and provided guidance on the governance and administrative arrangements for undertaking consultancy and contract research within a supported environment. The policy formed a robust and transparent framework, and provided a clear distinction between university and private consultancy. As with the IP Policy noted above, this policy had also been through trade union and legal review.
- 14.2 Noted:** the policy's primary goals were to: drive knowledge exchange and enhance industry and community engagement; build networks and visibility, benefit learning, teaching, research, and knowledge exchange; and better capture the range and depth of business and community engagement – with impact on performance in the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) and securing the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) allocation.
- 14.3 Noted:** the Board discussed the operationalisation of the policy, with emphasis given to the need for consistency across faculties and alignment with other departments. Members also advised the need for clear communications in relation to the launch of the new policy amongst staff, along with a 12-month review. The strong stakeholder consultation approach for the development of the policy was again recognised, with

Members sharing that they had been invited to comment and had their comments addressed sufficiently within the final version.

- 14.4 Approved:** the Board approved the Consultancy & Contract Research Policy.
- 14.5 Action:** Clerk to add review of the Consultancy & Contract Research Policy to the autumn 2025 cycle of business to assess implementation effectiveness and lessons arising from its first year.
- 15 Procedures for the Awarding of Professorial Titles** (DP) [AB/24/085] ☐
- 15.1 Received:** for approval, revised procedures for the Awarding of Professorial Titles, which were reviewed annually following the conclusion of the annual Professorial Appointments process. The revisions addressed feedback from the stage I and II Professorial Appointments Panel with the aim to streamline and enhance the procedures. The Board were also asked to consider the introduction of an interview stage to the appointment process.
- 15.2 Noted:** Members challenged the extant criteria that an applicant's profile should be based on their last 5 years in the Research field, with concern that this may disadvantage those who had recently taken parental (or other) leave or had been working closely with industry.
- 15.3 Action:** research currency criteria to be adjusted to ensure those with caring responsibilities or strong recent industry links were not disadvantaged.
- 15.4 Noted:** Members debated whether candidates should be interviewed, with pros and cons considered. A consensus was reached to not include interviews for internal candidates; this was based on Members' confidence that the existing process was sufficiently rigorous and that interviews would introduce unnecessary complexity. It was argued, however, that interviews could have their benefits in exceptional circumstances, particularly with regard to external candidates, and the Board was receptive to the caveat of an interview process if the need were to arise for an individual applicant.
- 15.5 Approved:** the revised Procedures for the Awarding of Professorial Titles, were approved.
- 15.6 Rejected:** the implementation of an interview stage within the appointment process, but the University reserved the right to use interviews in exceptional circumstances.
- 16 English Language Policy for admissions** (DMc) [AB/24/086] ☐
- 16.1 Received:** for approval, proposed revisions to the English Language Policy. The policy was refreshed yearly to ensure competitive alignment in a fast-paced student recruitment market, whilst remaining compliant with English language regulations.
- 16.2 Noted:** DMc talked the Board through the proposed updates, which included: adjustments to the minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score for postgraduate entry; the addition of several language tests to the accepted list, with ongoing monitoring to assess their impact on student retention and progression; and the extension of the validity of national language qualifications from 2 to 5 years.
- 16.3 Noted:** the Board discussed the importance of due scrutiny of English language tests, given a reported increase in fraud (in the sector) related to English language qualifications and access to Student Loans Company (SLC) funding.

- 16.4 Approved:** Academic Board approved the English Language Policy for admissions for use for the forthcoming recruitment cycle, which would open in October 2024.
- 17 Accreditation of Prior Learning Policy and process** (DMc) [AB/25/087] ☒
- 17.1 Received:** for approval, a refined version of the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) Policy and process. This had been brought to the June 26 Academic Board, and had been updated with recommendations from the meeting, inclusive of streamlining to improve the applicant and academic experience. The new process had been piloted during the 2024 Clearing process with positive results.
- 17.2 Noted:** Members discussed whether to maintain a reflective statement or post questions for assessment. They also considered how to handle qualifications older than five years, with different approaches for undergraduate and postgraduate applicants. The Board also discussed alignment of on-campus and online standards of expectation from students, with feedback given that they should be aligned.
- 17.3 Noted:** Learning & Teaching Quality Committee (LTQC) had given support to the streamlined policy and had recommended that franchise partners were also made aware of any changes. Academic Board agreed with this sentiment.
- 17.4 Approved:** the refined version of the APL Policy and process was approved by Academic Board.
- 17.5 Action:** franchise partners to be informed of the revised APL Policy and process (RC and DMc)

ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORTS

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- 18 Academic Board Annual Report** (BH) [AB/24/088] ☐
- 18.1 Received:** for approval, the Annual Report of Academic Board, which provided a representative summary of key activity over the 2023/24 academic year against the Terms of Reference for Academic Board, and included the annual reports of Academic Board's sub-committees. The report found that Academic Board had appropriately and effectively discharged its responsibilities, as evidenced through reporting of its own discussions and that of its sub-committees, and supported by internal and external data.
- 18.2 Approved:** members provided supportive comments about the year end report and approved the report to go to the September meeting of the Board of Governors.
- A) Concordat to Support Research Integrity Annual Statement** (DP) [AB/24/089] ☐
- 18.3 Received:** for approval, the short statement of compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity for 2023/24, as recommended by Research Integrity & Ethics Committee. The statement summarised: activity that had been undertaken to support research integrity; processes that the University had in place to deal with allegations of misconduct; data from formal investigations of research misconduct (three within the year); and a statement on actions taken to create and embed a positive culture of reporting.
- 18.4 Noted:** the Board agreed that the statement provided an accurate summary of compliance.

18.5 Approved: Academic Board approved the statement of compliance with the Concordat to support Research Integrity to progress to the Board of Governors for approval and subsequent publication on the Falmouth University website.

19 Student Retention report (RC) [AB/24/090] ☐

19.1 Received: to note, an end of year summary report which provided data and analysis of student retention and Extenuating Circumstances (ECs) at the 2023/24 year end position, broken down by faculty and subject area. This included a review of the effectiveness of the EC Policy and how this correlated with retention and student success, as well as a breakdown of reasons for students leaving study.

19.2 Noted: that overall, the University's retention rates showed improvement, with notable progress in both postgraduate and online programs. Undergraduate on-campus retention remained stable however it was agreed this needed further focus and continuous improvement.

19.3 Noted: the Board discussed effectiveness of the EC Policy, welcoming that it had led to a significant reduction in applications for Extenuating Circumstances in year, and suggesting that implemented curriculum reform was positively impacting students' ability to manage their studies. An observed improvement in first-attempt pass rates was commented on and attributed to the new EC Policy having enhanced student progress and confidence.

20 National Student Survey (NSS) report (RC) [AB/24/091] ☐

20.1 Received: to note, the annual report on the University's 2024 National Student Survey (NSS) performance.

20.2 Noted: the University had made gains in three of the nine NSS themes, with a modest downward trajectory in others. The overall position showed a slight decline, which was a concerning indicator of the student experience, as well as for future Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) data and some league tables.

20.3 Noted: the positive impact of academic partnerships was acknowledged within the results.

20.4 Noted: the Chair highlighted the importance of addressing future NSS results through continuous improvement efforts and action planning with course teams, especially for those themes where performance had declined.

20.5 Noted: Members appreciated the valuable insight within the report and queried processes for dissemination. It was confirmed that as part of the continuous improvement process, the thematic analysis would be shared with course leaders and subject heads by circulation.

20.6 Action: RC and Deans ensure effective dissemination of NSS results to course teams.

21 Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) report (AMG) [AB/24/092] ☐

21.1 Received: to note, an annual report that compiled data gathered through the latest Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS), which was completed by graduates 15 months post-study. The report included a refreshed infographic presentation of the results, to support dissemination of key messages across the University.

21.2 Noted: the overall GOS result was 72% which was a 1% improvement on the previous year, [Redacted]. Members were reminded of the importance of GOS results in forming

part of the TEF, as well as the need to ensure the University remained above the OfS B3 thresholds. The small number of courses below the B3 thresholds were noted.

- 21.3 Noted:** over the past five years the overall GOS score had improved, with a notable decrease in unemployment rates among graduates. The report included recommendations for academics, technicians and professional services staff to support graduate employability and the next GOS campaign, with the aim to improve future GOS scores. The Chair emphasised the need for active dissemination and liaison with the Students' Union to support improvements – an action noted under the SU President's report.
- 21.4 Action:** AMG to meet with the Deans to discuss faculty-specific outcomes and strategies for improvement.
- 21.5 Noted:** the survey response rate was above the sector average and the Employability Team had surveyed non-responders to the GOS for the first time this year to understand their employment status and reasons for not participating in the original survey. Preliminary results had suggested that many were employed but chose not to respond due to not recognising the survey or feeling their employment was not relevant to their original discipline – this formed useful insight to support participation in the next GOS.
- 22 FX Plus Student & Academic Services report** (DD) [AB/24/093] ☐
- 22.1 Received:** to note, a paper which provided a report on FX Plus' student welfare, wellbeing and learning and research support services over academic year 2023/24.
- 22.2 Noted:** specific attention was given by the Board to the three NSS scores noted in the paper: changes to teaching, library resources, and mental well-being services. There was a slight drop in library resource satisfaction, but an improvement of 3% in mental well-being services, despite remaining significantly below the sector average (the University's lowest scoring NSS theme). Efforts to enhance communications and understand student needs to improve in these areas were outlined, along with key related initiatives. It was noted that despite a small improvement the data showed significant challenges against sector norms which was not acceptable.
- 22.3 Noted:** the Chair advised that a Student Support & Advice Review meeting had been planned in October to discuss targeted action to significantly improve student satisfaction in this area. The importance of active continuous improvement and collaboration across University stakeholders was emphasised, and it was confirmed that the review group encompassed Students' Union, academic, FX Plus and professional services representation.
- 22.4 Action:** update on the Student Support & Advice Review to be presented to the next meeting of Academic Board.
- 22.5 Noted:** DD spoke on plans for the 2024/25 academic year, which included a continuation of the communications strategy, further outreach, and additional initiatives aimed at improving student well-being and visibility and quality of support services. Further actions to be discussed with the wider group in the review meeting

TO NOTE – SILENT (RECEIVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

22	Research, Integrity & Ethics Committee report	[AB/24/093]
23	Learning, Teaching & Quality Committee report	[AB/24/094]
24	Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee report	[AB/24/095]

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 25 Chair's note** (EH) [Verbal] ☐
- 25.1 Noted:** the Chair updated Members on the Library refurbishment on Falmouth Campus, and advised that the November meeting was to take place in the new Library Seminar room.
- 25.2 Noted:** the Chair finished the meeting by welcoming Academic Board to the new academic year and was encouraged by the alliances and collaboration across campuses that had been evident within the meeting reports and discussions.
- 26 Date, time and location of the next meeting**
Thursday, 07 November 2024, 13:00 – 15:00, Falmouth Campus