

# **BOARD OF GOVERNORS'** **TEAM CHARTER**

# 1 CHARTER OBJECTIVES

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- 1.1 To encapsulate the core objectives and ethos of Falmouth University's Board of Governors capturing our passion, ambition, commitment and uniqueness.
- 1.2 To provide clarity about the behaviours and standards of conduct expected of Members of the Board, as foundations for a positive and impactful boardroom culture that supports the sustainable delivery of the institutional mission, the highest standards of governance and the best possible outcomes for our students.
- 1.3 This Charter is underpinned by the University's Mission, Vision and Values, the [Nolan Principles](#), the [Office for Students' Public Interest Governance Principles](#) and the standards expressed within the [Committee of University Chairs' Higher Education Code of Governance](#), all of which have been formally adopted by the Board and fully align with [our governing documents](#).



# FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

## 2 FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY MISSION, VISION & VALUES

### MISSION

To deliver exceptional higher education and research, harnessing the fusion of creativity and technology as foundations of the future economy.

To use our knowledge and expertise in these disciplines to generate positive and sustainable opportunities for all.

### VISION

- To be the leading institution for the nexus between creativity and technology
- To establish Cornwall as the County for Creative Learning, using innovative and open pedagogies as an integral part of its education and business ecosystem
- To develop the next generation of creative leaders and explorers, who will change the world through their curious minds, creative impact and unique skill sets
- To build on our strengths in research and knowledge exchange to deliver experimental, environmental and societal impact

### VALUES

#### CREATIVE

Knowing that creativity is the vanguard of progress, we're constantly seeking new ways of thinking, doing and creating.

#### ACHIEVE

We value the pursuit of excellence and enrichment as a collective aspiration to be the very best we can be.

#### RESPECTFUL

We have an open mind, we respect differing views, we listen and enable and we work toward an equitable and diverse world.

#### SHARING

We collaborate and share knowledge to co-create a positive impact.

## 3 BOARD CULTURE

We are united by our commitment to the mission and long-term sustainable success of Falmouth University. We model a balanced culture of cohesion and challenge in the boardroom, and foster a warm, vibrant, respectful environment that nurtures innovation and progress and values every perspective. This is characterised by the following behaviours:

- **Active engagement** – we fully prepare for each board meeting and listen actively with intent, enabling an impactful individual contribution
- **Big picture** – we maintain a strategic focus, encompassing the University’s long-term goals and success, reputation and its role in the wider educational and regional landscape
- **Inquisitive** – we foster a culture of inquiry, asking questions that enable deeper understanding of the matters at hand and elevate thinking
- **Insightful** – we bring our unique perspectives and experience pragmatically to solve problems, strengthen outcomes and add value to the business of the board and University
- **Constructive challenge** – we use candour, objectivity, lateral thinking and independent judgement to prompt and engage in rigorous and respectful debate, fostering an environment of growth and continuous improvement
- **Compliant** – we understand and take seriously our regulatory, legal and other formal obligations, and seek and test assurance with regard to University and board compliance
- **Supportive** – we recognise these are challenging times and navigate complicated, complex and difficult topics with empathy and understanding
- **Open-minded** – we value diverse perspectives and are open to doing things differently
- **Ownership** – we understand and embrace the principle of collective responsibility and stand united in decisions taken
- **Ambassadorship** – we act as ambassadors for the University, celebrating successes and advocating for the University’s interests to enhance its profile
- **Trust** – our board culture is built on mutual trust. We uphold confidentiality and ensure the privacy and security of sensitive information, discussions and decisions
- **Learning** – we recognise our own learning journey and seek out opportunities to enhance our understanding of the University and the environment it operates within, as well as engaging with board appraisal processes and opportunities for professional development

## 4 BOARD OBJECTIVES

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**The Higher Education Code of Governance sets out key board objectives to meet the challenges of sustainability, growth and change that face the higher education sector. These objectives, which have been overlaid and combined with the Office for Students' Public Interest Governance Principles, underpin the business of the Board and guide our focus.**

- We determine, drive and deliver the University's mission, vision, values and success in a sustainable way (financial, social and environmental)
- We protect and promote the collective student interest and the importance of a high-quality student experience, ensuring that students have opportunities to engage with University governance
- We ensure student outcomes reflect good social, economic and environmental value
- We effectively respond to opportunities and mitigate risks to protect the reputation of the Institution, ensuring financial sustainability, compliance and accountability for public funding
- We promote and develop a positive culture which supports ethical behaviour, equal, diverse and inclusive practices, academic freedom and freedom of speech
- We promote excellence in learning, teaching and research, test the effectiveness of academic governance and monitor institutional and governing body performance
- We publish accurate and transparent information which is widely accessible
- We lead by example, being flexible and adaptable to create a resilient future
- We ensure arrangements are in place for meaningful engagement with relevant stakeholders (especially students and staff) locally, regionally, nationally and globally



## 5 BOARD CONDUCT PRINCIPLES

In alignment with staff conduct principles, we must have due regard for the impact our personal and professional behaviour has on the University, its people, the environment and the local community. We are 'fit and proper persons' and we uphold principles of conduct that reflect the University's standing locally, nationally and internationally. We do not engage in conduct that may bring the University into disrepute and we consistently put the University's interests above our own. In doing so, we are guided by and uphold the Nolan Principles:

### SELFLESSNESS

We act solely in terms of the public interest.

### INTEGRITY

We avoid placing ourselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence us in our work. We do not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for ourselves, our family or our friends. We declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

### OBJECTIVITY

We act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable to the public for our decisions and actions and we must submit ourselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

### OPENNESS

We act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information is not withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

### HONESTY

We are truthful.

### LEADERSHIP

We exhibit these principles in our own behaviour and treat others with respect. We actively promote and robustly support these principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

I, .....  
commit to hold myself and my Board colleagues accountable for the behaviours and standards of conduct outlined in this Team Charter and to supportively provide and respond to feedback to enhance the performance of the Board.