STATEMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

The year 2010 is an important milestone in the University's long and distinguished history as it marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the University through the Lady Byron School in 1860. Over the years, mergers of a variety of institutions (Ealing College of Higher Education, Thames Valley college of Higher Education, Queen Charlotte's College of Health Care Studies and the London College of Music) resulted in the creation of the Polytechnic of West London in 1991. A year later the Privy Council bestowed full University status and Thames Valley University was established. This year saw the University locate itself fully in Ealing and Brentford with the Privy Council consenting to its new name 'The University of West London'.

Throughout its history, the University has played a significant role in the educational, cultural, economic and social life of its region and locality; an obligation it will continue to fulfil with renewed vigour and determination.

The impact of the funding reductions on universities is now a major concern alongside the rise in fees which will see the cost of study shifting towards the individual student and away from the public purse. At the University of West London, we embrace the challenges and opportunities such a landscape offers and we relish the prospect of engaging more explicitly with employers, focusing on greater business interaction and workforce up-skilling. Above all, we aim to unlock the potential of all our staff and students in order to inspire creativity, innovation and enterprise.

Our Mission

Through the pursuit of excellence and the raising of aspiration, to be a university of quality combining a national and international reach with a commitment to personalised education for all.

Our Vision

By 2013, the University of West London will:

- Be the foremost employer engaged University in the country, playing a leading role in taking forward the world class skills agenda.
- Be a business-facing University with a demand-led portfolio, delivered flexibly.
- Continue to be a 'University of choice and opportunity' reaching out to students of all ages and backgrounds.
- Be the leading modern University in London specialising in the generation, application and transfer of knowledge.

Our Values

Our values as a University of choice and opportunity are:

Creativity: Facilitated by imagination, innovation and challenge.

Quality: Underpinned by excellent practical, professional and academic learning.

Inclusiveness: Enabling and empowering all to access education that meets their needs.

Diversity: Celebrated through a rich social and ethnic community.

Integrity: Fulfilled by honesty and openness, working for the public good.

The Role of the Board of Governors

The role of the Board of Governors in fulfilling the University's Mission and Vision is:

1. To approve the mission and strategic vision of the institution, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders.

2. To delegate authority to the head of the institution, as chief executive, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and personnel management of the institution. And to establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within such management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the head of the institution.

3. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.

4. To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the institution against the plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be – where possible and appropriate – benchmarked against other comparable institutions.

5. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the governing body itself.

6. To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

7. To safeguard the good name and values of the institution.

8. To appoint the head of the institution as chief executive, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance.

9. To appoint a secretary to the governing body and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the institution, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.

10. To be the employing authority for all staff in the institution and to be responsible for establishing a human resources strategy.

11. To be the principal financial and business authority of the institution, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and financial statements, and to have overall responsibility for the institution's assets, property and estate.

12. To be the institution's legal authority and, as such, to ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the institution's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the institution's name.

13. To make such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students, in consultation with the senate or academic board.

14. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the institution.

15. To ensure that the institution's constitution is followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.