

## THE IDEAS FORUM

<b>1</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
1.1	As the University moves into the next stage of its development, it is important that all the experience and expertise available to the Institution is channelled into achieving its ambitious vision. Currently, we have a governance-driven 'separation of powers' which is appropriate for the majority of the University's business. However, given the current and future external environment and the strategic intent of the Institution, there is a need for a new grouping that can straddle the divide and bring benefit to the Institution as a whole.
1.2	Given the above, the time is now right to draw together the various strands of expertise that exists in the University and the Governing Body into a more coherent whole. These new synergies will be embedded in 'The Ideas Forum' which will be the locus for generating, incubating and releasing novel ideas into the Institution; ideas that will add long-term value to the University's financial and reputational capital.
<b>2</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
2.1	As permitted under paragraph 8(i) of the Instrument of Government and paragraph 5.1 of the Articles of Government, the Board of Governors will establish an 'Ideas Forum' in order to support the University's mission to be a strongly employer and community facing University, and to attain and maintain a recognised position as a forward looking, innovative and professional Institution.
2.2	The purpose of the 'Ideas Forum' is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Be a 'switchboard' for creative thinking using a pool of expertise from a range of sources including Board members, senior University staff, academics and administrators, and a range of external stakeholders (business, commerce, charity and other fourth sector organisations)</li> <li>ii) Bring a synergistic approach to ideas development and create a space for ideas generation, incubation and challenge across the Institution</li> <li>iii) Add to the Institutional capital of the University by taking novel ideas forward from conception through to delivery</li> <li>iv) Support the future development of the University and its links with its alumni, fundraising, business and the wider community.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Remit</b>

**3.1 Members of the Forum will:**

- i) advise on strategic issues associated with commercial development and business outreach activities, including corporate social responsibility
- ii) advise on opportunities for the development and successful exploitation of innovative opportunities for learning provision and services that further advance the University's long term strategy
- iii) receive regular reports from the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor on matters relating to the potential exploitation of the ideas generated for the long term benefit of the University
- iv) assist in identifying potential sources of public and private finance and sponsorship for the University
- v) have oversight of the University's stewardship of benefactors

**3.2 The Forum will have up to 20 members at any one time**

**3.3 The membership will include:**

- at least five independent members of the Board of Governors including the Chair;
- up to five co-opted members drawn from University alumni, business and community stakeholders
- the Vice Chancellor and a senior member of the academic staff (PVC/Dean level or above)
- up to eight members of the academic community including some drawn from the Central Service Departments and a representative of the student body

**3.4 Members are appointed by the Chair of the Board and Vice-Chancellor together after receiving recommendations. A standing membership (Vice-Chancellor, Chair of the Board and three other elected representatives) will filter ideas through to the forum and be responsible for creating the agenda.**

**4 Chairmanship**

**4.1 The Chair of the Forum will be an Independent Governor.**

**4.2 In the absence of the Chair, the members shall elect from amongst their number another Independent Governor member to act as Chair.**

**5 Frequency**

- 5.1 The Forum will normally meet six times per year (twice per term). Meetings will be diarised and will take place in late afternoon for up to two hours with a formal structure to facilitate discussion. Meetings may include presentations, Q&A sessions or an exchange of ideas. A buffet dinner will be available after each meeting to encourage networking.
- 5.2 Additional meetings may be held with the agreement of the Vice-Chancellor or Chair of the Committee who will act as the 'switchboard' for ideas as they come forward
- 5.3 If necessary, ideas can be taken forward after consultation outside the Forum to expedite matters.

## **6 Attendance at meetings**

- 6.1 Other officers, internal and external experts may be asked to attend when appropriate.

## **7 Quorum**

- 7.1 There will be no quorum.