

**Meeting:** Academic Assembly Accountability and Transparency Working Group

**Date and Time:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 14.15-16.05

**Venue:** 6E 2.6

**Chair:** Robert Kelsh

**Present:** Sabina Gheduzzi (SG)  
Hartmut Logemann (HL)  
Elke Pawlowski (EP)  
Theo Papadopoulos (TP)

**Apologies:** None

**Secretary:** Sarah White (SW)

1.	<b>OPENING</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	None	
2.	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
	These were agreed with no amendments	
3.	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
	As discussed below.	
4	<b>HEAD OF GOVERNANCE</b>	
	<p>Response received from Acting VC re interim Head of Governance (19 March) that Steve Wharton has been asked 'to take on a small piece of consultancy work regarding governance at the University' pending the appointment of the new Head of Strategic governance. No answer to our questions regarding TOR or EOI for this role.</p> <p>On 20 March Ruth Foreman announced the appointment of Steve Wharton 'to prepare the ground for the new role' of Head of Strategic Governance, with a wide remit including internal and external review of university governance, scope for change and the potential to initiate change in alliance with the University governance teams (who are they?) under the Chair of Council.</p> <p>We remain of the view that there should have been some kind of open process, and that it would be better to have a group rather than an individual for this role. We will aim to liaise closely with Dr Wharton in this role and will invite him to coffee with us. (To meet 12 April)</p> <p>The Acting VC has suggested our concerns regarding the permanent Head of Strategic Governance are best dealt with by the new VC and Chair of Council so has passed them on to Ruth Forman.</p> <p>We will write ourselves to Ruth Foreman and Richard Brooks appreciating the scope for participation in the recruitment of the new VC. We will reiterate our concern that the Halpin Review's reference to 'participation' does not appear in the list of the specific responsibilities for the postholder. We will also reiterate our request for some participation of the University community similarly in the recruitment of the Head of Strategic Governance. In addition, we will request that one member of this working group joins the recruitment panel.</p>	<p><b>RK</b></p> <p><b>RK</b></p>

<b>5.</b>	<b>COURT MEMBERS TO JOIN EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REVIEW</b>	
	Court members have been circulated with a notice about the upcoming Stakeholder Engagement Review Steering Group, with an invitation to submit EOI for the three court member positions on it, by May 1 2019. (Sent 8 April)	
<b>6.</b>	<b>RELATIONS WITH CHAIR OF ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY</b>	
	RK has met Chair of AA on 19 March and reported back to the group on her concerns. We have taken these on board as far as we are able.	<b>RK</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS STEERING GROUP (CESG)</b>	
	There has been no further correspondence from the CESG. It seems our emails to the group mailbox do not go directly to the group as a whole. [Response to our message of 8 March, received on 4 April clarified that our points are shared instead by the Chair of AA under AOB].  We have not as yet raised the issue that there have been no Minutes of Council posted on the website for one year, despite the fact that three meetings have taken place since then.  Discussion of the CESG Recommendations Tracking grid adjourned for next meeting	
<b>8.</b>	<b>OUR COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
	TP and SW met with web-team 19/3. They requested that we submit to them a team-page which will lead to two further pages, one for our minutes and the other for a blog, where we can post more freely and invite greater interaction. The team-page has been drafted and the minutes produced in the University format. These will now be submitted to the web-team. We will now circulate our minutes to Academic Assembly We will ask the Chair of AA to put a report from the working group as a standing item on the AA meeting agenda. TP will begin designing the blog.	<b>TP/SW</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>REFLECTIONS ON ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNANCE: NORMS, INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES FOR A DEMOCRATIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>TP</b>
	We briefly discussed ideas for a lunchtime sandpit on governance, possibly on June 7	
<b>10.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	We agreed to write to the new VC expressing our welcome to the University and that we look forward to working with him. [Sent 3 April] Next AA is 7 May and we will prepare a paper by 24 April describing our activities and achievements, and forward plans	<b>SW</b> <b>SW</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
	14.15 4 April in SG's office 4E 2.59 to discuss CESG grid	