**Academic Assembly Accountability and Transparency Working Group First Report to Academic Assembly, 7 May 2019**

The Academic Assembly Accountability and Transparency WorkingGroup aims to advance accountability and transparency in the governance and management of the University. We were elected by members of Academic Assembly in January 2019 to serve for 18 months in the first instance.

We aim to:

* Engage with the Council Effectiveness Steering Group, to represent Academic Assembly concerns with respect to implementation of the Halpin Review
* Generate a broader conversation within the University about how we might promote more transparent and accountable structures and processes in future
* Engage with Senior Management on how to advance accountability and transparency in the University
* Provide regular reports to Academic Assembly on progress towards greater accountability and transparency in the University

Our members are:

Robert Kelsh (Biology and Biochemistry) (Chair)

Sarah White (Social and Policy Sciences) (Secretary)

Sabina Gheduzzi (Mechanical Engineering)

Hartmut Logemann (Mathematical Sciences)

Elke Pawlowski (Skills Centre, Languages)

Theo Papadopoulos (Social and Policy Sciences)

**Key dates**

Academic Assembly voted on 31 October 2019 to set up the working group.

An electronic ballot was held 10-23 January 2019 to elect members of the group.

Ballot results were announced to Academic Assembly members on 4 February 2019.

The working group has met 5 times (28 January; 4 February; 7 March; 28 March; 12 April).

Members of the group have also met/are scheduled to meet: with the Chair of Academic Assembly (7 February; 1 March; 19 March; 24 April); the Interim Head of Strategic Governance (12 April); the Chair of the CESG and Chair of Council (25 April); and the VC (29 April).

**Achievements so far**

Progress has been slow. Some of this seems due to the general slow pace at which the university systems run. For example, we contacted web-support on 19 February to set up a web-page where we could post our minutes. This was achieved on 16 April.

In addition, we have repeatedly been frustrated by the non-response, partial response, or very late response to the majority of our initiatives, especially those concerning the Council Effectiveness Steering Group.

Details of all our initiatives and the responses to them are given in the Minutes, available at <https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/academic-assembly-accountability-and-transparency-working-group-minutes/>.

**Looking Forward**

We will continue to endeavour to meet with the CESG and senior management to advance accountability and transparency. We are hopeful that the new VC and new Chair of Council will be more open and inclusionary in their approach.

We will establish a blog, linked to our web-page on the University site, which will be an open space for all in the University community to contribute to discussions on how to advance participation, accountability and transparency.

We will invite all members of the University to a lunchtime interactive workshop on governance on 7 June.