

<u>/NORTHERN SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE</u>		
<u>BOARD OF GOVERNORS</u>		
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held at 3pm on 6 May 2025 in person at the NSCD campus		
Present:	Vinny Leach (Meeting Chair), Sharon Watson (Principal), Nina Lewis, Jo Nicol, Theresa Beattie (remotely via TEAMS), Marc Ireland, Paul Brennan, David Jones, Griselda Togobo, Jonathan Pryor and Jawad Ashad.	
In attendance:	Vice-Principal and Director of Studies, and Clerk to the Governors	
Apologies:	Peter Moizer, Kate Buckham, Catherine Thristan Mark Baker, Amaury Lebrun, Isaac Lewis,	
Absent:	Gary Clarke,	
		Action
	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>	
B24/77	There were no declarations of interest.	
	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u>	
B24/78	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2025 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record subject to the amendment of name to Baroness Debra Bull and confirmation of the naming of the project with Bonnie Bird as Co-Lab North.</p> <p>A verbal update was provided following questions on the progress of lobbying of government and relevant agencies around funding for the arts.</p>	
	<u>MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES</u>	
B24/79	The action log was received, and the contents noted	
	<u>PRINCIPAL'S REPORT</u>	
B24/80	<p>The Principal had provided a written update as part of the Board papers and summarised as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged the work to achieve FDAP and that it was hoped the final confirmation would be received within the next 2 weeks. EEDI work and positioning of the school in this space was being recognised. Estates strategy continues to be discussed but further support and engagement from LCC is required and will be followed up with JP as the Board rep for LCC. No offers have been made regarding an asset transfer potential and no city centre sites identified. Provided an update on the position of the CAT funding and the implications to be aware of and the lobbying that was taking place particularly with Government. These include in year funding cut, bursaries at risk, impact on talent pipeline and schools and outreach activity. SW confirmed that CAT Directors as a collective continue to lobby including NSCD's Tracy Whitney. Heritage Lottery fund application was close to being submitted for approx. £250k and the support provided by the consultant was clarified. An update on the visit from John Blake from OfS was given and confirmation that conversations had taken place around policy / delivery / red tape and regulatory pressures. A summary of the Graduate shows would be circulated to Board to encourage Governors to attend. It was agreed following feedback from JP to ascertain where NSCD can support their own 40th celebrations alongside the City's 400th anniversary and campaigns such as Trivia Pursuit 	Principal & CEO

B24/81	RESOLVED: the Principal and CEO's update be noted, and that the Principal and CEO will continue to progress the Estates strategy and report to the Board in due course.	
	VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT	
B24/82	<p>The Vice-Principal had provided a written update as part of the Board papers and summarised as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He acknowledged that the process for the FDPA decision had taken over 2 years given changes in process at OfS. • 2 Validation panels had taken place prior to the Board meeting • Confirmed that NSCD will serve notice to University of Kent, discussion to be held for validating partner for BA 2 / 3 and whether they could be transferred to NSCD. <p>It was discussed around the additional requirements and resource required for FDAP and that plans are now in place to ensure the school is ready for it's new operational and functional responsibility from September 2025. Discussions centred around the process for validation and recruitment of new external partnerships. It was clarified that the VP would lead on these given the Director of Studies role had been recruited and their remit was to focus on internal academic assurance. The VP confirmed that a draft MOU was under development, and it was agreed to ask Kate Buckham as the legal expertise on the Board to review ahead of being sent to Eversheds. The MOU will also be subject to review from the partner's legal team ahead of signing. The Board questioned if we have a clear rationale for the type and selection of partner. The VP confirmed that partners need to have a clear history of experience, align with NSCD values, provide a clear commercial viability. To date 8 partners had been rejected.</p> <p>The VP confirmed that new degree proposals and accompanying scenario cost planning would be presented at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>The Board requested that it be formally noted in the minutes their thanks to the Vice Principal and all staff for their hard work in achieving the FDAP status.</p>	
B24/83	RESOLVED: the Vice-Principal updated was noted. The MOU draft to be sent to Kate Buckham for feedback. Additional information regarding course proposals and costings would be presented at the next board meeting for review and discussion.	VP
	Jawad Ahmed left the meeting. Phillippa Ranger (Access and Participation Manager) joined the meeting for the next agenda item.	
	ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN	
B24/84	<p>The Board received a short presentation on the contents of the APP paper from the APP Manager. The APP Manager outlined the APP plan was a formal requirement for OfS and linked to student fee income. OfS require NSCD to demonstrate that we are a student centred / focused institution.</p> <p>EORR is a new element of the plan and work has been undertaken with SERR to analyse data to identify risks and priorities. Priority remains Access particularly within IMD Q1, Global Majority (GM), Free school meals (FSM) and Boys.</p> <p>The APP Manager outlined the plan year on year to reach the end goals and targets with each priority having an intervention strategy that was ambitious. OfS are keen to make the higher education sector more accountable and to use data and impact evaluation to drive priorities and focus.</p> <p>The NSCD Diversity working group where student reps are invited to attend was given as an example of best practise and the Board Student Rep (NL) endorsed the opportunity for students to input.</p>	

	It was agreed to develop a dashboard that tracked these measures that could be periodically shared with the Board so they can identify the progress being made.	
B24/85	RESOLVED: that the APP was received and accepted. It was noted that periodic updates will be made to the Board but regular updates will be made to Senate. A dashboard will be developed to track progress which can be shared as requested.	Clerk to the Governors
	<u>GOVERNANCE MATTERS</u>	
B24/86	<u>Appointment of Chair of NSCD Board of Governors</u> The Board received a paper outlining the process that had been followed for the appointment of a Chair and the proposal to appoint Vinny Leach – current Vice Chair as Chair effective from after the July Board meeting.	
B24/87	RESOLVED: that the appointment of Vinny Leach as Chair of NSCD from after the July 2025 Board meeting be approved unanimously. An induction and handover process will commence.	
B24/88	<u>Governor recruitment</u> An update was shared with the Board regarding the recruitment of new governors for the board and the priority skill sets. Adverts were now live on various platforms and Governors were requested to share across their networks.	
B24/89	RESOLVED: that Governors help with the promotion of recruitment for new trustees in their networks and across social media platforms.	All Governors
B24/90	<u>Appointment of SIG for NSCD</u> A paper was shared regarding the proposal to introduce the role of Senior Independent Governor on the Board. A draft role description had been drafted.	
B24/91	RESOLVED: that the role of SIG be added to the Board. Recruitment for the role would be undertaken from existing Governors. Governors would be asked for an expression of interest by the beginning of June. Depending on the number of EOI's received would determine the interview and appointment process. It was agreed to have a preferred candidate established for approval at the July Board meeting.	Clerk
	<u>NPO PAPERS, FINANCE AND RISK REGISTER</u>	
B24/92	The Board received a range of papers and updates relating to the NPO funding received by NSCD from Arts Council England (ACE). It was noted that new NPO specific risk register had been developed which will form part of the overall Strategic Risk Register going forward. It was noted there were some ongoing issues with NPO reporting and a meeting had been organised with representatives from ACE and NSCD to resolve and clarify reporting timeframes and standards moving forward. It was agreed that to support NPO submissions depending on timeframes the Board or the Finance Resources and Committee would review submissions to be made to Grantium portal and approve their submission.	
B24/93	RESOLVED: that the NPO papers, updates and Risk Register be approved and approval granted for these to be uploaded to Grantium. The Board agreed where required and relevant the Finance and Resources committee have delegated authority to approve submissions should the Board timetable of meeting dates not align for timely submissions to ACE to ensure that finances are drawn down accordingly.	Clerk / NPO Manager
	<u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u>	
B24/94	<u>Tuition Fees 26.27</u>	

	<p>The Board received a paper outlining the proposal for increases in fees for under and postgraduate studies at NSCD from 2026.27. It was noted that the last fee raise occurred in 2016 and that benchmarking against other institutions had been carried out to reach the final proposal. A stepped increase was being applied with a maximum of £1500 uplift. It was noted that applications and acceptances will be monitored closely to establish if the increases have a negative effect on either.</p> <p>There is the ability to apply some discretion with the usage of scholarships and bursaries.</p> <p>VERVE is unable to take on higher numbers and it was agreed to explore commercial funding / sponsorship for this programme.</p>	
B24/95	RESOLVED: that the tuition fees and increases for 2026.27 be accepted. The fees can now be publicly displayed on the NSCD website and used for any official returns for the OfS.	Clerk
	<u>STRATEGIC PLAN MONITORING AND KPI'S</u>	
B24/96	A copy of the draft 24.25 commitments was shared and the progress achieved during the past year.	
B24/97	RESOLVED: that the draft summary be accepted and made available on platforms as required.	Clerk / VP
	<u>POLICY SUMMARY</u>	
B24/98	A policy matrix was shared outlining all the policies required by the school and the Board / committee responsibility. Work is being undertaken to ensure accurate approval and expiry dates are included to ensure that the School can review policies in a timely manner.	
B24/99	RESOLVED: that the policy matrix be approved and that moving forward this would become a standard item in the Board pack for noting.	
	<u>STRATEGIC RISKS</u>	
B24/100	The strategic risks had been circulated, and the contents were noted.	
B24/101	RESOLVED: That the Strategic risks be noted.	
	<u>MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE</u>	
B24/102	<p>The Marketing and Communication report was shared for information. The detailed insight on data from recent auditions was well received by the Board. There were some clear insights which will be used to inform the overseas audition process moving forward. There was no insight which outlined that conducting auditions in person resulted in a greater update or acceptance of place. Remote auditions were achieving greater success.</p> <p>Further work will be completed to develop bespoke recruitment plans for each individual country / territory based on previous data and current partnerships.</p>	
B24/103	RESOLVED: That the Marketing and Communications update be noted.	
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
B24/104	<p>The Board received and noted the following minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Finance and Resources Committee – 4 March 2025 b. Nominations and Governance Committee – 18 March 2025 c. Remuneration and Staffing Committee - 25 March d. Senate Committee – 22 April e. Minutes of the Remuneration and Staffing Committee – part 2 	
B24/105	RESOLVED: that the minutes from all the various meetings were received and approved. It was agreed that the minutes from EEDI meetings would also be circulated to the Board moving forward. The Board have representation on this group via Governor David Jones	Clerk
	<u>AOB</u>	
B24/106	Nothing to note.	
B24/108	The meeting closed at 5.00pm.	

	The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 July at 5.00pm online via TEAMS	
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