



The University of Manchester

NOMINATIONS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

4 MARCH 2026

Present: Philippa Hird (Chair), Lexie Baynes, Anna Dawe, Zeb Farooq, Jim Hancock, Matt Haworth, Prof Duncan Ivison, Tom Jirat, Emma Wade-Smith

In attendance: Mark Rollinson (Deputy Secretary), Sally Ainsworth (minutes),

Apologies: Soumhya Venkatesan, Patrick Hackett

1. Declarations of interest

Noted: No additional declarations of interest were made.

2. Minutes

Agreed: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2025

3. Matters arising

None reported

4. Governance Effectiveness Review

Received: an update on the Governance Effectiveness Review and the CUC code mapping document



Redacted – restricted information

5. Board membership

Received: an update on Board membership

Noted:

- i. As of 31 August 2026, given the usual maximum of nine years in total on the Board, Ann Barnes had one term of one year remaining and Guy Grainger had a potential further two terms of three years (ie six years in total) remaining on the Board. Tony Raven was coming to the end of his first three-year term.
- ii. Both Ann and Guy were recommended for reappointment. Given that 2026-27 will be Ann's last year on the Board, it was proposed that David Buckley be appointed as co-Deputy Chair in 2026-27, assuming sole occupancy of this position from 2027-28 (noting that recruitment for a new Chair of the Board will take place in that year, to assume the role with effect from 2028-29).
- iii. Fiona Smyth, Reinmar Hager and Hema Radhakrishnan will come to the end of their current terms on 31 August 2026. Reinmar Hager has served the maximum of nine years on the Board and so must stand down. Fiona Smyth was moving to a Deputy Dean position and so will no longer be an ex-officio member of Senate. Hema Radhakrishnan was standing as a candidate in the current Senate elections and could stand again for election to the Board, should she so wish.
- iv. Lexie Baynes had served two terms in her current role, and so will not be eligible to stand again for the Union Affairs Officer position. The Students' Union was currently holding elections for the 2026-27 Executive: the Union Affairs Officer is appointed to the Board in an ex-officio capacity and there will be liaison with the Union about appointment to the other vacancy once the composition of the Executive for 2026-27 is known.
- v. Tom Jirat will come to the end of his current term on the Board on 31 August 2026. Should he wish to stand again, he must first be successful in an election to the General Assembly, for staff, and then in an election for staff on the General Assembly, to the Board.
- vi. Natasha Traynor's term as Associate Member will end on 31 August 2026, five years since appointment (this includes a period of maternity leave). There are no current plans to recruit to this position.

Agreed:

To recommend to the Board

- i) That Ann Barnes be appointed for a final term of one year, as Deputy Chair, until 31 August 2027
- ii) That Guy Grainger be appointed for an additional term of three years until 31 August 2029
- iii) That David Buckley be appointed as co-Deputy Chair of the Board in 2026-27, assuming sole occupancy of the role in 2027-28.

Action: Deputy Secretary

6. Any other business

Members discussed the need for the fit and proper person forms to capture any behaviour that may bring the University into disrepute. All Board members were required to sign this form annually as part of the update of members' interests.

Agreed: review of the Fit and Proper person form to confirm sufficient detail is captured.

Action: Deputy Secretary

7. Dates of scheduled future meetings in 2025-26

7 May 2026