CANDIDATE PACK
Appointment of Governors
Leeds Beckett University
January 2019
INTRODUCTION

Leeds Beckett University is one of the largest Universities in the country and transforms the lives and prospects of thousands of individuals and organisations every day in the city, the wider region, and beyond. The University contributes £520m per annum to the regional economy, with more than 3,000 staff and more than 6,000 graduates entering the talent pool each year. It is a modern and professional university, with a vision to be acknowledged for its commitment to student success, innovation and enterprise, global reach, and strong local impact.

The University is governed by a Board of Governors which has overall responsibility for the strategy, direction and performance of the institution. The board comprises a range of high calibre individuals bringing a combination of lay and academic backgrounds.

The University is seeking to identify up to four new board members from diverse backgrounds with an interest and insight into the issues facing higher education. Governors will bring thoughtful and mature contribution to board meetings, and be principled yet innovative. A willingness to be challenging but constructive and a strong strategic focus are essential for these roles.

We are seeking a broad range of relevant skills including:

- Leadership in HE and/ or knowledge of education policy and government engagement;
- Senior finance or legal experience;
- Strategic reputation and risk management;
- Digital;
- Regulated industries.
BACKGROUND

Leeds Beckett University is on a clear upward trajectory in respect of the quality of its teaching, research and student experience, and it is committed to being the first choice for students and staff. The practical nature of its world-leading research makes a difference to people’s everyday lives, from helping to combat obesity, to improving the performance of elite athletes and tackling doping in sport. The university is investing £200m in its campuses with an ambitious programme of development over the next 2 years, focusing on sport and the creative industries, and holds silver status in the Teaching Excellence Framework for its high quality teaching.

Some key metrics include:

- 93.6% of Leeds Beckett graduates are in work or further study 6 months after graduating;

- Leeds Beckett University is ranked among the 10 most successful universities in the UK for having a student community that is representative of its local community as part of its commitment to widening participation and ensuring higher education is accessible to people from all backgrounds;

- 85% of Leeds Beckett students were satisfied with the overall quality of their course in the National Student Survey 2018, exceeding the sector average of 83%.

Context

The UK higher education sector is dynamic and evolving, with a major role to play in driving economic growth both regionally and nationally. It requires leaders that are business-focused but that also understand how the sector fits into the wider public realm. Recent policy changes have fundamentally changed the nature of regulation in the sector, increased competition and made funding more uncertain. The new Teaching Excellent Framework (TEF) sees the government monitoring and assessing the quality of teaching in England’s universities in a different way. The University is entering the final stage of delivering a strategic plan that is seeing it ensure outstanding quality across all its activities, and preparing it well for future developments.
OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Our Vision
To be an excellent, accessible, globally engaged university contributing positively to a thriving Northern economy.

Our Mission
To ensure we use our knowledge and resources to make a positive and decisive difference to people, communities and organisations.

Our Values
Student focus, excellence, inspiration creativity, professionalism, enterprise, integrity.
OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Our Strategic Planning Framework, approved by the Board in May 2016, has 4 cornerstones:

• An Excellent Education and Experience
• Leading Research and Academic Enterprise
• A Community of Great People
• Sustainable Resources

Each one of these cornerstones has three simple indicators by which we will measure our progress within the framework, and supporting strategies for each were approved by the Board in July 2016. There are also two strands in the framework which will weave through each cornerstone and inform activity:

• Engaged and Applied – ensuring that our work as a University is applied to the world around us
• Enabling and Effective – ensuring that we have the most effective structures and processes and are not unnecessarily weighed down by bureaucracy

University Structures

Leeds Beckett University offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, professional development and short courses from within our 13 schools:

• School of Art, Architecture and Design
• School of Cultural Studies and Humanities
• School of Built Environment and Engineering
• School of Computing, Creative Technologies and Engineering
• School of Film, Music and Performing Arts
• School of Clinical and Applied Sciences
• School of Health and Community Studies
• School of Social Sciences
• Leeds Business School
• Leeds Law School
• School of Education and Childhood
• School of Sport
• School of Events, Tourism and Hospitality
The management of our Research has been based on subject groupings under which we submit to the government for research funding. There are thirteen of these as follows:

- Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy
- Architecture, Built Environment and Planning
- Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory
- Business and Management Studies
- Communication, Cultural and Media Studies
- Library and Information Management
- Computer Science and Informatics
- Education
- English Language and Literature
- History
- Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
- Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- Social Work and Social Policy
- Sport and Exercise Sciences
- Leisure and Tourism

### Governance and Corporate Status

Leeds Beckett University is a higher education corporation, established on 01 April 1989 pursuant to the Education Reform Act 1988. It was granted taught and research degree awarding powers on 04 June 1992 and university status on 26 April 1993. For further details about the Governance and our Board of Governors please see: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/governance/

### The Board of Governors

The twenty members of the Board of Governors are the charity trustees in law.

The membership comprises twelve independent Governors; four members of staff; two students; and the Vice Chancellor, who is the only executive member of the Board.

At present, the Board is under the leadership of Mr David Lowen who was appointed in December 2014 and will complete his second term of office in 2020.

The Board holds four business meetings each year and usually one or two away days. The Board manages a substantial proportion of its business through standing committees, which meet around four times a year: Audit Committee; Finance, Staffing & Resources Committee; Governance & Nominations Committee; Senior Staff Remuneration Committee.

Currently, all Board and Committee meetings are held in Leeds on Fridays. It is expected that independent governors will normally serve on at least one standing committee.
THE ROLE

We are seeking to appoint four independent members to fill a vacancy on our Board of Governors.

The role:

- Contributing through the Board to the setting and monitoring of our University's strategic direction to ensure sustainable delivery of our core objectives.
- Observing the highest standards of governance, sustaining a culture of transparency and accountability.
- Attending and participating in Board and Committee meetings and activities, equating to a total time commitment of approximately 15-20 days a year. Please note this role is unremunerated.

Candidates and Recruitment Criteria

Understanding of the sector and of Leeds Beckett University:

- an affinity with the values of higher education;
- empathy with the vision and values of the University;
- a commitment to widening access and equality of opportunity.

Personal attributes:

- sound judgment and the ability to grasp complex issues quickly;
- the ability to support and challenge constructively and work effectively with other governors and the Executive;
- excellent communication and listening skills;
- local, regional and / or national networks which can be leveraged to Leeds Beckett University’s benefit;
- an understanding of, and willingness to adhere to, the Nolan principles of public life.

Professional attributes:

- substantial and current experience of management at the highest levels in the private, public, or not-for profit sectors;
- the ability to work effectively in an environment that is driven by public policy and observes the highest standards of public accountability and transparency;
- demonstrable expertise in one or more of the following areas: Leadership in HE and/ or knowledge of education policy and government engagement; Senior finance or legal experience; Strategic reputation and risk management; Digital; Regulated industries.
- the capacity to develop into a senior role on the Board of Governors.
THE ROLE

Although we have a global outlook, our University is firmly rooted in Leeds, Yorkshire and the Northern economy. We aspire to ensure that our Board is fully representative of the diverse community that makes up our university. Applications from women, and from black and minority ethnic candidates would be particularly welcome as members of these groups are currently under-represented amongst our independent governor membership. All appointments will be based on merit.
HOW TO APPLY

Appointment Process and How to apply

Applications should consist of a full curriculum vitae detailing professional qualifications and experience. CVs should be accompanied by a covering letter describing briefly how candidates meet the recruitment criteria outlined in this document, why the appointment is of interest and what they believe they can bring to the role.

Please send applications to leedsbeckett@minervasearch.com by 25 February 2019. Interviews are currently planned for the final week of March.
Should you wish to have a conversation, please contact leedsbeckett@minervasearch.com

www.minervasearch.com