

Report from the Chairman of the Governance Committee

The past year has been uneventful from a governance perspective, with the constitutional status quo not being a topic of hot discussion and constitutional changes being limited to those more of a housekeeping nature.

The Board has generally functioned in a collegiate spirit, although there have been some disagreements on matters of policy and the occasional, perhaps inevitable, spat. There is, as in previous years, room for improvement on administrative matters, with minutes of meetings (including Council minutes) not appearing on a timely basis and board meetings not being scheduled sufficiently far in advance.

It is noted that over the past couple of years Council has functioned in a collegiate spirit, with meetings not being ill-blooded or long drawn out as some of those in previous years.

As for the activities of the Governance Committee itself, it has been, as mentioned above, a quiet year, with there being only one meeting of the Committee, and that by telephone. Looking to the year ahead, the Committee will be pondering on the issue of diversity, and more specifically whether anything can be done to address the current imbalances on the Board and other bodies. The Committee will also be undertaking a long overdue full review of the Articles of Association.

The Pearce Report recommends that the annual report of each Standing Committee sets out specific recommendations for Council to endorse and for Council or the Board, as appropriate, to implement, with agreed time limits for implementation. The Governance Committee has no items for specific recommendation this year.

Robert Stern 19th September 2018