

Role description for Senior Independent Governor (SIG)

The Senior Independent Governor should be an independent Governor who is not the Chair, Vice Chair or Chair of any LSBU Group committee.

Appointment

The role shall be appointed by the Board, and the term of the appointment is subject to the reasonable discretion of the Board.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Be available to the Executive, Board of Governors (full and co-opted members) and other University senior staff if they have concerns about the operation and/or conduct of the Board which contact through the normal channels of Chair, Vice Chancellor, Chair of the Group Audit and Risk Committee or other Executive members has failed to resolve, or for which such contact is inappropriate. Concerns about the performance of the Chair should be raised with the SIG in the first instance.
2. Maintain regular contact with Governors to understand their issues and concerns.
3. To lead the performance evaluation of the Chair, within an agreed framework and taking into account the views of the Governors. Led by the SIG, the Governors should meet without the Chair present at least annually to appraise the Chair's performance, and on other occasions as necessary.
4. Be available to engage with external stakeholders if the normal channels (as above) are not appropriate.

Conduct

5. To act in accordance with the accepted standards of behaviour in public life and observe the highest standards of corporate governance.
6. To act fairly and impartially at all times in the interests of LSBU as a whole, using independent judgement and maintaining confidentiality as appropriate.

Support and independent advice

7. The SIG is entitled to seek the advice and services of the Group Secretary & Clerk to the Board of Governors and their team in relation to the discharge of their duties.
8. Circumstances may arise when it will be appropriate to seek advice from independent advisers at the University's expense. The Group Secretary is able to facilitate such advice as required.

Approved by the Board of Governors, 12 March 2020.

Minor amendments 18 March 2021.