

Meet the Board of Governors

The AECC University College Board of Governors consists of 15 members this includes a Chair of the Board, eleven independent members, one member of academic staff, two Governors from the Students' Union, one ex officio - Vice-Chancellor. Please find out more about the members of the group below. *(last updated May 2022)*

Monika Barnes



Monika joined as Governor in September 2021 and is a member of the Remuneration and Human Resources Committee. She has a MSc in Organisational Behaviour from Birkbeck, a post graduate Diploma in Management Studies from Kingston University and is a History graduate of the University of Manchester. She also has a post graduate qualification in Executive Coaching from the Institute of Leadership and Management.

Monika started her career heading up a variety of training and development roles for organisations such as the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. She then set up her own consulting practice specialising in organisational and culture change delivering a range of pragmatic and transformational solutions to a variety of clients across the commercial and not for profit sectors. During her career she has advised global film studios, broadcasters, media agencies, global luxury brands, engineering design specialists, law firms, workplace design experts, unions, universities, political parties amongst many more. As a result of an increasing focus on diversity, Monika created a separate strand to her business and launched Career Savvy Women to offer specific support to increase the numbers of women in senior roles.

Monika is an independent board director of Goldsmiths College, University of London where she sits on the Governance and Human Resources Committees and is a board director of Lighthouse, the largest regional venue for performing arts outside of London.

Jeni Bremner



Jeni Bremner joined as a Governor in October 2019 and is a member of our Finance & General Purposes Committee. In April 2020 Jeni became Chair of the Board of Governors and also Chair of the Nomination Committee. Jeni graduated from Leeds University and, after then training as a Nurse, worked with People with HIV and AIDs setting up support and services in the 1980's and 1990's. She gained an MSc in Health Economics in the mid 90's and returned to work in the NHS as a policy advisor. In 1997 Jeni was seconded to the Local Government Association where she spent ten years leading the health and social care agenda and was a member of the LGA Board. In 2007 she moved to Brussels as Chief Executive of the European Health Management Association, a pan European membership organisation that focussed on innovation and good practice in health management and health management education. In 2016 she gave up work to care for her Stepfather who

had Alzheimer's during which time she also became deputy chair of Southern Health Foundation Trust.

Matt Dalton



Matthew Dalton joined the board as a student governor in May 2022. Having previously studied Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Hertfordshire, Matt is now in his third year on the Master of Chiropractic course. Holding the role of Vice-President of Education on the AECC Students' Union, he is passionate about ensuring the student voice is heard during decision making processes, at both course and board level. Outside of academic life he enjoys rock music, cricket and houseplants.

Peter Dingley



Peter has been a Governor since July 2014 and is Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors. Peter is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Until his retirement, he was the CEO of a technology spinout company from the University of Southampton. He was previously a partner with Price Waterhouse Coopers and has advised many entrepreneurial businesses as well as creating a few during his career. Peter has been a member of the Audit Committee of another university.

Michael Gibson



Michael has been a Governor since November 2019 and is a member of Finance & General Purposes Committee. Michael is currently Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors at Arts University Bournemouth and leads major capital projects oversight for the board. He is also a careers advisor for a career and enterprise company. Prior to his retirement, Michael was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers where he served in a number of key leadership roles. He has also spent time in management consulting and at Ford Motor Company (UK and North American HQ). Michael served as Efficiency Advisor to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam for two years at the start of the Blair administration.

Kim Frost



Kim worked for over 15 years as HR Director at the University of London (Senate House) and was National Chair of the Universities Human Resources Association for two years. He took semi-retirement in 2018 and is now an independent Trustee and Board member of the Royal Agricultural University and the Institute of Development Studies in Sussex, and a non-executive Director of PHES (an umbrella body for various professional

organisations in HE). He also works as a consultant on HR projects for various universities and institutions.

Mark Gurden



Mark is an independent member of the board and has been a governor 2011. Mark is a registered chiropractor and President of the Royal College of Chiropractors where he also chairs Health policy Unit. Mark is currently chair of AECC Enterprises Ltd.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Lesley Haig



Lesley is Vice-Chancellor of AECC University College and appointed in January 2019.

Read Lesley's full bio <https://www.aecc.ac.uk/about/who-we-are/executive-staff/lesley-haig/>

Fran Helmore



Francesca Helmore joined the board as a Student Governor in May 2022. Fran has been studying on the Master of Chiropractic course since 2019 and is the new Students' Union President. Prior to attending university, Fran was a senior prefect and student body president of her sixth form at home in Southwest Cornwall and thrived on helping support her fellow students through their A-Levels. Last year Fran held the position of SU Press & Communications Officer so is well-versed in the decision-making process of the university and is keen to further expand on her current knowledge and skillset. As a student governor, Fran's primary goal is to ensure the student voice is well-represented and integrated into the expansion of the university college. By achieving this, she hopes students will be provided with the best university experience possible. Outside her academic studies, Fran is a keen netball player, horse rider and animal lover – something she hopes to integrate into her future within the Chiropractic profession.

Phil Hume



Phil has been a Staff Governor since April 2017 and is a member of the Remuneration & HR Committee, Finance & General Purposes Committee and Nominations Committee. Read Phil's academic staff bio

<https://www.aecc.ac.uk/about/who-we-are/academic-staff/philip-hume/>

Peter Roberts



Peter has been a Governor since November 2014 and has been the Chair of the Remuneration & HR Committee since January 2019. He is a former University COO and is now a Visiting Academic in London and Cambridge. Peter is a Trustee of the Lightyear Foundation, a charity which aims to break down barriers to enable disabled children to enter the world of STEMM. He acts as a Judge of “F1 in Schools”, an international STEM competition for school children currently operational in over 40 countries. He is a member of the Worshipful Company of Educators and a Freeman of the City of London. Peter is a member of the Cambridge University Society of Dorset and a Vice President of Brentham Cricket Club in Middlesex.

Denise Tarrant



Denise joined as a Governor in September 2019, initially as a member of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee. In January 2020 Denise took on the role of Chair of Audit & Risk Assurance Committee. Denise is currently Director of Interim Operations Manager along with Compliance Strategy Adviser having previously been Director of Governance and Standards for Northrop Grumman National Security Solutions. Northrop Grumman is an industry leader in all aspects of computer network operations and cybersecurity and provides a range of capabilities in support of the armed forces, emergency services and other civil organisations. Denise graduated with a BEng (Hons) Special Engineering Programme (Electronics) from Brunel University in 1993. She has over twenty-five years of experience in the telecommunications and defence industries and has worked in a range of disciplines including Software and Systems Engineering, Technical Consultancy and various Project Management and Leadership roles.

Peter Vandervelde



Peter joined as a Governor in September 2021. He has a BSc Hons in Actuarial Science but his career has been in accountancy, starting with Coopers & Lybrand in 1987 as an auditor and moving to due diligence in 1996. He qualified as ACA in 2000 and worked for two years in Atlanta, USA on secondment. In 2005 he moved to a legacy firm of RSM where he started a new DD team and now leads the 100 people strong RSM due diligence business. He typically works with acquisitive companies and private equity houses in a diverse range of sectors from financial services to waste management. While an auditor Peter worked extensively with a number of HE institutions including the University of Portsmouth. At RSM Peter sits on the Board of RSM Corporate Finance LLP. Peter was born in Southampton and has lived in Ringwood for the last seven years.

Professor (Emeritus) Keith Wilkes



Keith joined us as Governor in October 2019 and serves on our Remuneration & HR Committee. His career has taken him from University College, Swansea, where he completed his undergraduate degree, to doctoral research at the University of Liverpool and then to Bournemouth University. Keith played a key role in the development of tourism education for 30 years and held key senior management positions culminating in nine years as Executive Dean before he retired in 2017. Keith has been External Examiner at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level for many HEIs both within the UK and overseas. In addition, he has considerable external involvement in course validations and approval and was a QAA Specialist Reviewer. He has been a member of the Association for Tourism in Higher Education (ATHE) Executive Committee since the early 1990s variously as Member, Secretary and Chair. Keith is currently Chair of West Moors Town Council.

(this document was last updated May 2022)