



Advisory Board Meeting November 2024



Billie Major (Chair) welcomed this year's Annual Advisory Board Guest Speaker, **Graham Ingram**, Chief Information Security Officer of Capgemini, to speak on Cyber business resilience in the wake of the growth in cyber-attacks affecting businesses, academia, government, healthcare, and critical national infrastructure. Graham ended by asking of our business leaders to consider how to drill for cyber-attack the way we do fires and acknowledge that the former is much more likely. He asked our technology students to skill themselves in how to translate what they do into language that businesses can understand, warning that otherwise businesses will not be able to recognise, assess and evaluate the risks. And finally, he expressed that our business students must drive towards a clear data strategy to make sure that they can generate the necessary level of understanding of the risks to cyber security in order to prevent and guard against it.

At the meeting, the following day, Erica Conway, CFO of the University, took the Board through the University finances and reviewed with the Board how the Business School should sit within this model. A rich dialogue took place, with key inputs from **Yogi Dewan**, around how best to leverage the School's current strong financial position, in light of difficulties being faced by other HE institutions.

After the break, discussion turned to the School's research impact strategy in the lead up to the 2029 REF (Research Excellence Framework) and the role the School wants the Board to play in this, in terms of review panels, written feedback, and impact coaching. This approach proved invaluable in the previous REF whereby the School's national positioning on Impact, rose eighteen places between 2014 and 2021. **Andraea Dawson-Shepherd** talked members through what the Board did to achieve this.

Finally, the Board said a heartfelt thank you and farewell to two longstanding members, **Sarindar Sahota** and **Renate Hornung-Draus**, who both stepped down at the end of this meeting. The networks that Sarindar has opened for academic research, student placements and projects in the health sector, during his tenure, has been immense. And Renate's unique perspective, as Head of the German Employers Federation, has been invaluable to mission of our [Work Inclusivity Research Centre](#) over the years. Furthermore, Renate has been instrumental in helping the Business School find her successor: an international practitioner based in Switzerland, who will be announced early 2025.



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