Overview
This one-day event will consider the role of Staff Governors and how they can best make an effective contribution to the work of the governing body. Staff Governors provide a direct link between the staff of the institution and the governing body, yet a balance must be struck as they are not acting as a representative of the constituency from whom they have been elected or appointed. As Governors, they should act in the best interests of the institution and accept collective responsibility for the decisions agreed by the governing body. Independent Governors may also look to Staff Governors as a source of information to help their understanding of the institution, and to gain insights into how it operates.

Aims and outcomes
The event will look at the importance of building good relationships with other members of the governing body, explore how difficult issues can be raised, and the balance between supporting and challenging the executive.

Programme
09.30  Arrival: registration and refreshments

10.00  Welcome and introductions
        Aaron Porter, Associate Director Governance, Advance HE

10.15  Understanding HE governance and decision making
        Roger Gair, University Secretary, University of Leeds

11.00  Composition of HE boards
        Alison Wheaton, Associate, Advance HE & PhD Research on University Governance, UCL Institute of Education

11.45  Refreshment break

12.00  When governance goes wrong
        Dawn Turpin, Associate, Advance HE & former Head of Governance, Open University

12.50  Lunch

13.50  Staff governor panel
        Dominic Laffy, Staff Governor and Principal Lecturer, Regent’s University London
        Matthias Feist, Member of the Board of Trustees and Employability Student Enterprise Manager, Regent’s University London
        Sarah Cowls, Staff Governor and Director of Student and Academic Services, Queen Mary University of London

14.40  Refreshment break

14.50  Table discussions

15.30  Closing remarks