

Governance Conference 2021: Evolving Governance fit for our futures

18 November 2021

Session abstracts

Deep Dive Session 1a

Inclusive futures: Could targets for board diversity help?

Chair: David Bass, Advance HE

Joined by: Arun Verma, Head of the Race Equality Charter, Advance HE; Norma Jarboe, External Advisor to the Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice, Oxford Brookes University; and Change the Race Ratio

Join us for this session where we will pose the question 'should HE set targets for board diversity?'. Our expert panel will consider the issue from their various perspectives. With the sector still to make progress in board diversity in all its forms (see our report Diversity of Governors in HE, 2020), we want to explore the role targets could play and what we can learn from other sectors where actions are in place or are in development, as illustrated by this consultation by the Financial Conduct Authority. Earlier in November, Advance HE will launch the first dedicated Board diversity and inclusion toolkit for HE as a benefit for its members. The toolkit has been developed by University of Gloucestershire, funded through our Collaborative Development Fund and in collaboration with Perrett Laver.

Deep Dive Session 1b

Governing for sustainable futures

Speakers: Phil McNaull, Strategic Finance Consultant and Client Relationship Director, Invisible Grail; Baroness Minouche Shafik, Director of London School of Economics and Political Science; and Action for Sustainability (A4S)

Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) is an institution's approach to their collective conscientiousness for social and environmental factors. First implemented in the finance and investment sectors it aims to show that an organisation is able to adapt to risk and protect the longevity of the environment and society in which it operates.

ESG factors are attracting ever-greater focus and importance for institutions in delivering their work and in shaping their strategic outlook for success. Higher education is a learning sector, so it is timely that we explore how ESG might play a helpful role in shaping institutions' approach to building their narrative and value.

Deep Dive Session 1c

Sponsored session with event sponsor, Diligent

Chair: Dottie Schindlinger, VP Thought Leadership, Diligent Institute

Speakers: Dr Filipe Morais, Lecturer in Governance and Reputation, Henley Business School

The future of modern governance centers around having diverse perspectives and skill sets represented amongst leadership, having transparency and open communication between leaders and stakeholders, and using the right set of tools to gain clarity on strategy, risks and

opportunities. Meanwhile, all of these characteristics became "must haves" during the pandemic, when institutions are pressured to maintain academic rigor, have a "digital-first" approach, and fulfill existing strategic goals despite the extraordinary circumstances. If it sounds like a tall order, it is. Now, more than ever, institutions that embrace modern governance practices will have an edge.

Join us for a candid conversation with Dottie Schindlinger, Executive Director of the Diligent Institute and author of *Governance in the Digital Age: A Guide for the Modern Corporate Board Member*, and Dr. Felipe Morais, Lecturer in Governance & Reputation for Henley Business School and author of a recent report entitled, "The independent director in society: our crisis of governance and what to do about it."

Specifically, this session will explore:

- Transforming your board to fit the times
- Why institutions are embracing digital-first strategies
- How "modern HE governance" must adapt in coming years, and what to do about it