

## STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

### GOVERNING BODY

July 2025

#### **Mr EDGAR JARDINE, CB MSc BSc**

*Chair of the Governing Body*

Following an open competition and appointment by the Department for the Economy, Mr Edgar Jardine, who served as Vice-Chair of the SUC Governing Body from 1 August 2014, took up the position as Chair with effect from 1 January 2022.

Mr Jardine is a former Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. He has also served at senior level in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, and in the former Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and as Interim Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. He was awarded the CB in 2012 for public service.

Since his retirement from the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Mr Jardine has served in a number of non-executive roles. He was a member of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland from 2012 to 2018 and of the Education Authority from 2015 to 2020. He served on the NI Policing Board as an Independent Member from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024, including as Vice Chair of the Board. He is also Chair of the Department of Finance's Statistics Advisory Committee and serves as an independent Member on Lisburn and Castlereagh Council's Governance and Audit Committee.

#### **Ms HEATHER MILLER, MBE, MBA, BA, PGDE, PG Dip Law, SFHEA**

*Vice-Chair of the Governing Body*

Ms Heather Miller is a graduate of both Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University. She has over 25 years' experience in further education, initially as a Lecturer in Business and Management and then as a Principal Lecturer in Business and Creative Studies.

Following the reorganisation of the further education sector in 2007, she was appointed to the College Management Team of South Eastern Regional College and until 2021 was the Head of Quality, Excellence and Development with a specific responsibility for the quality improvement of higher education within further education. Ms Miller is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA).

She was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College on 1 September 2019. She is a Member of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee and the HR & Remuneration Committee.

#### **Dr ANDREW BROWN BEd (Hons), MSc, PhD, FCIEA, FCollT, FRSA, FCCT**

*Teaching Staff Representative*

Dr Brown was a former Head of Drama at Ballymena Academy and is currently a Principal Lecturer in Teacher Education, Academic Head of Arts & Humanities, Head of the BEd Primary degree and a member of the Academic Leadership Team in Stranmillis University College. He has wide experience of strategic leadership and policy work and has been a representative on various bodies locally and nationally, including the Council of the NFER, the Executive Committee of the North of England Education Conference, the Council of the National Literacy Association, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the TUC, and the Executive Committee of Unions 21.

As Student President, he was previously a Governor of Stranmillis University College and has sat on the Court of the University of Ulster, was Vice-Chair of the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council and a member of the Department of Education's Strategic Advisory Group on post primary schooling. As a member of the Teachers' Negotiating Committee and several high profile working groups, Dr Brown has co-authored various schemes for teachers. In 2007, he became the youngest Northern Ireland President, and in 2010 the youngest National President in the 127-year history of the Association of Teachers & Lecturers. In 2019 he was awarded the organisation's highest honour, the ATL Order of Merit.

Dr Brown is active in the church and local community. He has sat on the Board of Antrim Borough Council's Local Strategy Partnership, on the Board of Directors of the Ulster Association of Youth Drama, and is Chair of the Board of Governors of Broughshane Primary School.

A committed Christian, he was thrilled in 2006 to have been ordained as a Ruling Elder in 2nd Broughshane Presbyterian Church and to have been a long-serving member of the Youth Board of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. He now sits on the PCI's Council for Public Affairs, holds the Chair of its State Education Committee and represents the denomination on the Executive of the Transferor Representatives' Council, being appointed in 2019 as its Vice-Chair and 2022 as its Chair.

In March 2017, Dr Brown was appointed as a Director of the newly-formed Controlled Schools' Support Council and, in May, as the Council's Vice-Chairperson. In June 2018 he was elected a Founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching.

Dr Brown was appointed to the Governing Body as Teaching Staff Representative from 4 November 2014 until 3 November 2018. He was re-appointed from 4 November 2018 to 3 November 2022 and from 4 November 2022 until 3 November 2026 following further re-election.

**Professor JONATHAN HEGGARTY MBE, BSc, PhD, PGCFHE, MCGI**  
*Principal, Stranmillis University College*

Professor Jonathan Heggarty MBE was appointed as Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Stranmillis University College in September 2021.

A graduate of Queen's University Belfast, Professor Heggarty began his career within the IT sector as a software engineer developing a range of products for multinational technology companies. In 2003, he became a Further Education (FE) lecturer and has held several curriculum positions within the sector. His last role within FE was as Director of Curriculum at Belfast Metropolitan College, where he managed and led the delivery of a wide range of full-time, part-time and work-based-learning further and higher education programmes to over 14,000 learners annually.

Since his appointment as Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Stranmillis University College, Professor Heggarty has led the University College to continue to deliver its mission of transforming the lives of children, young people and communities, through excellence in teaching, research and scholarship.

Professor Heggarty is passionate about promoting the importance of education, in both formal and informal settings, to positively change the lives of individuals and communities.

**Mr DARREN FEELY**

*Support Staff Representative*

Mr Feely has been in the post of Academic Registry Manager in Stranmillis University College since September 2018. Previous to this he worked as Admissions and Systems Officer for Queen's University Belfast for almost 10 years, during which time he was seconded to the International Office as Senior International Officer.

Mr Feely also worked as Project Manager for Craigavon Borough Council on a cross-border EU funded ICT project aimed at encouraging businesses and community groups embrace the uptake of technology.

Outside of work Mr Feely remains active on the family farm.

**Miss JESSICA MARTIN**

*Student Governor 2025-2026*

Having joined the College as an undergraduate in 2021, Miss Martin has recently graduated from Stranmillis University College with a degree in B.Ed. Primary with Numeracy and Mathematics. She was elected to the position of Students' Union President for the academic year 2025-2026 and has since been appointed as Student President on the Governing Body from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026.

Having been immersed in student life at Stranmillis over the last four years, Miss Martin brings a student perspective to the Governing Body. She looks forward to upholding the values of the College by keeping students at the centre as she represents their views.

**Ms MAJELLA CORRIGAN**

Ms Majella Corrigan was Director of Planning and Schools Provision in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and is now employed by the Department of Education.

She has over 20 years' experience working in education starting her career as a post primary teacher before moving to the Northern Ireland Assembly to establish the Assembly Education Service. She then undertook the role of English Subject Officer in the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), subsequently moving to work with the Northern Ireland Qualifications Regulator which included the role of Programme Manager on the Ministerial Review of GCSEs and A levels, before returning to the CCEA Awarding Body as Service Improvement and STEM Programme Manager. She has a BA in English, MBA, PGCE and PGDip in Educational Multimedia.

As of 1 April 2021, Ms Corrigan has been appointed as a Member of the Board of Governors of the South Eastern Regional College.

She was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 September 2019 for a period of four years to 31 August 2023 and is now serving a second term of office. She is also a Member of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee.

**DR LAVINIA BOYCE BEM, PhD, MSSC, BSc, BA**

Dr Lavinia Boyce, BEM, PhD, MSSC, BSc (2.1 Hons), BA, Diploma in Personnel Management is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and the Open University (OU). She was a Civil Servant for 21 years before transferring to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). She served 17 years

in Human Resources Management and carried out contract work as an Associate Assessor for the National Police College in Harrogate. After retiring, she was employed as a Teaching Assistant in the School of Management, QUB.

Dr Boyce is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CMCIPD) and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Management (MCMI). She was a Member of the British Academy of Management (MBAM) and served on the BAM Council as the UK part-time Doctoral Representative for 6 years. She chaired tracks at the BAM International Conferences and was a Special Interest Group, Treasurer.

She was appointed by the Education Authority as a Governor at Andrews Memorial Primary School, Comber in 2009. In 2014 she was appointed by the Department of Education as a Governor at Bloomfield Collegiate School where she served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board. She resigned in October 2019.

She has been involved in voluntary work for several years, comprising the QUB Graduates' Associations and Convocation Standing Committee. She served on these Committees and was President of the Queen's Women Graduates in 2007. Her other voluntary work includes The Royal British Legion, Caseworker; the RUC GC Foundation, Guide; Trustee and Treasurer of the Police Historical Society and fundraising for the Belfast City Hospital. In April 2022, she was appointed Trustee of the Charity Equipping for Life which is an educational charity working with Primary Schools and she Chairs the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

She was awarded the BEM in the 2017 New Year's Honours List for services to the community in Northern Ireland. She set up a postgraduate research scholarship in the QUB School of Medicine, in memory of her late parents. The scholarship is open to postgraduate students in the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine.

Dr Boyce was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 July 2020 for a period of 4 years and has been reappointed for a second term ending on 30 June 2028. She is Chair of the HR & Remuneration Committee and a Member the Finance & General Purposes Committee. She does not hold any other public appointments.

#### **Dr MAUREEN BENNETT**

Dr Bennett has almost 13 years teaching experience in the post primary sector, seven of which were as Head of English and Drama. She has also 25 years' experience within the Education and Training Inspectorate, working across all sections of education from pre-school to tertiary level education and holding the position of Assistant Chief Inspector (ACI) for six of those years. As ACI she sat on the Board of the then Department for Employment and Learning and subsequently, the Board of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

Following retirement, she held a short term consultancy post on Improvement in Pre-school Education in Serbia as a Senior Self-evaluation Expert and was also a part-time Support Officer for Research, Evaluation and Curriculum on the Special Needs Literacy Project at Stranmillis University College.

She holds a BA in English, a PGCE, DASE, a Master's Degree in Education and a PhD also in Education.

She served on the Board of Belfast Bible College between 2011 and 2022; her term of office included acting Principal for five months, Vice-Chair of the Board, and Chairperson of its Education Committee.

Between 2013 and 2020, she was convenor of the Tertiary Level Education Chaplains Committee within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Her current responsibilities include Director of the C.S. Lewis Institute (Belfast) deputy Clerk of Session in West Church, Bangor and membership of the Governing Body of Grange Primary School, Bangor – all of which are voluntary and unremunerated positions.

Dr Bennett was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College on 1 July 2020 for a period of 4 years to 30 June 2024, and is serving a second term of office. She chairs the Education Committee.

#### **Mr AARON DIVER**

Mr Diver is a talent acquisition professional with a proven track record of success in the finance industry. With over 10 years of experience, Aaron has established himself as a respected leader in the field of talent performance management and operations.

Throughout his career, Mr Diver has developed a deep understanding of the intricacies of talent acquisition and wider HR operations. His extensive knowledge of risk management, process optimisation, and project management has enabled him to consistently deliver superior results for his clients and stakeholders.

With a strong focus on collaboration and team building, Mr Diver has effectively managed cross-functional teams and fostered an environment of innovation and creativity on a multi-region basis.

Mr Diver has a bachelor's degree in law (LLB) from the University of Aberdeen with additional certifications in Project Management, Digital Marketing, Application Development and Data Science.

Mr Diver was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 April 2023 for a period of four years. He is currently Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and serves as a Member of the HR & Remuneration Committee.

#### **Ms PAULA LEITCH BA (HONS) P.G.C.E., D.A.S.E., M.Ed, PQH (NI)**

Ms Leitch is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast and been involved in the education sector for over forty years.

She has experience working as a Teacher and Assistant Principal in a large urban secondary school. Ms Leitch also had a period of secondment with the Education Training Inspectorate and participated in the scheme tutoring P.G.C.E. students preparing for secondary teaching.

Ms Leitch has been a Teacher Governor of a large Secondary school for ten years and a member of the former Belfast Education and Library Board now known as the Education Authority (EA).

She has served on a range of committees such as Audit & Risk, Finance and Education. She is currently a member of the CCEA Council and a Director of the Controlled Schools Council (not remunerated).

She was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 April 2023 for a period of four years. She is currently a Member of the Education and Audit & Risk Committee.

### **Mr SAM SNODDEN FCA**

Mr Snodden is a Chartered Accountant and lives in Carrickfergus. He trained in a major Belfast firm of Chartered Accountants before running his own professional accountancy practice. Mr Snodden then spent 23 years working in the Health Service in a range of senior finance posts, including Director of Finance for the Southern Health and Social Services Board. Mr Snodden was also foremost in the development of corporate governance in the Health Service for a number of years.

Mr Snodden was also a Non-Executive Director with the Consumer Council Northern Ireland, and chaired their Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. He was also an independent member of the NI Chest Heart and Stroke Association's Audit and Risk Committee.

As a Governor for Belfast Metropolitan College from December 2015, Mr Snodden was Chair of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee and a Member of the Human Resources Committee as well as being a Director for Springvale Educational Village Limited.

Outside of work Mr Snodden was involved as a member of a number of committees for the Chartered Accountants Ireland Ulster Society and was chair of their public sector group. He is a keen amateur photographer and plays guitar mainly in church praise bands.

Mr Snodden was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 April 2023 for a period of four years. He is also a Member of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee (Chair from 1 July 2023).

### **Mr ROBERT DRENNAN**

Mr Drennan studied Latin, Greek and Hebrew as an undergraduate at Queen's University, Belfast, graduating with a BA (Honours). He was a successful applicant for the Home Office Graduate Entry Scheme and worked in the public sector for 35 years, spending 20 years in senior management roles. He completed professional courses in England, Scotland, the Netherlands, USA and Canada.

Mr Drennan was a part-time student at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, obtaining a Master of Studies degree. Latterly he obtained a Master of Science degree in Leadership and Management from QUB, writing his dissertation on ethics and decision making.

Mr Drennan was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 April 2023 for a period of four years. He is a Member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

### **Ms KIM SCOTT MSc BEd (Hons)**

Ms Scott is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, and has over thirty years' experience working in Education, beginning her career as a teacher in a large post primary school in Belfast.

Ms Scott was Head of the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service within the South-Eastern Education and Library Board and held several senior positions within the NI Education Authority, including as Interim Director of Education. She has extensive experience in School Improvement, Strategic Area Planning, Community Planning, School Governance, Teacher Professional Learning and Development, and Special Education.

Ms Scott was a member of the Ards and North Down Strategic Community Planning Partnership for seven years, serving as Chair for three years. She has previously been a Member of the Governing Body of the South-Eastern Regional College, and a Governor on the Board of Bloomfield Collegiate School.

She is passionate about education and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role.

Ms Scott was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 April 2023 for a period of four years. She is also a Member of the Education Committee.

#### **Ms UNA NIC EOIN**

Ms Eoin has been Executive Producer at Prime Cut Productions since 2009. Since then she has produced over 26 shows for the company including the multi-award winning Red, Removed, and Scorch all of whom also toured internationally.

In addition, she has produced Oona Doherty's critically acclaimed internationally touring dance work Hard To Be Soft: A Belfast Prayer across Ireland, the UK and Europe. It remains the only show to simultaneously feature in both the Culture Ireland and British Council International Showcases at Edinburgh International Festival. She has also produced its follow-up Lady Magma in 2019-2020.

Prior to this, Ms Eoin who has worked in the arts sector since 1992, has been Artist in Residence for Wheelworks, Drama Tutor at the Centre for Performing Arts at Belfast Metropolitan College for four years before becoming Head of Education and Outreach at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast. In 2006 she became Creative Director at Creative Media Partnerships and subsequently Arts Development Officer at Belfast City Council.

Ms Eoin has delivered presentations at a variety of conferences and events in Belfast, Galway, London, Sarajevo and Edinburgh for organisations that include Creative Europe, Queens University Belfast, National University of Ireland, Theatre NI/Theatre Forum and IPAY Philadelphia. She is a member of IETM. Ms Eoin was Chair of Ponydance Dance Company from 2014-21 and an Artistic Associate of Streetwise Community Circus from 2008 to 2020.

Ms Eoin was appointed to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College from 1 April 2023. She is also a Member of the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee.