

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Council  
held on 19 March 2010

**PRESENT:** Mr B. M Gray (in the Chair); Vice-Chancellor; Mr A. Baker; Dr L. J. Banton; Dr G. Brown; Ms H. Child; Dr K Davidson; Professor P. J. Diggle (*except for CO.10/26*); Ms G. Gardner; Mr F. Fitzherbert-Brockholes; Mr J. Hadfield; Professor S. Henig; Professor G. Johnes; Mr L. King; Councillor G. Marsland; Mr G. Middlebrook; Mr G. Parker; Mr M. Payne; Mr R. Pickles; Professor H. Thomason; Mr R. Turner; Ms L. Willis.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Miss F. M. Aiken; Professor A. G. Chetwynd; Professor A. C. Gatrell; Professor R. D. McKinlay; Professor T. J. McMillan; Mr A. C. Neal; Mrs S. Randall-Paley; Mr L. Richardson; Ms V. Tyrrell; Mrs L. M. Wareing.

CO.10/19 Election of next LUSU President

The Chair congratulated Mr Robbie Pickles on his election as the next LUSU President.

CO.10/20 Declarations of interest

Two members of Council declared interests in points under discussion which are recorded in the relevant minutes.

CO.10/21 Presentation: Dean, School of Health and Medicine

*Document: SEC/2010/2/0300*

The Dean of the School of Health and Medicine, Professor Tony Gatrell, gave a presentation on the activities of the School and its future development plans. He drew attention to the following.

- The new developments since he had last reported to Council:
  - the creation of four divisions: Biomedical and Life Sciences, Health Research, Medicine, the Centre for Training and Development;
  - the appointment of Dr Gavin Brown as Deputy Dean;

- research grants awarded;
- the research focus upon the following themes:
  - ageing, supportive and end of life care;
  - mental health;
  - public health;
  - infectious disease.
- Research activity:
  - developing sustainable international links and projects;
  - increasing research excellence;
  - increasing outreach research activity.
- Teaching activity:
  - developing sustainable international programmes:
    - success in establishing Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIECS)
    - ongoing development of undergraduate medical education
    - the ongoing discussions concerning the accommodation to be occupied by the School.

During discussion Council members expressed support for the work of the School of Health and Medicine, for what had been achieved already and for planned future developments.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to receive the report and to thank Professor Gatrell for his presentation.

CO.10/22 Minutes: report of meeting on 4 February 2010

*Document: SEC/2010/2/0301*

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the minutes as set out.

CO.10/23 Current schedule of future business

*Document: SEC/2010/2/0302*

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note the rolling schedule of business.

CO.10/24 Vice-Chancellor's report

*Document: VC/10/R002*

The Vice-Chancellor drew attention to his written report and to the following points:

- (a) that all the major CapEx projects are making good progress despite some problems relating to LICA and Waterside;
- (b) the recent award of the University's third Queen's Anniversary Prize at a ceremony in London, this time for work related to sustainable agriculture;
- (c) the work undertaken by the 94 Group in anticipation of the General Election;
- (d) Professor Adrian Smith's review of postgraduate education;
- (e) the 2010 Ideas Festival to be held in the University in April;
- (f) the upcoming Budget in relation to the HE sector.

During discussion Mr Geoff Marsland declared an interest in connection with the University's Wind Turbine planning application which was referenced in the Vice-Chancellor's written report.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note the Vice-Chancellor's report.

CO.10/25 LUSU President's report

*Document: SEC/2010/2/0345*

The LUSU President drew attention to his written report and to the following points:

- (a) his regret that LUSU had not been involved in discussions when Lord Young visited the University recently;
- (b) the recent elections for LUSU full-time Officers;
- (c) the recent approval of the amended LUSU constitution which now meets the requirements of the Charity Commission;
- (d) the upcoming annual Roses competition against York and LUSU's gratitude for additional financial support given by the University;
- (e) the success of the recent Campus Festival held on 12/13 March;
- (f) LUSU's prominent support for the NUS General Election campaign;
- (g) the Vice-Chancellor's recent interview in SCAN.

In response to point (a) the Vice-Chancellor explained that students' unions had been excluded from discussions during Lord Young's visits to HEIs specifically at the request of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note the LUSU President's report.

CO.10/26 Finance

*Documents: FIN/10/20; FIN/10/17 (previously circulated)*

(A) **HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING UPDATE**

The Director of Finance reported that:

- (a) there were no surprises for the University contained in the HEFCE grant letter which represented a flat cash settlement for Lancaster which was a better position than the modelling scenario used in the Financial Forecasts discussed by Council at its February meeting;
- (b) the HEFCE figures would now be used in the 2010/11 budget setting process, and revised financial forecasts and headline budgets would be brought before Council in June.

(B) **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

The Director of Finance drew attention to her report as set out and, in particular, to the upgrade in the University's Standard and Poors credit rating to A+ from A, which was an excellent achievement in a difficult economic climate and whilst undertaking a major financial restructuring project.

(C) **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2010**

The latest Management Accounts had been circulated to Council members.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note:

- (i) the excellent Standard and Poors credit rating;
- (ii) the update on Higher Education funding from the Director of Finance;
- (iii) the report of the Director of Finance;
- (iv) the Management Accounts as at 31 January 2010.

CO.10/27 Reappointment of Senior Officers

*Document: SEC/2010/2/0304*

Professor Diggle declared a personal interest and withdrew from the meeting for this item.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the recommendations of Senate for the reappointment of Senior Officers as set out.

*Documents: SEC/2010/2/0293; SEC/2010/2/0292; SEC/2010/2/0307; SEC/2010/2/0333*

(A) **STATUTE 20**

The University Secretary drew the attention of Council to the proposal as set out. She reminded Council members that they had approved the proposal in principle *nem con* on 4 February 2010, and that Senate had, on 19 February 2010, concurred with the proposal subject to minor drafting changes which had been incorporated into the document now before Council. The Statute changes would require Privy Council approval before they could be implemented. The new and amended Ordinances could only be implemented once the Privy Council had agreed the Statutes.

THE COUNCIL AGREED BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION, with:

16 votes in favour  
5 against  
1 abstention,

- (i) to note that the Senate has concurred with the proposals as set out in Appendices 1 and 2;
- (ii) to approve the proposals.

(B) **RESOLUTIONS FROM COURT**

Council was reminded:

- (a) that it had decided, at its meeting on 4 February 2010, to reconvene the Council Working Party on the impact of tuition fees and to invite Mr Rick Turner to continue as Chair;
- (b) that it was now required formally to consider the Court Resolution and to decide whether it wished to take any further action.

The University Secretary reported that the first meeting of Council Working Party had been scheduled for 29 March 2010.

During discussion:

- (a) the LUSU President, Mr Michael Payne urged that Council should give further consideration to the question of who should chair the Council Working Party;
- (b) it was emphasised that all lay members of Council are independent;

- (c) the tight timescale of the Browne Review was noted together with the consequent need for speed if the deadline for submissions to that body is to be met;
- (d) the need for time and energy to be focussed on discussion of the Browne Review Group's recommendations when they are made public.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to consider the views of Court and agreed that it wished to take no further action in relation to the Court Resolution in respect of Higher Education Funding and Fees.

(C) **SCHOOL OF LIFELONG LEARNING AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION/  
DCE**

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of Senate that:

- (i) the School of Lifelong Learning and Widening Participation be closed from 31 July 2010;
- (ii) the Department of Continuing Education should cease to exist as an independent academic department, with its continuing activities being transferred, as from 31 July 2010, to the Division of Marketing and External Linkages within Central Services.

(D) **COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS/COMPUTING**

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of Senate to:

- (i) close the existing departments of Computing and Communication Systems as from 31 July 2010;
- (ii) establish a new School of Computing and Communications with effect from 1 August 2010.

CO.10/29 Risk Register

*Document: FIN/2010/0308*

The Director of Finance drew attention to the Risk Register as set out, explaining that since the Register had last been brought before Council some risks had been downgraded and others elevated.

During discussion it was noted that:

- (a) there were a large number of different risks included in the Register;
- (b) whilst the relative importance accorded to different risks might sometimes be difficult to understand it was important to remember that both likelihood and impact were taken into account in assessing the level of risk.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note the report.

CO.10/30 Key Performance Indicators

*Documents: SEC/2010/0310; PSU/2010/0032; PSU/2010/0033*

- (A) **UPDATED KPI BALANCED SCORECARD**
- (B) **THEMATIC REPORT ON RESEARCH**

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to receive the balanced scorecard and the thematic report on Research.

CO.10/31 Nominations Committee

*Document: SEC/2010/2/0295*

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the recommendations of the Nominations Committee as set out.

CO.10/32 Emeritus and Continuing membership

*Document: SEC/2010/2/0309*

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve new emeritus and continuing membership appointments as set out.

CO.10/33 Review of current meeting

Council members expressed themselves happy with the arrangements made.

CO.10/34 Standing Committees

*Documents: SEC/2010/2/0290; CRO/10/04; SEC/2010/2/0313; SEC/2010/2/0314*

- (A) **AUDIT COMMITTEE, MEETING OF 26 FEBRUARY 2010**
- (B) **COLLEGE AND RESIDENCE COMMITTEE, MEETING OF 28 JANUARY 2010**
- (C) **ESTATES COMMITTEE, MEETING OF 12 FEBRUARY 2010**
- (D) **FINANCE COMMITTEE, MEETING OF 24 FEBRUARY 2010**

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note the Committee reports and to confirm the actions taken.