

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

Minutes of a meeting of the Council
held on 7 May 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; Mr F. Fitzherbert-Brockholes; Mr J. Hadfield; Professor S. Henig; Professor G. Johnes; Mr L. King; Councillor G. Marsland; Mr G. Parker; Mr M. Payne; Professor H, Thomason; Mr R. Turner; Ms L. Willis.

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss F. M. Aiken; Professor A. G. Chetwynd; Professor A. M. McEnery; Professor R. D. McKinlay; Mrs S. Randall-Paley; Mr C. Thrush; Mrs L. M. Wareing.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ms G. Gardner; Mr G. Middlebrook; Mr R. Pickles.

CO.10/35 Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CO.10/36 Presentation: Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor McEnery, updated Council members on developments in the Faculty since his last presentation in October 2008. He drew attention to the following:

- the improvement in A-level entry scores for undergraduate students admitted to FASS degree programmes;
- the improvement in financial performance through the exercise of financial discipline;
- the reverse of the decline in postgraduate admissions;
- the introduction of mechanisms to assist staff in making successful research grant applications which has resulted in a 22.5% uplift;
- the reorganisation of administrative support in the Faculty to make it more efficient and effective;
- the realignment of academic departments through the Resilience Project.

In conclusion Professor McEnery noted that:

- the process of policy reform was now complete and the new policies implemented;
- the Faculty strategic plan had been formulated and implemented;
- as a result of these actions, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Lancaster is, compared to corresponding areas in other HEIs, relatively well positioned to cope with what is expected to be a difficult period for all arts and social sciences activities across the UK HE sector.

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

CO.10/37 Minutes: report of meeting on 19 March 2010

Document: SEC/2010/2/0472

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the minutes as set out subject to an amendment to CO.10/21 to make it clear that the plan to bring about a new home for the School of Health and Medicine through the refurbishment of an existing building is still under discussion and has not yet been finally resolved.

CO.10/38 Current schedule of future business

Document: SEC/2010/2/0474

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note the rolling schedule of business.

CO.10/39 Vice-Chancellor's report

Document: VC/10/R003

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

- (a) the effects of the disruption to air traffic, caused by the volcanic eruption in Iceland, on University staff, students and business and the actions taken to mitigate the impact;
- (b) the third annual Ideas Festival which took place on 29 April 2010;
- (c) Lancaster's success in the annual Roses Competition against York University which took place on 30 April to 2 May 2010;
- (d) recent visits to the University campus during the General Election campaign by Ed Miliband, David Willetts and by Eddie Izzard;
- (e) the 'Award for Best Corporate Workplace' in the North recently made to the new ISS building.

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

CO.10/40 LUSU President's report

Document: SEC/2010/2/0497

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

- (a) Lancaster's convincing victory over York University in the annual Roses Competition hosted by Lancaster and the thanks due to the University for funding support and the support of staff;
- (b) recent successes by LUSU in awards competitions:
 - the Gold Sound Impact Award made in March;
 - the Gold Award made to LUSU Licensed premises for the Sugar House;
 - the Stage 2 listing for LUSU for a Green Gown Award;
 - an invitation by the NUS to apply for a Best Campaign Award and Best Students' Union of the Year Award;
- (c) the hard work carried out by LUSU to encourage engagement with the recent General Election by Lancaster University students, including two Parliamentary Candidates' Debates which were very successful.

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

CO.10/41 Finance

Documents: FIN/10/35; FIN/10/37; FIN/09/27 (previously circulated)

(A) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Director of Finance drew attention to her written report as set out and confirmed that the University was on course to meet its target surplus in 2009/10.

(B) HEFCE GRANT LETTER REPORT

The Director of Finance drew attention to the HEFCE grant letter report as set out.

(C) MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2010

The latest Management Accounts had been circulated to Council members.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note:

- (i) the report of the Director of Finance;
- (ii) the HEFCE grant letter report;
- (iii) the Management Accounts as at 28 February 2010.

Documents: SEC/2010/2/0468; SEC/2010/2/0476; SEC/2010/2/0483

(A) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Director of Human Resources drew attention to his written report and to the following:

- (a) progress in the current round of national pay negotiations and the wish of the University to opt into the national negotiations for 2010;
- (b) the recent Employment Tribunal ruling against the University together with confirmation that new institutional processes have been implemented;
- (c) a progress report on the work of the Joint Review Group (JRG) which has been looking at the USS pension scheme since 2008, noting that:
 - the JRG has failed to reach agreement on a way forward;
 - as a result, the employers and the unions have produced separate sets of proposals;
 - the USS Joint Negotiating Committee is expected to consider these two sets of proposals in July 2010.

(B) REPORT ON POTENTIAL REDUNDANCIES

The report on known potential redundancies for the period August to December 2010 was before Council. The Director of Human Resources noted that six indefinite posts were included in the total number of expected redundancies.

(C) REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY'S ENGAGEMENT WITH TRADE UNIONS

The report was before Council as set out.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to:

- (i) note the written and oral reports of the Director of Human Resources;
- (ii) approve the proposal that the University opt into national pay negotiations in the forthcoming round in 2010/11;
- (iii) note the report on potential redundancies as set out;
- (iv) confirm that a continuing need for redundancies exists;
- (v) remit the detailed consideration of potential cases involving academic staff to the Redundancy Committee;
- (vi) note the report on the University's engagement with trade unions.

CO.10/43 Governance

Documents: SEC/2010/2/0477; SEC/2010/2/0473

The University Secretary drew attention to her written report as set out and drew attention to the following points:

- (a) the proposals relating to committees;
- (b) the implications for the University of changes to the Charities Act
- (c) the HEFCE consultation about its revised Financial Memorandum, noting that:
 - HEFCE appeared to have taken on board comments from the sector;
 - the final version would be brought to the June meeting of Council.

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to:

- (i) note the report;
- (ii) approve the proposals relating to committees as set out;
- (iii) approve the reappointment of internal auditors.

CO.10/44 Risk Register

Document: SEC/2010/2/0475

THE COUNCIL RESOLVED to note the report.

CO.10/45 Key Performance Indicators

Documents: SEC/2010/2/0494; PSU/2010/0046; PSU/2010/0047

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

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

CO.10/46 Strategy: the HE environment and the political context

Council members received a presentation from the Vice-Chancellor. He emphasised the difficulty in making an analysis, given the inconclusive election result, but sketched out a number of possible scenarios and drew Council's attention, in particular to the following:

- (a) the main higher education related items in each of the three party manifestos;
- (b) the particular difficulties in trying to forecast the 2010 admissions process given the number of possible variables and unknowns;
- (c) the continuing uncertainty in relation to the HE funding, and the amount and timing of possible further cuts.

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

CO.10/47 Emeritus and Continuing membership

Document: SEC/2010/2/0478

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

CO.10/48 Review of current meeting

Council members expressed themselves happy with the arrangements made.

CO.10/49 Standing Committees

Documents: SEC/2010/2/0450; SEC/2010/2/0488

- (A) **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE:** meeting of 20 January 2010
- (B) **SENATE:** meeting of 24 February 2010

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