

COUNCIL – MINUTES

18 May 2018

PRESENT: Pro-Chancellor (in the chair); Vice-Chancellor; Professor A. M. Atherton (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Mr D. Barron (lay member); Mr M. J. Dormer (lay member); Professor J. Garside (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Mrs R. S. Georghiou (lay member); Professor S. Guy (Senate representative); Mr I. Johnson (lay member); Professor N. Johnson (Senate representative); Mr R. Johnson (lay member); Professor K. C. Jones (Senate representative); Lord Price (lay member); Mr S. Reynolds (lay member); Professor E. Ritchie (lay member); Professor J. Taylor (Senate representative); Mr J. Woolf (Students' Union President).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P. Boustead (Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development) (*attended for item 12*); Dr G. Carden (Director of Strategic Projects and Chief of Staff) (*attended for item 8*); Mr N. Fragel (Director of Development and Alumni Relations) (*attended for item 9*); Mr S. Franklin (Director of Marketing and Engagement) (*attended for item 9*); Ms H. Hunter (Committee Secretary); Mr S. J. Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Governance); Ms R. Llystyn Jones (Students' Union President elect); Ms N. C. Owen (Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary); Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley (Director of Finance) (*attended for items 1-8 and 12*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ms A. Kettle (student representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (lay member); Mrs V. Young (lay member).

1. WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Council noted apologies for absence.
- 1.2 Lord Price was welcomed to his first meeting of Council and Ms Rhiannon Llystyn Jones was welcomed back to Council having been elected for a second time as the Students' Union President.
- 1.3 Mr Joshua Woolf was thanked for his contributions to Council as he was due to step down as the Students' Union President.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

PAPER A

- 3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2018.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

5. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE AND QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

5.1 The Vice-Chancellor provided an oral update on activities of interest to Council, including:

- (a) that the University had won the recent Roses tournament and congratulating students for the victory;
- (b) a taskforce had been established following the recent Gender Pay Gap report and was due to provide an interim report in November;
- (c) the sector's trade unions were considering an offer from the employers in the current round of pay negotiations;
- (d) the Office for Students (OfS) had now replaced HEFCE and the grant settlements for the coming year had recently been confirmed;
- (e) the University was well represented on Research Excellence Framework (REF) panels;
- (f) the Medical School had been awarded an additional 60 student numbers following a competitive bidding process;
- (g) the University had moved from 9th to 8th position in the Complete University Guide, as well as improving from having 14/34 to 18/31 subject areas classified in the top ten.

5.2 Council noted the report.

5.3 **(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)**

6. PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' UNION REPORT

PAPER B

6.1 The President of the Students' Union introduced the report.

6.2 Council noted the report, including:

- (a) the Students' Union block grant would be considered through the normal budget-setting processes (by Finance and General Purposes Committee before recommendation to Council);
- (b) there had been significant investment in student welfare and wellbeing services over recent years and enhancing the service continued to be a priority. In particular, working practices ensured that severe and urgent cases were dealt with as an immediate priority and for the remainder of cases the University was meeting its three-week waiting time benchmark. However, the University faced a significant pressure in the delivery of support services due to its location where the NHS waiting lists were higher than the national average and impacted on timely referral. It was recognised that there needed to be enhancement of co-ordination and communication of points of contact for student welfare and this was being taken forward.

7. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: MEETING UPDATE

ORAL UPDATE

7.1 Mr David Barron, the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee reported on the meeting from the previous day, noting in particular:

- (a) that the Committee had carefully considered and recommended to Council approval of the business case for the expansion plan for the Engineering Department;
 - (b) at this point the University would need to identify an additional £3M to meet its KPI for adjusted net operating cashflow;
 - (c) the approval of capital projects under delegated authority.
- 8. UA92 UPDATE REPORT** **PAPER C**
(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
- 9. ANNUAL REPORT ON FUNDRAISING** **PAPER D**
- 9.1 The Director of Development and Alumni Relations introduced the paper providing an update on philanthropic fundraising progress over the past twelve months.
- 9.2 Council noted the report and Council’s important role in advocacy.
- 10. BUSINESS CASE FOR ENGINEERING EXPANSION** **PAPER E**
(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
- 11. UPDATE ON MAJOR CAPITAL AND REVENUE ESTATE PROJECTS** **PAPER F**
- 11.1 Council noted the report providing an update on major capital and revenue estates projects.
- 12. UNIVERSITY SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (USS): REVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE 2017/18 ACTIVITY RELATING TO REFORMS AND INDUSTRIAL ACTION** **PAPER G**
- 12.1 The Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development introduced the report providing a summary of the recent USS pensions dispute, UCU industrial action, the position and responses of the University and the establishment of an expert panel to review the scheme.
- 12.2 There was extensive discussion about the risks associated with the current position, including the limited timing for the expert panel to be established and undertake its review, and the financial implications for the University of an imposition of Rule 76.4. The importance of ensuring effective internal communications with staff over the coming months as well as external lobbying was noted.
- 13. COUNCIL MEMBERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK** **PAPER H**
- 13.1 The Director of Strategic Planning and Governance introduced the report providing an overview of the OfS’s expectations of the University’s governing body and governance under the new regulatory framework and set within the context of ongoing governance requirements, including the CUC Higher Education Code of Governance and the responsibilities of trustees of an exempt charity.
- 13.2 Council noted the report.

- 14. REPLACING COURT WITH AN ANNUAL MEETING: NEXT STEPS** **PAPER I**
- 14.1 Council noted the report providing an update on the planned consultation and timing to inform future meeting arrangements for the annual public meeting following the disestablishment of Court, and follow up communications with Court members.
- 15. AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER, STATUTES AND ORDINANCES** **PAPER J**
- 15.1 Council carefully considered the proposed changes to the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances as set out in the paper, noting that it had provided initial approval for the amendments at its meeting on 16 March and that Senate had provided concurrence for the proposed amendments at its meeting on 2 May, in line with the requirements set out at Charter clauses 23, 18(2) and 19(1).
- 15.2 Council was seeking to amend the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances to ensure alignment with good governance practices and to reflect the changing needs of the organisation.
- 15.3 Consequently Council resolved to approve:
- (i) the proposed amendments to the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances;
 - (ii) that the proposed amendments to the Charter and Statutes be submitted to the Privy Council for consideration for approval;
 - (iii) that the proposed amendments to the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances be implemented following approval from the Privy Council to amend the Charter and Statutes.
- 16. COLLEGE PRINCIPALS: APPOINTMENTS** **PAPER K**
- 16.1 Council approved the appointment of the College Principals as set out in the paper.
- 17. UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS: PROPOSALS UNDER STATUTE 10** **PAPER L**
- 17.1 Council approved the proposals for Emeritus Professor appointments as set out in the paper, following recommendation by Senate.
- 18. COUNCIL CHAIR'S ACTIONS** **PAPER M**
- 18.1 Council noted the report.
- 19. WRITTEN REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS** **PAPER N**
- 19.1 Council noted the written reports.
- 20. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS** **PAPER O**
- 20.1 Council noted the schedule.
- 21. REFLECTIONS ON THE AWAY DAY**
- 21.1 Council discussed key reflections of the away day.