

Council Minutes: 14 October 2022

(hybrid meeting)

PRESENT: Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt (Pro-Chancellor) (in the Chair); Professor Andy Schofield (Vice-Chancellor); David Barron (lay member); Professor Steve Bradley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Alun Branigan (lay member); Hanah Burgess (lay member); Anthony Carey (lay member); Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); India Ellis (Students' Union President); Adrian Jonas (lay member); Claire Leitch (Senate representative); Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Marcia Reid Fotheringham (lay member) (online); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor) (online); Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone (Senate representative); Victoria Phillips (student member); His Hon. Phillip Sycamore (lay member); Maureen Whilby (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Professor Peter Atkinson (member of University Executive Board/Executive Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology) (online) (*for item 7*); Andrew Burgess (Director of Estates, Facilities and Commercial Services) (*for item 9*); Claire Geddes (Committee Clerk); Professor Alisdair Gillespie (University Academic Dean) (*for item 10*); Professor Simon Guy (member of University Executive Board/Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global)) (*for items 7-9*); Professor Louise Heathwaite (member of University Executive Board/Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)) (online) (*for item 7*); Professor Willem Hollmann (member of University Executive Board/Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) (online) (*for item 7*); Simon Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Deputy Secretary); Professor Sarah Kemp (member of University Executive Board/Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)) (*for item 7*); Alicja Konstantinidis-Pereira (Head of Planning and Analytics) (*for item 10*); Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary); Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance); John Rushforth (Observer/AdvanceHE).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears (lay member).

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Council noted the apologies for absence received for this meeting.
- 1.2 The Pro-Chancellor welcomed new lay members Alun Branigan and Adrian Jonas to their first meeting in role.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 8 JULY 2022

PAPER A

- 3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2022.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 Council noted that the management of serious incident student cases (welfare) was being considered as an item the Audit Committee would consider during the course of this academic year.

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

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- 5.1 Council noted the written report from the Executive circulated on 7 October 2022. The Vice-Chancellor reported on the following.

(i) The appointment of the Right Hon. Nasrat Ghani MP as the Minister for Science and Investment Security and continuing concern regarding the UK's continuation of affiliation to Horizon Europe.

(ii) ***Restricted and Confidential***

(iii) UCU's aggregated ballot for industrial action, due to close shortly.

(iv) Welcome Week activity and the preliminary outcomes of the 2022/23 recruitment cycle highlighting the ongoing mobility challenges for some overseas students, related scenario planning being undertaken regarding short- to longer-term risks, and projects under development to seek to diversify income in a number of ways, including through online provision.

(v) ***Restricted and Confidential***

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

(vii) Ongoing conversations with the Students' Union officers to develop a coherent and measured response to the cost of living crisis for students and staff.

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- 5.2 Council noted the report from the Vice-Chancellor.

6. PRESIDENT, LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

PAPER B

- 6.1 The President reported on the following.

(i) The Students' Union's Welcome Week activity and the student body's strong engagement with it.

(ii) The cost of living crisis, the range of potential implications for students and related initiatives implemented by other institutions. She stated her view that a nuanced response was required to reflect the complexities of the situation and impacts on academic, welfare and social matters.

- (iii) Media coverage of insufficient student accommodation supply to meet demand in other university towns and cities and the continuing need for the University to liaise with the City Council and third-party providers in order to plan effectively and avoid similar issues.
- 6.2 Council noted the existing welfare support measures in place to offer emergency and longer-term financial assistance to students and discussed a range of potential measures for consideration. In relation to student accommodation, members noted the current assessment of the Management and the City Council was that there was a sufficient supply of student accommodation across the city and campus, but this would continue to be monitored given the potential impact of recent legislation around tenancies and recent expansion of private sector bed space in the City.
- 6.3 Council noted the report from the President of the Students' Union and requested that a section on the financial position of the Union be included in future reports.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 7. INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2022/23** **ORAL UPDATE**
- 7.1 The Vice-Chancellor presented an overview of the University Executive's priorities for 2022/23 (enhancing the University's reputation and standing in education, facilitating a 4* research and engagement culture, optimising the use of and growing University resources and reanimating the campus) plans for delivery and priorities relationships to the key performance indicators. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) provided a progress report regarding the Cyber Corridor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) regarding the Eden Project and regional Levelling Up activity.
- 7.2 Council considered and endorsed the priorities, commenting on the need for an inclusive approach to be taken to maintaining staff engagement, a sustained focus on the student experience and consideration to be given to the role of the Colleges now and into the future. Members noted that the conversation regarding the role of the Colleges could potentially begin with activity planned prior to November Council meeting on 25 November 2022.
- 7.3 Council considered the opportunities arising from the recently published KEF results and cyber quarter project. In the case of the latter, the potential to leverage further government funding was discussed.
- 7.4 Council noted the Institutional Priorities for this academic year and that a joint meeting between the Council and Senate was scheduled for January 2023 and would include consideration of income diversification.
- 8. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL PROGRESS REPORT** **ORAL UPDATE**
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| 9. | ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER C |
| 10. | NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY (NSS) 2022 RESULTS
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER D |
| 11. | DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS | PAPER E |
| 11.1 | The Director of Finance provided a summary of the Draft Annual Accounts for 2021/22 (as received by FGPC on 23 September 2022) emphasising the strong end of year position achieved as a result of increased revenue performance, despite the early release of additional expenditure from the planning round for 2022/23. This additional expenditure would now be seen in the early financial quarters of this financial year. | |
| 11.2 | Members discussed the importance of the University’s financial position being aligned with its strategic aspiration and whether the achievement of the current adjusted net operating cashflow (ANOC) target would provide sufficient capacity in to resource its ambition in the medium term. | |
| 11.3 | Council <u>noted</u> the report and commended the Executive and Finance Team on the draft result. | |
| 12. | COUNCIL DIVERSITY MONITORING ANNUAL REPORT
<i>Restricted and Confidential</i> | PAPER F |
| | STARRED AGENDA ITEMS | |
| 13.* | TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE REDUNDANCY COMMITTEE:
PROPOSED CHANGES | PAPER 1 |
| 13.1 | The Council <u>approved</u> changes as proposed to its Redundancy Committee’s terms of reference. | |
| 14.* | TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE (FGPC): PROPOSED CHANGES | PAPER 2 |
| 14.1 | The Council <u>approved</u> the changes as proposed to its Finance and General Purposes Committee’s terms of reference. | |
| 15.* | USE OF UNIVERSITY SEAL | PAPER 3 |
| 15.1 | The Council <u>noted</u> the annual report on the use of the University Seal. | |

16.* WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS

PAPER 4

16.1 Council noted the following written reports of meetings:

Audit Committee, meeting of 13 July 2022

Estates Committee, meeting of 12 September 2022

Finance and General Purposes Committee, meeting of 23 September 2022

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

17. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

PAPER G

17.1 Council noted the proposed forward schedule of business and that a joint meeting between the Council and Senate was scheduled for the 26 January 2023.

17.2 Council noted plans to explore holding the 2023 Council Away Day at UA92 in Manchester.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18.1 There was no other business.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19.1 The next meeting will be held from 09:00-12:30 on Friday 25 November 2022, followed by lunch. There will be a visit to a number of the Colleges and a dinner with Principals and Presidents of the Colleges on Thursday 24 November 2022.