

Council Minutes: 13 October 2023

PRESENT: Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt (Pro-Chancellor) (in the Chair); Professor Andy Schofield (Vice-Chancellor); Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears (lay member); Professor Steve Bradley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Alun Branigan (lay member); Anthony Carey (lay member); Cerys Evans (Students' Union President); Adrian Jonas (lay member); Claire Leitch (Senate representative); Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Marcia Reid Fotheringham (lay member) (online); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor) (online) ; Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone (Senate representative); His Hon. Phillip Sycamore (lay member) (online); and Maureen Whilby (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Geddes (Committee Clerk); Phill Dixon (Director of People and Organisational Effectiveness *for item 10*); Simon Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Deputy Secretary); Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary); Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance); Professor Wendy Robinson (Pro Vice-Chancellor Education) *for items 7 and 8*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Hanah Burgess (lay member); and Josh Newsham (student member).

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Council noted the apologies for absence received for this meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed Cerys Evans, the Students' Union President for 2023/24, to her first meeting.
- 1.3 The Chair informed Council that he had recently accepted Professor Sir Ian Diamond's resignation from Council, after he had accepted a Pro-Chancellor role at another university. The Chair confirmed that Marcia Reid Fotheringham would chair Audit Committee meeting on 30 October 2023 (in her role as deputy chair), and that the Nominations Committee on 20 October 2023 would consider longer term arrangements for the Chair of Audit Committee alongside the search for a second Deputy Pro-Chancellor and bring recommendations back to Council.
- 1.4 The Chair commented on the impacts of the renewed conflict in the Middle East on the University's diverse community, and that the safety and security of all staff and students remained of paramount concern. He reflected on the sensitivities relating to ensuring freedom of expression and academic freedom within the law at the University.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 7 July 2023 **PAPER A**

3.1 Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 July 2023.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 There were no matters arising.

5. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE AND QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE
Some Restricted and Commercial in Confidence

6. PRESIDENT, LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION: REPORT **PAPER C**

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) Her concerns regarding issues some students were facing regarding the cost of living, balancing the need to study and part-time work, and loneliness. She highlighted further proposals the Students' Union would be making to help alleviate such issues and its desire to work in partnership with the University and its Colleges regarding these concerns.

6.2 Council considered the concerns raised and the ongoing initiatives within the University to support students in need, noting the systemic issues arising from the current student grant funding system. Members noted that Council would receive a presentation at the November Council on student employability, including the opportunities for students to work during their time at University. Council encouraged learning from colleagues at UA92, as to how changing student needs might potentially be accommodated, for example, through timetabling to enable part time employment.

6.3 Council noted the report from the President of the Students' Union and encouraged the Executive to keep it abreast of cost-of-living matters and how lay members might engage with existing activity when appropriate.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7. NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY (NSS) **PRESENTATION**
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8. TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (TEF) **PRESENTATION**
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9. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: YEAR END REPORT 2022/23 **PAPER C**
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10.	STOCK TAKE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL PEOPLE AND CULTURE PLAN <i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>	PAPER E
11.	THE RUSKIN <i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>	ORAL REPORT
12.	ESTATES SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS UPDATE <i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence/Award under Embargo</i>	PAPER E
13.	NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT <i>Restricted and Confidential</i>	PAPER F
14.	SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS <i>Restricted and Confidential</i>	PAPER G
* ITEMS NOT FOR DISCUSSION UNLESS REQUESTED IN ADVANCE TO THE CHAIR		
15.*	REMUNERATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (2023)	PAPER 1
15.1	Council <u>approved</u> the annual report of its Remuneration Committee including the Committee's Annual Governance Statement.	
16.*	STRATEGIC REWARD COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (2023)	PAPER 2
16.1	Council <u>approved</u> the annual report of its Strategic Reward Committee.	
17.*	TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE: PROPOSED CHANGES	PAPER 3
17.1	Council <u>received</u> the recommendation from the Estates Committee that terms of reference and membership be revised as proposed and <u>approved</u> the changes as set out.	
18.*	USE OF UNIVERSITY SEAL	PAPER 4
18.1	Council <u>noted</u> the report on the use of the University Seal since its October 2022 meeting.	
19.*	CHAIR'S ACTION	PAPER 5
19.1	Council <u>noted</u> the Chair's actions taken since 7 July 2023.	
20.*	WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS	PAPER 6
20.1	Council <u>noted</u> the following written reports of meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Safety, Health and Wellbeing Committee, meeting of 26 June 2023 • Estates Committee, meeting of 11 September 2023 • Finance and General Purposes Committee, meeting of 22 September 2023 	

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

21. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

PAPER H

21.1 Council noted the Forward Schedule.

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22.1 The Pro-Chancellor informed Council of his recent conversations with the Minister for Universities relating to the financial challenges facing the sector and the Minister's views on other strategic challenges to higher education including artificial intelligence.

22.2 The Pro-Chancellor reported that he had accepted a role as the Chair of Audit Committee at St John's College Oxford, after discussion with the Vice-Chancellor and University Secretary. Noting that, no conflict of interest had been identified.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21.1 The next meeting will be held at 9:00 on Friday 24 November 2023.