



COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 May 2023

Present: Sir Keith O’Nions (Chair from minute 4051), Vicky Bailey (until minute 4063), Sultan Chaudhury, Lynette Eastman (until minute 4063), Rachel Gomes, Michelle Haslem, Sonya Leydecker, Jo Lymn, Sherry Madera (until minute 4061), Jane Norman, Stephen Odell, Nora Senior, Rakesh Sharma, Shearer West

Apologies: Pearl Agyakwa, Piyali Mitra, Stuart Reeves

In attendance: Alison Dubas (minutes), Paul Greatrix (Registrar), Rowena Hall (Associate Director of Governance and Executive Services), Ruwan Kodikara (Governance Apprentice), Rosemary Madagwa (Governance Apprentice), Margaret Monckton (CFO), Tim Watkinson (Director of Communications and Advocacy), Daisy Forster (Students’ Union Community Officer from minute 4054-4063), Jon Grainger (Director of Health and Safety for minute 4057), Sam Kingman (FPVC Engineering for minutes 4057 and 4063), Jason Phoenix (Castle Meadow Campus Programme Director for minute 4058), Paul Couchman (Director of Technology for minute 4061), David Hill (CDO for minute 4061), Chris Parry (Associate Director Partnering and Innovation for minute 4061), Chris Gerada (APVC Industrial Strategy, Business Engagement and Impact for minute 4062), Henner Wapenhans (Professor of Innovation for minute 4062)

4050 Chair Appraisal and Term of Office

- .1 The Vice-Chair of Council advised that the Chair would join the meeting following the discussion of the Chair Appraisal and Term of Office item.
- .2 The Chair of Council’s term of office would end on 31 December 2023. The Vice-Chair REPORTED that an appraisal of the Chair had been undertaken and thanked Council members for their contributions.
- .3 Council APPROVED the recommendation from Nominations Committee that the Chair’s term of office be extended by a further two years, to 31 December 2025.

4051 Welcome and Apologies

- .1 The Chair joined the meeting and welcomed Council members. The Secretary CONFIRMED the meeting was quorate.
- .2 Apologies were received from Pearl Agyakwa, Piyali Mitra and Stuart Reeves.

4052 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4053 Reserved

4054 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2023 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023 (paper C/23/35) were APPROVED as an accurate record.

4055 Chair's Business

- .1 Council RECEIVED a verbal report from the Chair and NOTED the following key points:
 - .1 Rakesh Sharma had been appointed as the second external Council member on the Health and Safety Committee;
 - .2 The revised Remuneration Committee membership, as determined by Nominations Committee. Lynette Eastman, as Chair, would be joined by the Chair of Council, Sir Keith O'Nions, Michelle Haslem, Stephen Odell and Sonya Leydecker. Once her role as interim Chair of Finance Committee had ended, Piyali Mitra would join Remuneration Committee in place of Sonya Leydecker;
 - .3 The process to appoint a Treasurer and a co-opted member of Audit and Risk Committee continued to progress. Shortlisting candidates for both roles would take place later in the day.

4056 Vice-Chancellor's Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED a verbal report from the Vice-Chancellor and NOTED the following key points:
 - .1 During a recent visit to Australia, the Vice-Chancellor had attended the annual general meeting of Universitas21, met with the Cripps family and visited Adelaide University, to further develop the strategic global partnership with the University of Nottingham;
 - .2 Senate would meet later in the week to consider the enactment of previously approved contingency regulations developed in response to the announcement of industrial action and a marking and assessment boycott;
 - .3 Professor Todd Landman, FPVC Social Sciences, and Professor Sarah Metcalfe, Provost of the Malaysia campus, would soon come to the end of their terms of office. An international recruitment exercise would be undertaken to recruit to Professor Metcalfe's role and, in the interim, Professor Jeremy Gregory, FPVC Arts, would act as FPVC for Social Sciences in addition to his current role.

4057 Health and Safety Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Health and Safety Report (paper C/23/36) from the Chair of Health and Safety Committee and the Director of Health and Safety.
- .2 The Director of Health and Safety had completed a review of the University's health and safety environment, to establish a baseline and ensure a fully coordinated health and safety strategy was implemented. Although good progress

had been made, work was still required to enable the University to demonstrate appropriate levels of compliance and assurance and an action plan had been developed, which had been considered by the Health and Safety Committee and UEB.

- .3 Council NOTED the intention to develop a series of metrics for areas such as asbestos and legionella, which would be used when reporting levels of compliance.
- .4 The Chair of Audit and Risk Committee indicated that Audit and Risk Committee had previously received assurance that health and safety compliance was improving, however members felt that greater detail and granularity on the metrics was needed. It was suggested that the internal audit plan should be reviewed to include appropriate audit on health and safety.

4058 Castle Meadow Campus Programme Update

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Castle Meadow Programme Update (paper C/23/37) from the Castle Meadow Programme Director.
- .2 The overall risk rating for the programme remained amber.
- .3 Following consideration of bids received in relation to the central building and associated design, the supplier recommendations would be made to the Castle Meadow Campus Board in due course.
- .4 Sustainability had been a key element of the plans and Council NOTED that a sustainability plan for the campus had been developed and would be considered by the Castle Meadow Campus Board at its next meeting.

4059 Latest Forecast (LRF2)

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Latest Forecast (paper C/23/38) from the CFO.

4060 The Role of Senate

- .1 Council RECEIVED the Role of Senate (paper C/23/46) from the Registrar, which presented the proposed revisions to Ordinance XV following initial consideration by Council and further discussions with UEB and the Senate members on Council. Council was reminded that the proposals originated in a request from Senate, following an effectiveness review, that Council clarify Senate's role.
- .2 The revisions to Ordinance XV provided clarity on Senate's role and responsibilities and ensured greater focus upon matters related to education, teaching and research. Other proposed revisions included removal of the requirement for Senate to report student exclusions to Council.
- .3 As discussed at the previous meeting of Council, it was proposed to remove point 16 within the Ordinance that provided for Senate to discuss and declare an opinion on any matter relating to the University. It was recognised that there were multiple other mechanisms by which Senate members could discuss such matters and further opportunities would be considered by the Senate Effectiveness Review Implementation Group.

- .4 Council APPROVED the proposed revisions to Ordinance XV as outlined within paper C/23/46. It was NOTED that the revisions would be shared with the Senate Effectiveness Review Implementation Group and the Senate.

4061 Next Generation Network Stage 0 Briefing

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Next Generation Network Briefing (paper C/23/41) from the CDO, Director of Technology and Associate Director of Partnering and Innovation.
- .2 Council was reminded that the University's digital partner had been commissioned with designing a new next generation network for the UK campuses, in response to its current, ageing network.
- .3 Anticipated costs for the new network were in the region of £35-£40m. Installation of the new network would be phased over a 24 month period, but Council NOTED this would be dependent upon the affordability of the case and its prioritisation against other business cases. The new network would significantly improve student and staff experience and would strengthen the University's information security position.
- .4 Council requested that, on submission of the business case, key performance indicators be included, which would include, for example, the level of technical debt and how the case would address that debt. There should also be a clear understanding of how the case had been prioritised and how it benchmarked in terms of level of priority against other cases. This would enable members to make an informed decision when receiving business cases for approval.
- .5 The full business case would be submitted to Council in October 2023.

4062 Zero Carbon Cluster Translation Centre Stage 0 Briefing

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Zero Carbon Cluster Translation Centre Briefing (paper C/23/44) from the APVC Industrial Strategy, Business Engagement and Impact and Professor of Innovation, Engineering.
- .2 The paper outlined the opportunity to apply for UK research partnership investment funding, which would fund the cost of building a Zero Carbon Cluster Translation Centre. The build would support the delivery of zero carbon technologies.
- .3 When submitted, the business case would request funding to cover the operational costs of the programme. It was anticipated that there would be a request for approximately £2m in contingency construction costs, £350k operating costs and £250k of pre work costs.
- .4 Council NOTED that there were a number of business cases in development and reiterated the importance of prioritisation. Council members highlighted that business cases should include information about the different cost options considered.

4063 Faculty of Engineering Presentation and Overview

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Faculty of Engineering Overview (paper C/23/45) from the FPVC Engineering. Council NOTED the updated reporting format and was keen to receive an overview slide in future reports as previously recommended.

- .2 The following points were NOTED:
- .1 Performance against the Faculty cascaded key performance indicators, which included student experience, graduate outcomes and research income. Data from 2020 highlighted that the Faculty had exceeded its research income per FTE target;
 - .2 Each Department's league table position, all of which were in the Quacquarelli Symonds top 100;
 - .3 It had been the first time a submission as a whole Faculty, to a single unit of assessment, had been made in the Research Excellence Framework 2021. 95% of work had been rated internationally excellent or above;
 - .4 Key risks for the Faculty, which included international postgraduate taught student recruitment, delivery of research performance and staff performance, morale and retention;
 - .5 The Faculty's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

4064 Annual Update on Student Processes

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Annual Report on Student Processes (paper C/23/43) from the Registrar.

4065 Senate Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED the Senate Report (paper C/23/39) from the Registrar.
- .2 At its March 2023 meeting, Senate had received the draft Student Code of Conduct (Non-Academic) and RECOMMENDED some revisions for approval by Council. Revisions were proposed to Ordinance XV which Council NOTED had since been superseded by the earlier discussions and agreement by Council under the Role of Senate item.
- .3 Council APPROVED the revisions to Ordinance XXIV.

4066 Nominations Committee Minutes

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Nominations Committee minutes (paper C/23/40).

4067 Finance Committee Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the report from the Finance Committee meeting (paper C/23/48).

4068 Council Agenda Forward Plan

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Forward Plan (paper C/23/42).

4069 Suspensions and Discipline Cases

The Registrar advised that there were no suspensions or discipline cases to report to Council.

4070 Any Other Business

Council DISCUSSED artificial intelligence, its application, and implications upon universities. It was suggested that Council devote some time to the discussion of the topic at a future meeting.