



COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2024

Present: Sir Keith O’Nions (Chair), Dr Pearl Agyakwa (from minute 4214), Vicky Bailey, Anh Do (until minute 4215), Michelle Haslem, Sonya Leydecker, Professor Jo Lymn, Piyali Mitra, Professor Jane Norman, Jessica Nuttall, Stephen Odell, Nora Senior (from minute 4217), Rakesh Sharma, Professor Shearer West, Giles Willits

Apologies: Lynette Eastman, Dr Stuart Reeves, Margaret Monckton

In attendance: Dr Paul Greatrix (Secretary), Rowena Hall (Associate Director of Governance), Joe O’Neill (Governance Manager), Scarlett Zhiang (incoming Students’ Union Education Officer), Louella Houldcroft (Director of Communications and Advocacy for minute 4206), Professor David FitzPatrick (Provost, UNM for minute 4213), Sally Blackamore (Finance Director for minute 4214), Jason Phoenix (Castle Meadow Campus Programme Director for minute 4215), Professor Jon Garibaldi (Provost, UNNC for minute 4217), Professor Sube Banerjee (Faculty Pro-Vice Chancellor, Medicine and Health Sciences for minute 4218), Helen Lawrenson (Programme Director, Medicine and Health Sciences for minute 4218), Gary Moss (Director of Estates and Facilities), Chris Garrod (Faculty Operations Director, Medicine and Health Sciences for minute 4218), Professor Tom Rodden (Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research and Knowledge Exchange for minute 4219)

4206 RESERVED

4207 Welcome and Apologies

- .1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. The Secretary confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- .2 Apologies were NOTED from Lynette Eastman, Dr Stuart Reeves and Margaret Monckton.
- .3 It was REPORTED that the Vice-Chancellor had received and accepted an offer of employment at the University of Leeds from November 2024.
- .4 Council expressed wholehearted congratulations to the Vice-Chancellor and AGREED the following:
 - .1 The Vice-Chancellor should remain in post until the end of October;
 - .2 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jane Norman would assume the role of interim Vice-Chancellor from 1 November 2024, following the departure of the Vice-Chancellor, until such time as a substantive appointment was made to the Vice-Chancellor role;

- .3 The wording of a statement relating to this to be released to the University on its behalf.

4208 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

4209 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7 May 2024 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2024 (paper C/24/48) were APPROVED as an accurate record. The action log was NOTED.

4210 Chair's Business

- .1 Council NOTED and formally expressed condolences at the passing of Professor Dame Liz Fradd, former Vice-President of Council at the University of Nottingham and High Sheriff of Nottingham. Warm tributes were provided by a number of Council members who had known Liz well.
- .3 Congratulations were extended to the Vice-Chair of Council on their appointment as Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire.
- .4 Council APPROVED the appointment of Anthony Murphy as a Council member, for a four-year term, following a recommendation from Nominations Committee.
- .5 A whistleblowing report had been received by the Chair relating to the Medical School and a review had been undertaken. It had been found that the University had been in compliance with the relevant statutory requirements. Recommendations had been made as part of the review to ensure continued compliance.

4211 Vice-Chancellor's Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED an update from the Vice-Chancellor (C/24/49).
- .2 An update was given on the progress of the Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme and on succession planning for UEB.

4212 RESERVED

4213 Future Nottingham Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Future Nottingham Report (paper C/24/62).
- .2 An organogram had been developed, clarifying the roles of Council and UEB in terms of reporting. Focus groups had been conducted with staff and further sessions were planned. Senate had also had the opportunity to consider the Future Nottingham at an Away Day and the Senate away day scheduled for October would be used to consider the draft case for change before its submission to Finance Committee at the end of October and Council in November.
- .3 Members DISCUSSED the need for a compelling vision, a clear statement of direction and for progress to be made at pace through the case for change. The importance of local ownership around future course viability at a School and Faculty level was highlighted.

4214 University of Nottingham Malaysia (UNM) Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED the UNM report (paper C/24/58) and NOTED the following key points:
 - .1 A slight growth in staff numbers had been recorded since 2021 accompanied by lower student numbers, however growth in student numbers was predicted for the 2024/25 intake;
 - .2 The key performance indicators for the campus, which were closely aligned to those at University level, showed strong student experience scores and high staff satisfaction;
 - .3 The results of the Nottingham Student Experience Survey showed good growth to over 90% satisfaction in all areas except 'value for money' which was growing but lower than others due to post-pandemic factors;
 - .4 An emphasis was placed on developing key partnerships in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region with an emphasis on quality and value-add over quantity;
 - .5 The medium-term financial plan included plans for 8-9% to be invested into capital infrastructure on the campus.

4215 Latest Revised Forecast and Financial Performance

- .1 Council RECEIVED the latest revised forecast and financial performance report (paper C/24/53) and NOTED the following key points:
 - .1 The estimated deficit position was greater than forecast in February 2024 with just under half of in-year cost savings having been delivered so far. Additional income had been generated and work was ongoing to capture outstanding debt;
 - .2 Discussions would be held at the 2 July meeting of UEB focused on the strategic investment pipeline with consideration given to whether any investments should be ceased or paused. Statutory compliance would be prioritised in this process;
 - .3 Emphasis was being placed on building greater certainty and contingency into the draft 2024/25 budget. It was expected that improved monitoring would be enabled by the implementation of the Unicore project.

4216 Castle Meadow Campus Programme Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Castle Meadow Campus (CMC) programme update (paper C/24/52).
- .2 The overall risk rating for the programme had been raised from green to amber due to quality control work highlighting concerns. The programme expected to experience three to four weeks of slippage over a six-month period but there would be no impact on budget.
- .3 Council NOTED that an expected tenant at the site no longer intended to progress a lease with the University and work was ongoing with partners to source suitable alternatives.

4217 University Strategic Risk

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED paper (C/24/54) from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
- .2 The risk profiles remained largely unchanged with risks three and thirteen increasing slightly due to the University's ongoing financial challenges. Risks were reviewed every quarter by UEB and a risk appetite statement for each theme would be approved by UEB in July.
- .3 Council asked that consideration be given to ensuring that matters relating to the highest level of risks are shared with it appropriately at regular intervals.

ACTION		Owner	Due
.4	Approach to sharing matters relating to high-level risks with Council to be considered and agreed with the Chair.	Chair, Registrar, Deputy Vice- Chancellor	September 2024

4218 University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED the paper (C/24/51) and NOTED the following key points:
 - .1 UNNC maintained an operating surplus and cash reserves enabling it to invest in research and other initiatives;
 - .2 Student numbers remained strong with potential for further growth. The main areas of expansion had been in postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students;
 - .3 Work was ongoing to bring research volume and value in line with the UK campus, although whilst volume at UNNC was slightly lower than previous years it remained of high quality;
 - .4 Celebrations for the 20th anniversary of UNNC had been well received.

4219 Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Strategic Change Programme and Infrastructure Strategy Update

- .1 Council RECEIVED the paper (C/24/55) and NOTED the following key points:
 - .1 Both the infrastructure and curriculum for the Medical School required development to support a positive student experience, to increase research capacity and to ensure that the University trained well-equipped professionals for the modern healthcare environment;
 - .2 The University owned around a quarter of the Queen's Medical Centre site and discussions would need to be held as to the future of the University's usage of the site with Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, whether that be elsewhere or via a refurbishment. The importance of access to a hospital for both teaching and research was underlined and any move away would need to be planned and sequential.

- .2 Council APPROVED the direction of travel regarding discussions with NUH NHS Trust relating to the future of the Medical School site.

4220 Briefing Note on the Bio-Support Unit

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the paper (C/24/61).
- .2 Council DISCUSSED the importance of suitable and secure facilities to facilitate continued research in the short-to-medium term whilst acknowledging the longer-term aim of decreasing the use of animals in research. The need to ensure proper communications with colleagues regarding next steps was highlighted.

4221 Remuneration Committee Annual Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the annual update from Remuneration Committee (paper C/24/47).

4222 Senate Report

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED an oral report from the Registrar relating to the Senate meeting held on 17 June 2024.
- .2 It was REPORTED that discussions were held at Senate relating to the encampment at the Jubilee Campus, the governance of Future Nottingham, and the Castle Meadow Campus.
- .3 Senate had voted to approve a request that Council consider again restoring Ordinance XV to its wording prior to May 2023. Council NOTED that this request was forthcoming and would review it at a future meeting.
- .4 Council was informed of a letter sent to it by some Senate members. Senate had been informed that this had been shared with the Chair but due to a digital error this had not been received but had subsequently been rectified. A clarification and apology had been sent to Senate and Council by the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar. Council NOTED receipt of the letter.

4223 Finance Committee Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the report and minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 05 June 2024 (paper C/24/60).

4224 Audit and Risk Committee Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the report and minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 14 May 2024 (paper C/24/56).

4225 Nominations Committee Report

Council RECEIVED and NOTED the report and minutes from the Nominations Committee meeting held on 30 May 2024 (paper C/24/64).

4226 Council Agenda Forward Plan

- .1 Council RECEIVED and NOTED the Council forward plan (paper C/24/50).
- .2 RESERVED

4227 Any Other Business

Council expressed its thanks to the outgoing Students' Union members for their contributions across the year.