**COUNCIL – MINUTES**

17 March 2017

**PRESENT:** Professor John Garside (in the chair); Vice-Chancellor; Professor A. M. Atherton; Mr D. Barron; Dr R. Boumphrey; Mr M. J. Dormer; Mrs R. S. Georghiou; Professor S. Guy; Mr I. Johnson; Professor N. Johnson; Mr R. Johnson; Ms R. L. Jones; Baroness Neville-Jones; Professor J. O’Hanlon; Mr S. Reynolds; Professor E. Ritchie; Dr J. Taylor; Mr J. Walker; Mrs V. Young.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr P. Boustead; Professor S. Bradley; Professor S. P. Decent; Mr S. Franklin; Ms R. Hughes; Ms H. Hunter; Professor S. R. A. Huttly; Mr S. J. Jennings; Ms N. C. Owen; Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley; Mr M. Swindlehurst; Ms V. Tyrrell.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Pro-Chancellor; Professor A. G. Chetwynd; Professor K. C. Jones; Mr A. Warriner.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **MINUTES (Restricted)**

2. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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

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

(a) an update on current retention rates where the University was seeking to improve its performance and that a detailed paper would be brought to the next meeting of Council;

(b) that HEFCE had confirmed it considered that the University demonstrated sufficient evidence of due regard to the Prevent duty following review of the Prevent annual report;

(c) progress of the Higher Education and Research Bill including in relation to TEF, the powers of the Office for Students (OfS), accelerated degrees and credit transfer;

(d) that the University was preparing a response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper;

(e) an overview of application numbers, which positioned the University positively for the 2017/18 intake, but it would be important to focus on conversions.

2.3 Council noted the reports.
3. **PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS’ UNION REPORT**

3.1 The President of the Students’ Union introduced the report, including providing an update on work towards becoming an incorporated body, the outcome of the elections for Full-time Officers for 2017/18, and an update on Israel Apartheid Week. Council noted the report.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL**

**Strategy**

4. **UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

(Paper C, Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)

5. **LANCASTER UNIVERSITY GHANA: PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL**

(Paper D, Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)

6. **STRATEGY 2020**

(i) **UNIVERSITY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

(Paper E)

6.1 The Vice-Chancellor and Director of Strategic Planning and Governance introduced the paper stating that the draft key performance indicators (KPIs) had been prepared in parallel to the strategy refresh and that they were intended to guide the University’s progress towards its strategic goals. Senate had considered the proposed KPIs at its meeting on 8 March and was broadly supportive. There would be detailed reports to Council in May concerning the retention and financial health KPIs, which would be considered by Senate and Finance and General Purposes respectively ahead of Council.

6.2 Key points from the discussion included:

(a) the importance of ensuring that there was clarity about strategic priorities where there were tensions between key areas of performance for example relating to entry tariff score, widening participation and retention;

(b) the importance of ensuring there were stretch targets that staff would engage with.

6.3 Council noted the report and that the feedback would be taken into consideration as part of the next iteration.

(ii) **STRATEGY UPDATE: DRAFT TEXT**

(Paper F)

6.4 The Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Director of Strategic Planning and Governance introduced the paper, outlining that the Update would support responding to the changing external environment and key areas where further progress was still required, including engagement and international rankings performance. Senate had considered the proposed Strategy Update at its meeting on 8 March and was broadly supportive.

6.5 Key points from the discussion included further suggestions of areas to consider including in relation to support for achieving research ambitions and developing European research partners, and to ensure the Strategy Update aligned with the forthcoming engagement framework.
6.6 Council noted the report and that the feedback would be taken into consideration as part of the next iteration.

7. **POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT PROVISION: SUMMARY REPORT**

7.1 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) introduced the report, which set out the key findings and recommendations from a review of postgraduate taught provision at the University in 2014, provided a strategy for development and summarised progress. Council noted the report.

Governance

8. **COURT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW**

8.1 Council considered the report and approved that an effectiveness review of Court be undertaken, including the proposed approach for undertaking a review.

9. **FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS**

9.1 Council noted the report.

Human Resources

10. **2017-18 PAY NEGOTIATIONS**

10.1 Council approved a recommendation that the University participates in national pay bargaining in 2017.

11. **PEOPLE STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

11.1 Council noted the report.

12. **STAFF SURVEY RESULTS 2016**

   *(Restricted)*

   **ITEMS FOR REPORT**

13. **COUNCIL CHAIR’S ACTION**

13.1 Council noted the report.

14. **STANDING COMMITTEES AND REPORTS**

14.1 Council noted the written reports and the oral reports provided by the Chairs of Strategic Safety, Health & Wellbeing Committee, Finance & General Purposes Committee and Audit Committee on the recent meetings.