13 July 2018

COUNCIL – MINUTES

PRESENT: Pro-Chancellor (in the chair); Vice-Chancellor; Professor A. M. Atherton (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Mr D. Barron (lay member); Mr M. J. Dormer (lay member); Professor J. Garside (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Mrs R. S. Georgiou (lay member); Professor S. Guy (Senate representative); Mr R. Johnson (lay member); Professor K. C. Jones (Senate representative); Ms R. Llystyn Jones (Students’ Union President); Baroness Neville-Jones (lay member); Mr G. Nuttall (student representative); Lord Price (lay member); Professor J. Taylor (Senate representative); Mrs V. Young (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Professor S. Bradley (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, International) (attended for item 7), Mr T. Buckley (Director of Recruitment, Admissions and International Development) (attended for item 7), Dr G. Carden (Director of Strategic Projects and Chief of Staff) (attended for item 8); Professor S. Decent (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise) (attended for items 15-17), Ms H. Hunter (Committee Secretary); Ms N. C. Owen (Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary); Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley (Director of Finance) (attended for items 7-14).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr I. Johnson (lay member); Professor N. Johnson (Senate representative); Mr S. Reynolds (lay member); Professor E. Ritchie (lay member).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Council noted apologies for absence.

1.2 Council welcomed Rhiannon Llystyn Jones returning as a member and George Nuttall as a new member of Council.

1.3 Council thanked Professor Jane Taylor for all her contributions as this was her last meeting of Council. Council also thanked Professor Steve Bradley (under item 7) for all his contributions to the University in his role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) as he was due to step down from the role in August.

1.4 Council congratulated Professor Andrew Atherton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, on his recent appointment to the post of Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Dundee University, which he would take up in January 2019.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Declarations of interest were declared in relation to item 21 concerning the appointment and reappointment of members to Council and sub-committees. There were no other declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES PAPERS A, B and C

3.1 Council approved the notes from the Council Away Day on 17 and 18 May 2018 and the minutes of the formal meeting on 18 May 2018.
4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Council noted that the Privy Council had now approved the University’s application to amend its Charter and Statutes and, therefore, these changes together with the amendments to the Ordinances had come into effect. There were no other matters arising.

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

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

(a) that the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) had invoked the dispute resolution process following three unions rejecting the pay offer in the national pay negotiations and the potential for strike action if there was no resolution;

(b) that the Joint Expert Panel was continuing to meet in order to identify a proposal to resolve the USS pension dispute, and that USS was now partially invoking rule 76.4;

(c) that the University had maintained ninth position in the Guardian University League Table, which was pleasing given that a new metric included was continuation, which was one of the University’s weaker performing areas. The University had also moved from 135th to 131st in the QS World University Rankings, which included ranking 98th for citations per faculty;

(d) that the University had undergone a routine Assurance Review by the Office for Students (OfS) (which was previously undertaken by HEFCE) and he had recently received oral feedback, which was positive and raised no concerns;

(e) noting the recent award of CBE to Professor Louise Heathwaite and appointments of the Director for the Health Innovation Campus, Principal and CEO for UA92 and Director of Estates, Facilities and Commercial Services. He also congratulated Professor Atherton on his new appointment and thanked Professor Bradley for his contributions to the University.

5.2 Council noted the report.

6. PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS’ UNION REPORT PAPER D

6.1 The President of the Students’ Union introduced the report.

6.2 Council noted the report and requested that the Provost for Student Experience, Colleges and the Library bring a report to a future meeting covering student space developments and challenges.

7. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PAPER E

(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)

8. UA92 UPDATE PAPER F

(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
9. **HEADLINE BUDGET FOR 2018/19 AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS FOR 2022/23**  

9.1 The Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Director of Finance introduced the report setting out the Headline Budget for 2018/19 and the Financial Forecasts, noting that it had been recommended by the Committee for approval by Council. In particular, it was noted that it was a challenging, but achievable budget as well the commentary required by the OfS in relation to assumptions used in forecasting.

9.2 Council approved the Headline Budget for 2018/19, the updated Financial Forecasts to 2022/23 and associated commentary, on the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, as part of the University’s Annual Accountability return for OfS.

9.3 Council agreed that a revised Headline Budget for 2018/19 and Financial Forecasts to 2022/23 should be brought back to Council for further consideration in the event there were significant changes to the underlying assumptions in relation to student numbers and USS pension costs.

10. **EU PROCUREMENT LEGISLATION**  

10.1 Council considered the report providing information concerning the University’s position in respect of EU procurement legislation, and the work and recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

10.2 Council approved that the University ‘opt-out’, following a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

11. **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE**  

11.1 Following a recommendation from Finance and General Purposes Committee, Council approved:

(a) the revisions to terms of reference and membership constitution for Finance and General Purposes Committee as set out in the paper;

(b) an amendment to the scheme of delegation at 3.1 to state that Finance and General Purposes Committee is responsible for the approval of ‘minor changes to Financial Regulations. (Major changes will be recommended to Council for approval.)’ and to specify in section 1 under Council’s responsibilities that Council is responsible for approving major changes to the Financial Regulations.

12. **ORAL UPDATE FROM FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12 JULY 2018**  

12.1 Mr David Barron, the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee, reported that all substantive items considered at the meeting the previous day were covered under other items at the Council meeting.
13. MANAGEMENT SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

13.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor introduced the report setting out progress on the Management School redevelopment project and an update and timeline for the project through to completion.

13.2 Council:

(a) noted progress made to date;
(b) received a recommendation from the Estates Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee to progress the project in two distinct and separate phases;
(c) approved the Management School redevelopment within an overall funding envelope of £47M, with immediate approval for funding of £31M for Phase 1 construction and Phase 2 design.

14. FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME TO 2022/23

14.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor introduced the report setting out the current five-year detailed capital programme update to align with our financial forecasts submission to OfS.

14.2 Council:

(a) noted the paper;
(b) received the recommendations from the Estates Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee to approve the programme;
(c) approved the five-year capital programme.

15. UPDATE ON RESEARCH GRANT PERFORMANCE 2018

15.1 Council noted the report providing an update on research grant performance, including the progress in the step change in performance over recent years, and that a report would come to a future meeting summarising the benefits realised from major investments in research capacity and infrastructure.

16. REPORT ON COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND CONTRACT RESEARCH AWARDS WITH BUSINESS AND OTHER NON-ACADEMIC ORGANISATIONS

16.1 Council noted the report covering progress in relation to industry-funded research.

17. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STRATEGY

17.1 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) introduced the paper setting out a proposed Intellectual Property Strategy, which extended the focus from principally commercialisation to activities aimed at strengthening broader research translation and impact, and intended to provide for a more entrepreneurial culture at the University within an external environment where impact remained a key focus. There had been wide consultation ahead of bringing the proposal to Council.

17.2 Council approved the Intellectual Property Strategy.
18. REVISION TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS: INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

18.1 Council noted the report setting out changes to the governance arrangements resulting from changes to senior management portfolios, which had been approved by Senate at its meeting on 20 June.

19. STRATEGIC AND EXECUTIVE RISK REGISTERS: REVIEW

19.1 Council noted the Strategic and Executive Risk Registers and requested that further consideration be given as to whether the risk rating for the strategic University risk concerning the ability to recruit, retain and develop high calibre staff may be too high.

20. SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENT

20.1 Council approved the reappointment of Alan Milburn as the Chancellor of the University for a further term from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025.

21. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEES: REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21.1 The Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary introduced the report setting out the recommendations of the Nominations Committee and, where relevant, subsequent interview panels, following recent activity in relation to the appointment and reappointment of Council and sub-committee members. The interests of some current Council members were noted concerning proposals in relation to their appointments and reappointments.

21.2 Council noted that on this occasion, despite the efforts of the University, it had been unable to bring forward many new candidates for consideration that would improve the diversity of membership, but agreed that this must continue to be a focus for future appointment activity.

21.3 Council approved the recommendations for appointment and reappointment as set out in the paper.

22. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

22.1 Council approved the proposed amendments to the terms of reference and committee composition of Nominations Committee as set out in the paper.

23. COUNCIL CHAIR’S ACTIONS

23.1 Council noted the report.

24. WRITTEN REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

24.1 Council noted the written reports and approved the minor amendment to Ordinance 6.5 following recommendation by Senate that ‘Tribunal’ is replaced with ‘Board of Discipline’ to reflect the changes to student disciplinary arrangements to come into force from January 2019.
25. **FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS**

25.1 Council noted the schedule.

26. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

26.1 The next Council meeting will be held at 1.00 p.m. on Friday 28 September 2018 in the Private Dining Room, County College.