

COUNCIL – MINUTES

28 September 2018

PRESENT: Deputy Pro-Chancellor, Professor John Garside (in the chair); Vice-Chancellor; Professor A. M. Atherton (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Mr D. Barron (lay member); Mr M. J. Dormer (lay member); Mrs R. S. Georghiou (lay member); Professor S. Guy (Senate representative); Mr I. Johnson (lay member); Mr R. Johnson (lay member); Professor K. C. Jones (Senate representative); Ms R. Llystyn Jones (Students' Union President); Ms A. Mullan (Senate representative); Mr G. Nuttall (student representative); Mr S. Reynolds (lay member); Professor E. Ritchie (lay member); Mrs V. Young (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr T. Buckley (Director of Recruitment, Admissions and International Development) (*attended for item 7*); Mr Andrew Burgess (Director of Estates, Facilities and Commercial Services) (*attended for items 8 and 9*); 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 to 10*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Pro-Chancellor; Professor N. Johnson (Senate representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Lord M. Price (lay member); His Hon Judge P. Sycamore (lay member).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Council noted apologies for absence.
- 1.2 Alison Mullan was welcomed to her first meeting of Council as a new Senate-appointed member.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

PAPER A

- 3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2018.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

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

- 5.1 The Vice-Chancellor referred back to the monthly updates to Council of July, August and September alongside an oral update on activities of interest to Council, including:

- (a) that the University had been successful in achieving over £55M of new research grant awards in 2017-18, which reflected a significant step-change in performance to enable meeting the target KPI, and thanking the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) and colleagues for their work in support of this;
- (b) the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) results revealed that 97 per cent of the University's 2016-17 cohort of UK domiciled full-time undergraduate leavers were working or studying six months after completing their studies, against its benchmark of 94.5 per cent;
- (c) the University remained in the top 10 of UK universities following its performance in the National Student Survey (NSS), with 88 per cent (down from 91 per cent in the previous year) of students satisfied overall compared with a national average of 83 per cent;
- (d) UCU and Unison were balloting their membership for industrial action having rejected the 2% final pay offer for 2018-19 (UCU was also balloting for action short of strike (ASOS)), and Unite was consulting with its branches about the possibility of balloting. The University had implemented the pay offer, on the advice of UCEA, from August 2018 as an interim measure before a final settlement was reached;
- (e) the Joint Expert Panel on the USS Pension Scheme had published its report. This now needed to be converted into a proposal, but the final position would be subject to not only employer and employee views, but also required agreement by the USS Trustee and the Pensions Regulator. The University would respond to a UUK consultation about the report outcomes by the end of October. There was also a USS consultation with staff in process, which was a requirement following the USS Trustee invoking Rule 76.4-8, as this represented the current proposal;
- (f) the reporting of the Augar Review of post-18 education and funding had been delayed pending the outcome of the Office for National Statistics' work to determine the classification of student loans within the national accounts;
- (g) league table results: the Lancaster University Management School's Masters in Management had been ranked 6th in the UK by the Financial Times' 2018 Global Masters in Management rankings. The University had risen to 146th position from 150th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and had maintained 6th position in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide ranking. In addition, three subjects had been rated as number one and 24 were in the top ten (up from 22 in the previous year) in The Good University Guide rankings;
- (h) there would be a formal report to the next meeting concerning UA92 alongside a presentation the previous evening from the new Principal and CEO of UA92, but there were no specific points outside parameters already reported to Council to raise at this time.

5.2 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported on student recruitment for the 2018-19 intake, noting an overall positive performance on accepted offers, supporting the University's growth aspirations, within the context of a 2% decline for the sector and a demographic downturn of 18 year-olds in the UK. Overall, there had been an increase on the previous year of accepted offers, noting in particular the strength of EU and International undergraduate acceptances, with some growth in Home projected numbers.

5.3 Council noted the report and agreed that the Pro-Chancellor would sign off the University's response to the UUK consultation concerning the USS Joint Expert Panel report, consulting with the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee in relation to any significant financial implications.

- 6. PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' UNION REPORT** **PAPER B**
- 6.1 The President of the Students' Union introduced the report and also noted that the Students' Union had organised a protest on 15 September Open Day due to their concerns about the extension to the teaching day timetable. There was student representation on the Working Group, which was seeking to monitor impact and identify mitigations.
- 6.2 Council noted the report.
- 7. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY** **PAPER C**
(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
- 8. COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY** **PAPER D**
(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
- 9. ORAL UPDATE FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2018**
- 9.1 Mr Simon Reynolds, the Chair of Estates Committee, reported on other matters considered at the meeting prior to Council not already covered by other agenda items.
- 9.2 Council noted the report.
- 10. ORAL UPDATE FROM FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2018**
- 10.1 Mr David Barron, the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee, reported on other matters considered at the meeting prior to Council not already covered by other agenda items.
- 10.2 Council noted the report.
- 11. SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENT** **PAPER E**
- 11.1 Council approved that Professor Steve Bradley was appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the interim period 1 January to 31 July 2019.
- 12. REPLACING COURT WITH AN ANNUAL MEETING: UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS** **PAPER F**
- 12.1 Council noted the report providing an update on consultations and recommendations to inform future meeting arrangements. It was also noted that the Pro-Chancellor had indicated that Council should have a role/visibility in the meeting.
- 13. OFFICE FOR STUDENT (OfS) ASSURANCE REVIEW** **PAPER G**
- 13.1 Council noted the draft report on the Assurance Review undertaken at the University. The contents of the report had been confirmed with OfS.
- 14. COUNCIL CHAIR'S ACTIONS** **PAPER H**
- 14.1 Council noted the report.

15. WRITTEN REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS PAPER I

15.1 Council noted the written reports

16. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS PAPER J

16.1 Council noted the schedule.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17.1 The next Council meeting will be held at 9.00 a.m. on Friday 23 November 2018 in the Private Dining Room, County College. There would be a dinner and presentation the previous evening on Thursday 22 November, with the presentation given by Professor Craig Gaskell, Principal and CEO of UA92.