

COUNCIL – MINUTES

20 September 2019

PRESENT: Pro-Chancellor, Lord Liddle (in the chair); Vice-Chancellor; Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); Mr I. Johnson (lay member); Professor K. C. Jones (Senate representative); Ms B. Morgan (student representative); Ms A. M. Mullan (Senate representative); Mr G. S. Nuttall (Students' Union President); Professor E. Ritchie (lay member); Mrs V. Young (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Professor S. Bradley; Mr P. T. Boustead (Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development) (*attended for items 15-17*); Dr G. A. F. Carden (Director of Strategic Projects and Chief of Staff) (*attended for item 14*); Professor S. P. Decent (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Development)) (*attended for items 19-21*); Professor A. L. Heathwaite (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)) (*attended for items 20-21*); Ms H. Hunter (Committee Secretary); Mr S. J. Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Governance); Ms N. C. Owen (Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mrs R. S. Georghiou (lay member); Professor S. C. Guy (Senate representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Lord Price (lay member); Mr S. N. Reynolds (lay member); His Hon. Judge P. Sycamore (lay member).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Council noted apologies for absence.

Council expressed gratitude to Michael Dormer who had stepped down from Council for his significant contributions to the University.

In order to ensure there was a lay majority and quoracy for decision-making, Professor Kevin Jones did not participate in decision-making, but was present for discussion.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were two declarations, which are recorded under items 13 and 19. There were no other declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

PAPER A

- 3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2019.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 Council noted that the management response to the Gender Pay Gap Task Force report had recently been shared with the University Leadership Group and following this would be finalised for circulation. The report would be included on a future Council agenda. There were no further matters arising.

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

5.1 Professor Steve Bradley reported:

- (a) on current student recruitment figures for the 2019-20 intake, which showed that the University had performed well in relation to its growth targets for all undergraduate recruitment. Postgraduate numbers were not yet confirmed, but the indications were that the University should also perform well against targets;
- (b) that the University had received notification from the OfS that its five-year Access and Participation Plan had been approved, which was positive, but noted there were conditions relating to monitoring access, progression, attainment and achievement.

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

- (a) ***(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)***
- (b) the OfS had received supplementary Ministerial guidance, which included requesting the publication of subject-level TEF in 2021 and highlighting concern on the injudicious use of unconditional offers;
- (c) Professor Paul Connolly had been appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS);
- (d) Professor Stephen Decent had been appointed as Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Manchester Metropolitan University;
- (e) the University had had to recently manage a serious data breach and thanked staff who were responsible for managing the incident;
- (f) the University had moved from 6 to 8 in The Times and The Sunday Times League table. However, it had been named International University of the Year by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020, and Council thanked staff, including Professor Bradley for his efforts as the former Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), for their efforts to achieve this.

5.3 Council thanked Professor Decent for his significant contributions to the University through his Pro-Vice-Chancellor roles.

5.4 The Vice-Chancellor thanked Council for the support it had given and the important role it had played during his tenure as this would be his last meeting before leaving the University.

5.5 Council thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his significant contributions to the University under his leadership.

6. PRESIDENT OF LU STUDENTS' UNION: REPORT **PAPER B**

6.1 The President of the Students' Union introduced the report and provided an update on the current position with regard to the sale of the Sugarhouse, including that:

- (a) in accordance with the Students' Union's constitutional arrangements there would be a referendum over the decision to sell the Sugarhouse, as a result of petition numbers against the proposal. There would be a further referendum concerning the student composition on the Trustee Board;
- (b) the Students' Union was working with the University to explore alternative options in the event the Sugarhouse was sold;
- (c) the University was clarifying its legal responsibility for the Sugarhouse relating to historic financial support provided.

6.2 Council noted the report.

7. RAISING SERIOUS CONCERNS AND DISCLOSING PUBLIC INTEREST MATTERS (WHISTLEBLOWING) POLICY **PAPER C**

7.1 Council approved the proposed revised policy for Raising Serious Concerns and Disclosing Public Interest Matters (Whistleblowing) for immediate implementation.

8. ANTI-BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION POLICY PROPOSAL **PAPER D**

8.1 Council approved the draft Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy for immediate implementation and noted the corresponding action plan.

9. UNIVERSITY RISK REGISTER **PAPER E**

9.1 Council approved the revised University Risk Register as set out in the paper, including the roll-out of the approach across the University.

10. SENATE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW **PAPER F**

10.1 Council noted the report and approved the amendment of Ordinance 5C.2 and the removal of Ordinance 5C.3, as set out in the paper, and following the recommendation of Senate.

10.2 Council also noted that it welcomed the establishment of the University Leadership Group, which played an important role in academic engagement while allowing greater efficiencies for Senate. It also noted ongoing sectoral changes which continued to place increasing emphasis on the responsibility of Council, but that it was important that Council engaged with Senate, and in particular the opportunity for more regular joint meetings was welcomed.

- 11. STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE** **PAPER G**
- 11.1 Council approved for immediate implementation, noting the approval of Senate (as it would be a joint committee):
- (a) the establishment of the Student Experience Committee, as set out;
 - (b) the laying down of the Colleges and Student Experience Committee (CSEC), University and Students' Union Joint Committee and Disciplinary Committee; and
 - (c) the laying down of CSEC's Delegation Schedule.
- 12. RUSKIN LIBRARY** **PAPER H**
- 12.1 Council approved the proposal as set out concerning the naming of galleries.
- 13. STRATEGIC COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY** **PAPER I**
(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
- 14. MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE: UNIVERSITY ACADEMY 92 (UA92)** **PAPER J**
- 14.1 Council noted the report and that Professor Steve Bradley would replace the Vice-Chancellor as the Lancaster University Director on the UA92 Board.
- 15. UNIVERSITIES SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (USS): UPDATE**
RELATING TO USS REFORMS AND INDUSTRIAL ACTION **PAPER K**
- 15.1 Council noted the report and that in parallel UCU, Unison and Unite were conducting ballots on pay.
- 16. REMUNERATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT** **PAPER L**
- 16.1 Council noted the report.
- 17. STRATEGIC REWARD COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT** **PAPER M**
- 17.1 Council noted the report.
- 18. BRIEFING ON THE 2019 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY (NSS) RESULTS** **PAPER N**
- 18.1 Council noted the report and that there would be a further detailed paper reported to Council in the New Year.
- 19. CONTEXTUALISED OFFERS** **PAPER O**
(Restricted and Commercial in Confidence)
- 20. LANCASTER UNIVERSITY PREPARATIONS FOR THE RESEARCH**
EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF) 2021: UPDATE **PAPER P**
- 20.1 Council noted the report.

- 21. RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS, CONTRACTS RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE: UPDATE** **PAPER Q**
- 21.1 Council noted the report and asked that the option for a future KPI on research overhead recoveries was considered.
- 22. ORAL REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
- 22.1 The Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee provided an oral report on matters covered by the Committee the previous day.
- 23. OfS GENERAL AND ONGOING CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION: ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORT** **PAPER R**
- 23.1 Council noted the proposed format for annual reporting of the University's compliance with the relevant OfS conditions and how the Council and its nominated committees maintain oversight of such.
- 24. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**
- 24.1 The Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary provided an oral update on the work of the Appointment Committee for the Vice-Chancellor.
- 25. COUNCIL CHAIR'S ACTIONS** **PAPER S**
- 25.1 Council noted the report.
- 26. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS** **PAPER T**
- 26.1 Council noted the written reports.
- 27. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS** **PAPER U**
- 27.1 Council noted the schedule.
- 28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 28.1 The next Council meeting will be held at 9.00 a.m. on Friday 22 November 2019 in the Private Dining Room, County College, which will be preceded by a dinner and presentation the previous evening.