

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL – MINUTES
27 March 2020
via Teams

PRESENT: Pro-Chancellor, Lord Liddle (in the Chair); Professor S. Bradley (Interim Vice-Chancellor); Mrs R. S. Georghiou (lay member)*; Professor S. C. Guy (Senate representative); Mr I. Johnson (lay member); Ms B. T. Morgan (student representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor)*; Mr G. S. Nuttall (Students' Union President); Lord Price (lay member); Professor E. Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); His Hon. Judge P. Sycamore (lay member); Mrs V. Young (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Professor N. A. Davies (Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Development)) (*attended for item 2*); Professor S. R. A. Huttly (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and EDI)) (*attended for item 2*); Mrs C. L. Geddes (Committee Secretary); Mr S. J. Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Governance); Ms N. C. Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations)).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); Professor K. C. Jones (Senate representative); Mr S. N. Reynolds (lay member) (*due to connection issues*).

*Due to connection issues members indicated with * were present for only parts of the meeting.*

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

2.1 Council received a progress report from the Vice-Chancellor regarding the response to the Covid-19 outbreak in terms of: arrangements for teaching and learning; staff and student support and welfare; and student accommodation. Regarding student accommodation, Council noted the approach in the sector, guidance and headline reputational and financial impacts which could include significant in-year impacts.

2.2 Members considered the importance of balancing risks and considering the longer - term impacts of the pandemic. Council noted the report and requested that a further meeting be called to consider financial impacts and accommodation issue in detail once further information had been compiled.

3. OFFICE FOR STUDENTS (OFS): REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

PAPER B

3.1 Council noted the OfS correspondence and revised requirements and guidance including in relation to unconditional offers, reporting and liquidity. Members further noted the emphasis by the regulator to universities to ensure equity for students and consumer protection law, welfare of vulnerable groups, interaction and engagement in general.

4. PROPOSAL FOR SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2020

Restricted and Confidential

5. PROPOSED TEMPORARY CHANGES TO COUNCIL AND SENATE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE PAPER C/C2

- 5.1 Council received an overview on the rationale behind the proposals which were to achieve business continuity and ensure compliance during the pandemic from the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations).
- 5.2 Members noted that the University could experience very significant periods of lack of availability in key people which posed risks to running existing decision-making processes.
- 5.3 Council considered the proposals in Paper C2 and approved:
- (i) the temporary revision of Ordinance 5 to enable a reduced quorum for Senate in specific circumstances;
 - (ii) the establishment of a Council Sub-Group to manage business not reserved to Council or delegated to other Sub-Committees;
 - (iii) the transfer of Council Sub-Committee delegations from the Committee to the Chairs of Committees and approval of Deputy Chairs;
 - (iv) the use of digital meetings and decisions by circulation as the preferred mode of operation and increased use of correspondence for items requiring consultation and discussion; and
 - (v) the postponement of non-essential business as identified by the process outlined.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A date for a further Extraordinary meeting would be arranged to further discuss student accommodation. The next scheduled meeting of Council was 15 May 2020.