

COUNCIL – MINUTES

15 June 2020

PRESENT: Lord Liddle (Pro-Chancellor) (in the Chair); Professor A. J. Schofield (Vice-Chancellor); Mr D. Barron (lay member); Professor S. Bradley (Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); Mrs R. S. Georghiou (lay member); Professor S. C. Guy (Senate representative); Ms V. Hatch (Interim President, Students' Union); Mr I. Johnson (lay member); Professor K. C. Jones (Senate representative); Ms B. T. Morgan (student representative); Ms A. M. Mullan (Senate representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Lord Price (lay member); Mr S. N. Reynolds (lay member); Professor E. Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); His Hon. Judge P. Sycamore (lay member); Mrs V. Young (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C. L. Geddes (Committee Secretary); Mr S. J. Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Governance); Ms N. C. Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations)); Mrs S. J. Randall-Paley (Director of Finance) (*for item 7*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Council noted that there were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest but the Chair stepped down for item 8.

3. UNIVERSITY COUNCIL: ACTIONS AND DECISIONS BY CORRESPONDENCE

PAPER A

3.1 Council ratified the report of its actions, decisions and approvals made by correspondence since the last meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 There were no matters arising discussed.

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

5.1 Professor Andy Schofield reported on the following:

- (i) the University's sustained top ten ranking in the Complete University Guide league table, ranking 8th, and its equal 135th position in QS World Rankings which placed the University ahead of a significant number of Russell Group institutions;

- (ii) the current admissions cycle, noting that the data on undergraduate admissions suggested that conversion remained strong across all categories of student;
- (iii) the continued response to the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular: the actions being taken to support the welfare of the students still resident on campus; detailed work to enable a socially-distanced return to campus; development of blended learning options; the contribution of Lancaster academics to SAGE and its sub committees; and the community projects being spearheaded by the University, in particular the Connecting Kids Project. Professor Schofield formally recorded his thanks to all of his management team for their continued energy and effectiveness in responding to the range of challenges the pandemic had presented.

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

6.1 The Interim President of the Students' Union, Victoria Hatch, reported on the following:

- (i) the outcome of the Students' Union presidential by election with Mr Oliver Robinson being the President-Elect for 2020-2021;
- (ii) the impact on the Students' Union from the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular: the increased pressures on advice services; financial uncertainty regarding commercial services and, therefore, the Students' Union's financial position more broadly; and the consequent need to embed flexibility in future services.

6.2 Members noted the additional pressures on the Students' Union and encouraged development of its scenario plans to enable further discussion with the University. The two student Councillors were thanked for their contributions over the year.

7. COVID-19: SHORT-TERM LIQUIDITY PAPER C
Restricted and Commercial in Confidence

8. PROPOSED INTERIM PRO-CHANCELLOR ARRANGEMENTS PAPER D

8.1 This item was chaired by the Deputy Pro-Chancellor, Professor Ella Ritchie, and the current Pro-Chancellor withdrew from the discussion.

8.2 Council noted the progress of the search for a new Pro-Chancellor and approved the extension of the term of Lord Liddle as Pro-Chancellor until 31 December 2020 (as permitted under the Charter and Statutes). Members agreed that interim Pro-Chancellor arrangements would be discussed in the Michaelmas term in the event of a successor not being secured for the end of the year.

9. OFFICE FOR STUDENTS (OfS) PREVENT MONITORING OUTCOME PAPER E

9.1 Council noted the OfS Prevent Monitoring outcome letter and its finding that the University had due regard for the duty and that the OfS' assessment of Lancaster's risk remained unchanged.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 Members noted that the next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday 10 July 2020 via Teams.