

Council Minutes: 9 July 2021

PRESENT: Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt (Pro-Chancellor) (in the Chair); Professor Andy Schofield (Vice-Chancellor); Professor Steve Bradley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Ms Hanah Burgess (lay member); Mr Anthony Carey (lay member); Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); Ms Bobby Georghiou (lay member); Professor Simon Guy (Senate representative); Mr Ian Johnson (lay member); Ms Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Ms Marcia Reid Fotheringham (lay member); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Mr Oliver Robinson (Students' Union President); Ms Gayatri Shewani (Student member); His Hon. Phillip Sycamore (lay member); Mrs Valerie Young (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Paul Boustead (Director of People and Organisational Effectiveness) (*for items 17-18*); Mr Giles Carden (Director of Strategic Projects and Chief of Staff) (*for item 7*); Ms Claire Geddes (Committee Secretary); Mr Simon Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Governance); Ms Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations)); Mrs Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance); Professor Jane Taylor (Dean of Academic Quality) (*for items 15-16*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr David Barron (lay member); Professor Kevin Jones (Senate representative).

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Council noted apologies from Mr David Barron and Professor Kevin Jones.
- 1.2 The Chair advised that Ms Bobby Georghiou would be stepping down at the end of her term from Council on 31 July 2021. On behalf of the Council, he expressed great appreciation for Ms Georghiou's service to Council, including membership and contribution to sub committees.
- 1.3 The Chair advised that both Professor Simon Guy and Professor Kevin Jones would also step down from Council at the conclusion of their terms as Senate-appointed members on 31 July 2021. On behalf of the Council, he thanked the professors for their service. The Council noted that Professor Claire Leitch and Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone would be joining the Council as Senate-appointed members from 1 August 2021.
- 1.4 The Chair welcomed new member Ms Gayatri Shewani as the student member of Council and who would serve until the end of June 2022. Council also noted the continuation of Oliver Robinson as Students' Union President and therefore as an ex officio Council member until the end of June 2022.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 7 MAY 2021

PAPER A

3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2021.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Council noted that, regarding item 9: Revocation of an Honorary Degree, University records had been updated.

4.2 Council noted that its USS Pension's Sub-Group has completed its work regarding the UUK consultation and submitted a response on behalf of the Council.

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

5.1 The Vice-Chancellor reported on the following:

- (i) the successful event programme which had been held to mark the end of the academic year through partnership working with the Students' Union;
- (ii) further work undertaken to support staffs' return to work on campus post 19 July 2021 and the development of a blended mode of working;
- (iii) recruitment and admissions performance for 2021/22 to date and the continuing adaptation of conversion activity including a targeted package of measures to support international students;
- (iv) plans for academic delivery in 2021/22 based on the resumption of face-to-face delivery but retaining the most effective elements of the blended teaching approach including work towards the adoption of a Performance Rights Policy to enable lecture recording;
- (v) indications that the Government was considering progressing recommendations from the Augar Report in Autumn 2021;
- (vi) the Government's growing interest in freedom of speech and expression at universities and potential future regulation in this area;
- (vii) the ongoing national negotiations regarding the USS Pensions position and the consequences of no agreement being reached;
- (viii) the appointment of Professor Wendy Robinson, currently a member of the senior team at the University of Exeter, as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) from 1 October 2021; and
- (ix) the University's improved performance in the QS World Rankings 2022 where it now ranked at 132nd and the recent 11th place in the Complete University Guide.

5.2 Council noted the report from the Vice-Chancellor.

6. **PRESIDENT, LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION: REPORT** **PAPER B**
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- ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
7. **REIMAGINING WORK PRACTICES** **PAPER C**
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8. **ORAL REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE**
- 8.1 The Chair of the Estates Committee, Professor Ella Ritchie, provided a summary of discussions from the Estates Committee held on 8 July 2021 including its consideration of capital projects progress, the Capital Programme to 2025, emerging digital infrastructure plans, progress against the Climate Emergency Declaration and how Lancaster could demonstrate its leadership in this area, as well as a capital project relating to the Ruskin Building to meet Arts Council museum accreditation requirements.
- 8.2 Council noted the report from Estates Committee.
9. **ORAL REPORT FROM FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (FGPC)**
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10. **HEADLINE BUDGET 2021/22 AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS TO 2024/25** **PAPER D**
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11. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE** **PAPER E**
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12. **LIBOR LOAN FACILITY TRANSITION PROPOSAL (LLOYDS BANK)** **PAPER F**
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13. **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: FINAL DRAFT FOR APPROVAL** **PAPER G**
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14. **OFFICE FOR STUDENTS (OfS) COMPLIANCE MATTERS ANNUAL REPORT** **PAPER H**
- 14.1 The Director of Strategic Planning and Governance introduced the annual assurance report regarding OfS Compliance Matters, drawing attention to the Council's new responsibilities under Condition 4 (Student Protection Directions) implemented by the regulator during the pandemic.
- 14.2 Council noted the report and confirmed it was satisfied with the level of assurance drawn from the report.

15. INTERIM UPDATE FOR COUNCIL ON THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS' REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONSUMER PROTECTION DURING PANDEMIC JUNE 2021 **PAPER I**

- 15.1 The University Dean of Academic Quality introduced the paper which provided additional assurance to Council as to how the University had had due regard to an OfS requirement in January 2021 for universities to ensure academic delivery during the pandemic continued to be compliant with consumer protection requirements.
- 15.2 Council noted the steps taken to give the Council assurance including an audit of teaching delivery and the work of the Joint Faculty Teaching Committee in coordinating any changes to provision. Members noted the assurance given by the audit outcomes and the intention to repeat the exercise for teaching delivery in the Lent and Summer terms with outcomes to be reported through the Annual Teaching Quality Report.
- 15.3 Council noted the report and was satisfied with the level of assurance it provided regarding the University's compliance with consumer protection regulations.

16. UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OUTCOMES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020 **PAPER J**

- 16.1 The University Dean of Academic Standards presented the draft Degree Outcomes Statement for 2019/2020 which had been written to meet UKSCQA requirements. She highlighted the increased number of students awarded 1st and 2(i) degrees consistent with the patterns for this period in the sector, variations in attainment gaps overtime, the challenges of small data sets for BAME students and the potential impacts alternative assessment methods deployed due the pandemic.
- 16.2 Council reviewed and discussed the Degree Outcomes Statement, the explanations for degree outcome elevations and welcomed the steps being taken to further interrogate the data at a faculty and departmental level.
- 16.3 Council approved the Degree Outcomes Statement for publication.

17. RESPONSE TO COUNCIL SUB-GROUP ON CULTURE **PAPER K**
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18. REVIEW OF EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GOVERNANCE **PAPER L**

- 18.1 The Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) presented the context behind the proposals to realign the terms of reference and membership of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDI), a joint Committee of Council and the Senate.
- 18.2 Council was supportive of the need to ensure that the Committee was effectively discharging its governance role and recognised that the scope of the Committee's business was likely to grow over time. Council noted the introduction of forums to ensure University community engagement with EDI-related developments. Members advised that the use of data would be critical to advancing the EDI agenda.

18.3 Council noted Senate's approval of the proposed changes at its meeting of 16 June and confirmed its own approval of the changes to the EDI Sub-Committee terms of reference and membership as set out in the paper.

19. PROGRESS REPORT ON ASSESSMENT AGAINST UNIVERSITIES UK: PAPER M
GUIDANCE MANAGING RISKS IN INTERNATIONALISATION:
SECURITY RELATED ISSUES
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20. REMOVAL OF TEMPORARY GOVERNANCE MEASURES PAPER N
DURING THE PANDEMIC

20.1 Council considered the proposals to stand down the temporary governance measures adopted during the pandemic, the University's operating context and plans for operations in 2021-2022 and noted that digital meetings had provided a successful mode of operation for the Council's sub-committees and the Senate.

20.2 Council approved the removal of delegated powers to Sub-Committee Chairs to recommend membership changes for approval by Chair's Action and the recommendation from the Senate to remove temporary Ordinance clause 5.C.

21. APPOINTMENT OF COLLEGE PRINCIPALS PAPER O

21.1 Council approved the appointments and reappointments of College Principals as set out.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

22. PROFESSOR EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS: ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 PAPER P

22.1 Council noted the Professor Emeritus appointments for 2020/21.

23. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS PAPER R

Council noted the written reports of the following meetings:

- Audit Committee, 24 June 2021
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 9 June 2021
- Finance and General Purposes Committee, 6 May 2021
- Nominations Committee, meeting of 7 May 2021
- Senate, meeting of 16 June 2021
- Student Experience Committee, 4 June 2021
- UA92 Sub-Group, 24 June 2021.

24. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

PAPER 5

24.1 Council noted the proposed forward schedule of business.

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25.1 There was no additional business to report.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26.1 Members noted that the next meeting would be held on 24 September 2021.