

Council Minutes: 26 January 2024

PRESENT: Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt (Pro-Chancellor) (in the Chair); Professor Andy Schofield (Vice-Chancellor); Tania Baumann (lay member); Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears (lay member); Professor Steve Bradley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) (*online*); Alun Branigan (lay member); Hanah Burgess (lay member); Anthony Carey (lay member); Cerys Evans (Students' Union President); Adrian Jonas (lay member); Claire Leitch (Senate representative); Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Josh Newsham (student member); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor) (*online*); Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone (Senate representative); Maureen Whilby (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Phill Dixon (Director of People and Organisational Effectiveness) (*for item 14*) (*online*); Professor Alisdair Gillespie (University Academic Dean) (*for item 9*); Professor Simon Guy (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global)) (*for items 9-10*); Simon Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Deputy Secretary and acting Committee Clerk); David Myers (Chief Information Officer) (*for item 10*); Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary); Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Professor David Adams (lay member); Claire Geddes (Committee Clerk); Marcia Reid Fotheringham (lay member); His Hon. Phillip Sycamore (lay member).

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Council noted the apologies for absence received for this meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 In relation to agenda item 9, Adrian Jonas advised that he acted as an advisor to Ministers and in relation to the relevant country's National Health Insurance Scheme. The Chair welcomed the transparency, but it was determined that this did not constitute a conflict of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 24 NOVEMBER 2023

PAPER A

3.1 Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 November 2023.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 In respect of the minutes of the 24 November meeting, the Pro-Chancellor confirmed to Members that he had written to the Students' Union President to thank the academic representatives for their contribution in November (6.3) and that the signed Financial Statements had been submitted to the Office for Students (OfS) (9.2) along with the annual Prevent Return (17.2).

5. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE AND QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE
Some Restricted and Commercial in Confidence

6. STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT'S REPORT: JANUARY 2024 PAPER B

6.1 The President highlighted the following from the items from the written report.

- (i) The ongoing consultation to implement the update SU Strategic plan, in particular, changes to the student officer team structure.
- (ii) The work undertaken on Sustainability with the University and the upcoming Student Sustainability Summit.
- (iii) The Union's work around cost-of-living, where, with support from the University there had been a range of provision, including events offering food, but also sexual health/sanitary products and work with the Commercial Services team to offer basic standard rooms to expand the range of affordable on-campus accommodation.

6.2 Council noted the report from the Students' Union President and the Pro-Chancellor commended the narrative within the SU's Annual Accounts to Members and asked that this document be made available to Council.

Action: Deputy Secretary to make the SU Annual Accounts available to all Council members.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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| 7. | FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | ORAL
UPDATE |
| 8. | FINANCIAL FORECAST SCENARIOS AND STRESS TESTING
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER C |
| 9. | LU GHANA AND THE EDUCATION REGULATORY BODIES ACT 2020
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER D |
| 10. | IT STRATEGY
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER E |
| 11. | LU MANAGEMENT SCHOOL (LUMS) EAST ESTATE DEVELOPMENT
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER F |
| 12. | FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (FASS)/ARCHITECTURE PROJECT
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER G |

- 13. UNIVERSITY RISK REGISTER REVIEW** **PAPER H**
- 13.1 Members noted the updated Risk Register noting the Chair of the Audit Committee’s intention to review the format within the Committee and to work with the Executive to update the Risk Appetite Statement and ensure that the Committee had access to appropriate cyber-security expertise.
- 13.2 In subsequent discussion Members suggested the role that organisational ‘purpose’ might play in informing risk and risk appetite and considered taught programme opportunities relating to academic expertise in cyber security. Council also emphasised the importance of using strategy and planning processes, informed by risk appetite, in order to identify and take opportunities arising within a challenging risk landscape for the sector.
- 14. RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE PEOPLE AGENDA THROUGH DATA** **PAPER I**
- 14.1 The Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and the Director of People and Organisational Effectiveness introduced the paper noting there was a significant volume of data in the report and would welcome feedback as to potential improvements that would enhance governors gaining appropriate assurance regarding the Executive’s oversight and management of staffing matters delegated to the Vice-Chancellor.
- 14.2 Council noted and welcomed this report and noted that much of this data was already scrutinised by a number of Council sub-committees including the Safety, Health and Wellbeing Committee and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee which then reported on to Council. In discussing the potential inclusion of targets, Members were reminded of the related KPIs scrutinised by Council at six-month intervals and which included staff EDI metrics with associated targets and comparative sector data. Members discussed the merits of making available faculty level data, the consistent use of organisation units/levels and the extent to which the higher-than-average usage of the Employee Assistance Programme was preventive or a matter for attention.
- 15. PROPOSED CHANGE TO GOVERNANCE OVERSIGHT OF REDUNDANCIES** **PAPER J**
Restricted and Confidential
- 16. REAPPOINTMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR** **PAPER K**
Restricted and Confidential
- 17. COUNCIL AWAY DAY 2024** **PAPER L**
- 17.1 Council received and discussed the proposed focus for the Council’s May Away Day and noted this would now take place on University premises. Members discussed potential externals who might be invited to contribute to the day and commented that the theme of managing through change and generating efficiencies, while continuing to build reputation represented a good topic for discussion.

*** ITEMS NOT FOR DISCUSSION UNLESS REQUESTED IN ADVANCE TO THE CHAIR**

18.* COUNCIL DIVERSITY MONITORING ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 PAPER 1

18.1 Council welcomed and approved the report for publication following corrections to the formatting of figures one and five in the document.

19.* NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT PAPER 2
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20.* REDUNDANCY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 PAPER 3

20.1 Council noted the Committee's report.

21.* COUNCIL CHAIR'S ACTIONS PAPER 4

21.1 Council noted and homologated the reported actions.

22.* WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS PAPER 5

22.1 Council noted the following written reports of meetings:

- Audit Committee, meeting of 15 January 2024
- Estates Committee, meeting of 9 January 2024

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

23. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS PAPER M

23.1 Council noted the Forward Schedule.

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24.1 The Pro-Chancellor indicated he would welcome a report on the planning for the Students' Union's annual Roses competition with York and sight of plans to mark the University's sixtieth anniversary.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25.1 The next meeting will be held at 09:00 on Friday 22 March 2024 in Training Suites 1, 2 and 3, POE Building. There will be a Council dinner and presentation on Thursday 21 March 2024.