

Council Minutes: 8 July 2022 (hybrid meeting)

PRESENT: Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt (Pro-Chancellor) (in the Chair); Professor Andy Schofield (Vice-Chancellor); David Barron (lay member); Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears (lay member); Professor Steve Bradley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Hanah Burgess (lay member); Anthony Carey (lay member); Ian Johnson (lay member); Claire Leitch (Senate representative); Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); India Ellis (Students' Union President); Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone (Senate representative); Victoria Phillips (student member); His Hon. Phillip Sycamore (lay member); Maureen Whilby (lay member); Valerie Young (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Misbah Ashraf (Chief Executive of the Students' Union) (*for item 11*); Alun Branigan (Observer/incoming lay member); Andrew Burgess (Director of Estates, Facilities and Commercial Services) (*for item 7*); James Fuller (Observer/Vice Chancellor's Executive Officer); Claire Geddes (Committee Secretary); Simon Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Governance); Adrian Jonas (Observer/incoming lay member); Heather Knight (Director of Students Education and Academic Services) (*for item 12*); Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations)); Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance); Sabiha Patel (Associate Director Student Wellbeing and Inclusion) (*for item 13*); Professor Jane Taylor (Dean of Academic Quality) (*for item 12*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Marcia Reid Fotheringham (lay member).

INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Council noted the apologies for absence received for this meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair advised that both Valerie Young and Ian Johnson would be completing their terms as members of the Council on the 31 July 2022, he expressed great appreciation for both Valerie Young and Ian Johnson's long service to Council, including as chairs of council sub-committees and contributing to many other Council working groups and activities.
- 1.3 Council welcomed the new student members of Council, Students' Union President, India Ellis and Students' Union Vice-President Welfare, Victoria Phillips.
- 1.4 Council welcomed incoming Council lay members Alun Branigan and Adrian Jonas to the meeting noting they would be observing as part of their induction programme.
- 1.5 Council welcomed James Fuller who was observing the meeting as part of his induction to his new role of Executive Support Officer.

1.6 The Chair noted that a quorum of the Council was present for a meeting in accordance with Statute 9.7 and accordingly that the meeting was duly convened.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 20 MAY 2022

PAPER A

3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2022.

3.2 Council noted the notes circulated from the Council Away Day of 19-20 May 2022.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Item 6 Students' Union President's Report:** Council noted that the Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor had given further consideration to engagement with the Students' Union for the forthcoming academic year, and it had been discussed in part through the Lay Members Working Group recommendations and conditions.

4.2 **Item 13 Safeguarding Training and Induction:** Council noted safeguarding training had been embedded into the induction programme for all Council members.

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

5.1 Council noted the written report from the Executive circulated on 1 July 2022. The Vice-Chancellor reported on the following.

- (i) The appointment of the Rt. Hon. James Cleverly as the Secretary of State for Education and the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark, as the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with the Rt. Hon Kwasi Kwarteng remaining as the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- (ii) Universities UK's response to the Government and Office for Students' concerns regarding grade inflation with a pledge to return to pre pandemic levels by 2023.
- (iii) The progress of 2023 pay negotiations, where a significant gap remained between staff unions' demands and employers' perspectives on affordability. Council advised that it wished to be kept abreast of matters relating to industrial relations.
- (iv) His recent trip to Malaysia for the Sunway and Lancaster Universities' degree ceremonies.
- (v) ***Restricted and Commercial in Confidence***

- (vi) The publication of the 2022 National Student Survey (NSS) Results where the University's position for student satisfaction had risen from 14th to 11th and it had been ranked 1st for learning resources and 12th for teaching. Council noted that a focus was required on assessment and feedback, and this would be considered as part of the curriculum transformation programme.

Council encouraged further consideration of how the positioning of learning resources as part of our offer to the student experience could be optimised.

- (vii) The intention to facilitate Council's engagement with Universities UK's Representative for International Development Professor Steve Smith, to provide further insight into international collaborations.

5.2 Council noted the report from the Vice-Chancellor.

6. PRESIDENT, LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION: ORAL REPORT

6.1 The President provided an oral report on the new Students' Union Officers' goals and priorities for 2022/23 based on the four key issues they had identified for students:

- (i) concerns regarding the cost of living and ensuring money was not a barrier to students' education;
- (ii) student safety both on campus and within the city;
- (iii) ensuring that students across all faculties received a consistently high quality of education and parity of opportunity regarding academic-related processes and services; and
- (iv) supporting students' social lives post-pandemic and enabling them to build social capital and life skills.

The President highlighted the Students' Union's intention to develop a strategy to address these concerns through a Trustee Board Away Day and made clear that she and her fellow officers shared a desire to rebuild trust and an effective working relationship with the University in the interest of all students.

6.3 Council warmly welcomed the President's positive approach and noted the Students' Union Officers' priorities.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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| 7. | ESTATE STRATEGY
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER C AND PRESENTATION |
| 8. | HEADLINE BUDGET FOR 2022/23 AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS THROUGH TO 2025/26
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER D |

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| 9. | CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE (VERSION 13)
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER E |
| 10. | SANTANDER REVOLVING CREDIT FACILITY UPDATE
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER F |
| 11. | COUNCIL WORKING GROUP REPORT: STUDENTS' UNION'S ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
<i>Restricted and Confidential</i> | |
| 12. | UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OUTCOMES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21
<i>Restricted and Confidential</i> | PAPER H |
| 13. | STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH: AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY CONTEXT TO MID-SUMMER TERM 2021-22
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER L |
| 14. | ANNUAL REPORT ON ASSESSMENT AGAINST UNIVERSITIES UK GUIDANCE MANAGING RISKS IN INTERNATIONALISATION: SECURITY RELATED ISSUES
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER J |
| 15. | COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW UPDATE | ORAL REPORT |
| 15.1 | The Chair of the Council Effectiveness Review Steering Group, Professor Ella Ritchie updated Council as to the progress of its effectiveness review highlighting the selection of AdvanceHE as the review partner, the key elements for exploration (based on Council's brief and desire that the review be developmental to the Council's operation) and the forthcoming survey, interview and committee observation activity. | |
| 15.2 | Council <u>noted</u> the oral report on the progress of the Council Effectiveness Review due to report in January 2023 and that the review would be communicated to the wider University community in September 2022. | |
| 16. | OFFICE FOR STUDENTS (OFS) COMPLIANCE MATTERS ANNUAL REPORT: OFS ONGOING CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION: ASSURANCE UPDATE
<i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i> | PAPER K |
| 17. | NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
<i>Restricted and Confidential</i> | PAPER L |
| | STARRED AGENDA ITEMS | |
| 18.* | EMERITUS PROFESSOR APPOINTMENTS | PAPER 1 |
| 18.1 | Council <u>noted</u> the Professor Emeritus appointments approved by the Vice-Chancellor under delegated authority for the academic year 2021/22 as set out in the report. | |

19.* WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS

PAPER 2

19.1 Council noted the following written reports of meetings:

Council Safety, Health and Wellbeing Committee, meeting of 27 May 2022

Estates Committee, meeting of 6 June 2022

Finance and General Purposes Committee, meeting of 17 June 2022

Senate, meeting of 15 June 2022

Student Experience Committee, meeting of 8 June 2022

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

20. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

PAPER M

20.1 Council noted the proposed forward schedule of business.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21.1 There was no other business.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22.1 The next meeting will be held from 09:00-13:00 on Friday 14 October 2022, followed by lunch. Any arrangements for a members' dinner and any presentation beforehand on Thursday 13 October 2022 would be confirmed in due course.