

Council Minutes: 27 January 2023 (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); Alun Branigan (lay member); Hanah Burgess (lay member); Anthony Carey (lay member); Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); India Ellis (Students' Union President); Adrian Jonas (lay member); Claire Leitch (Senate representative); Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Victoria Phillips (student member); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone (Senate representative); Maureen Whilby (lay member).

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Geddes (Committee Clerk); Professor Simon Guy (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global)) (*for item 7*); Professor Rachel Isba (observer) (online); Simon Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Deputy Secretary); Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary); Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance); Lucy Sanderson (observer).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: 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 There were no new declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 25 November 2022

PAPER A

3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2022.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Chair confirmed that Annual Financial Statements for 2021/2022 had been signed off and submitted to the Office for Students.

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

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

6.1 The President reported on the Students' Union's Officers' priorities for the Lent Term namely:

- (i) ensuring the long-term sustainability of cost of living support for students;
- (ii) the safety and welfare of students engaging with the local night time economy including lobbying the local council to improve its related licensing policy;
- (iii) supporting current student cohorts to graduate, with its Union Assembly to navigate how best to achieve this within the context of UCU industrial action;
- (iv) embedding the new Students' Union Articles of Association: conducting elections to secure student representatives for a number of bodies;
- (v) her recent participation in the WonkHE European Study Tour 2023.

6.2 Council noted the Vice-President Welfare's intention to initiate a review by the Students' Union of the University's deanery system.

6.3 The Chair of the Audit Committee confirmed that the Audit Committee had held productive discussions with members of the Students' Union's Trustee Board regarding the progress that it was making with governance and financial challenges. The Committee was assured there was a clear programme of work in place and progress was being made.

6.4 Council noted the report from the President of the Students' Union.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7. ANNUAL COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22 PAPER C

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8. GOVERNANCE EFFECTIVENESS AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY PAPER D

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9. RESPONSE TO COUNCIL SUB-GROUP ON CULTURE: PROGRESS UPDATE PAPER E

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10. ORAL UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (FGPC) MEETING ORAL UPDATE

10.1 The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, David Barron, provided an oral report from the FGPC meeting of 26 January 2023. The Chair drew attention to discussion regarding the development of a new IT strategy which was in its early stages, its discussion of issues pertaining to the Ruskin, and the Committee's approval of capital expenditure for the School of Architecture, computer storage, LU

Management School East, Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC) space and Furness College. He stated that members had reflected on the University's current ANOC KPI and target and that the Committee had confirmed it still considered this to be an appropriate target.

- 10.2 Members noted that FGPC had also considered the revised due diligence processes regarding research partnerships and advised there would be merit in the Audit Committee also receiving this report for information. Council indicated that it would welcome an early update regarding the IT strategy due to its criticality to achieving the University Strategy as well as managing risk and it wished to ascertain a sense of the direction of travel.

11. THE RUSKIN UMA PROJECT **PAPER F**
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12. REPORT ON THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE **PAPER G**
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13. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE **PAPER H**
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14. COUNCIL DIVERSITY MONITORING ANNUAL REPORT (FINAL VERSION) **PAPER I**
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*** ITEMS NOT FOR DISCUSSION UNLESS REQUESTED IN ADVANCE TO THE CHAIR**

15.* UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIR'S ACTIONS **PAPER J**

- 15.1 Council noted the decision taken by the Chair since the last meeting relating to the approval of an appointment to EDI Committee.

16.* REDUNDANCY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 **PAPER K**

- 16.1 Council noted the Redundancy Committee Annual Report 2021/22.

17.* WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS **PAPER L**

- 17.1 Council noted the following written reports of meetings:

- Council Safety, Health and Wellbeing Committee, meeting of 4 November 2022
- Estates Committee, meeting of 12 December 2022
- Senate, meeting of 2 November 2022

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

18. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS **PAPER M**

- 18.1 Council noted the Forward Schedule.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 There was no other business.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20.1 The next meeting will be held at 09:00 on Friday 24 March 2023, followed by lunch.