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Council Minutes: 7 July 2023

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); Alun Branigan (lay member) (online); Hanah Burgess (lay member); Anthony Carey (lay member); Adrian Jonas (lay member); Claire Leitch (Senate representative); Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Rt. Hon. Baroness Neville-Jones (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Josh Newsham (student member); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone (Senate representative); His Hon. Phillip Sycamore (lay member); Maureen Whilby (lay member) (online).

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Geddes (Committee Clerk); Professor Simon Guy (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Digital, Global and Sustainability)) (*for item 8*); Simon Jennings (Director of Strategic Planning and Deputy Secretary); Ben Matthews (Associate Director Global Engagement) (*for item 8*); Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary); Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance); Professor Mark Stevenson (Cross Faculty Associate Dean Global Engagement) (*for item 8*).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Professor Steve Bradley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Cerys Evans (Students' Union President); Professor Sir Ian Diamond (lay member); and 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 welcomed Josh Newsham, the Students' Union's newly appointed student member of Council and its Vice President Welfare for 2023/24.
- 1.3 The Chair expressed profound thanks on behalf of Council to Pauline Neville-Jones and David Barron for their invaluable and longstanding contributions to the Council (as Deputy Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Audit Committee, and as Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee respectively). Both lay members would be completing their final terms of office on 31 July 2023.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 18 MAY 2023

PAPER A

- 3.1 Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 May 2023.

4. NOTES OF AWAY DAY: 19 MAY 2023 **PAPER B**

4.1 Council noted the notes of the Council Away Day meeting held on 19 May 2023.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising.

6. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE AND QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE
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7. PRESIDENT, LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION: REPORT **PAPER C**

7.1 The new student member of Council introduced himself and shared his hope that there would continue to be constructive working relationships between the new Students' Union Officers, Council, and the Executive.

7.2 Council noted the report from the previous President of the Students' Union 2022/23.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN OVERSEAS BRANCH CAMPUS **PAPER D**
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9. HEADLINE BUDGET 2023/2024 AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS TO 2026/27 **PAPER E**
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10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE **PAPER F**
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11. BUSINESS CASE FOR THE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT: EAST ESTATES (EE) **PAPER G**
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12. FREEDOM OF SPEECH **PRESENTATION**

12.1 The Director of Strategic Planning and Deputy Secretary gave a presentation regarding the background to, pre-existing governance responsibilities for, and the new duties relating to the management of freedom of speech by universities arising from the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023. He drew attention to the intersection with other duties such as those related to academic freedom, Prevent and equality, diversity, and inclusion all which would require careful navigation.

12.2 Council noted the current management arrangements for freedom of speech, the plans to review and refresh key policies over the Summer 2023 giving due consideration to the new legislation and to work in collaboration with the Students' Union which in turn had its own new duties. Council agreed that making clear the distinction between freedom of speech and academic freedom would be an important aspect of communications going forward.

- 12.3 Council noted the presentation.
13. **PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSITIES UK GUIDANCE MANAGING RISKS IN INTERNATIONALISATION: SECURITY RELATED ISSUES** PAPER H
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14. **OFFICE FOR STUDENTS (OFS) ONGOING CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION: ASSURANCE UPDATE** PAPER I
- 14.1 The Director of Strategic Planning and Deputy Secretary introduced the paper intended to provide assurance as to compliance with the OfS Regulatory Framework for the period from August 2022 to the meeting. He highlighted the inclusion of the B-Conditions Annexe (ordinarily received by Council as part of the Annual Teaching Quality Assurance Report) to provide full visibility across the conditions, and the related discussions at the Audit Committee regarding B-condition compliance within the regional partnerships.
- 14.2 Council noted the report and the assurance it provided regarding compliance with OfS Ongoing Conditions of Registration.
15. **STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH: ANNUAL REPORT, 2022-23** PAPER J
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16. **NAMING NEW PHOTOSYNTHETIC DIVERSITY FACILITY TO HONOUR SUPPORT FROM THE WOLFSON FOUNDATION** PAPER K
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- * ITEMS NOT FOR DISCUSSION UNLESS REQUESTED IN ADVANCE TO THE CHAIR
- 17.* **EMERITUS PROFESSOR ANNUAL REPORT** PAPER 1
- 17.1 Council noted the report of Emeritus Professor appointments made during 2022/23.
- 18.* **WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS** PAPER 2
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- 18.1 Council noted the following written reports of meetings:
- Audit Committee, meeting of 26 June
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, meeting of 22 May 2023
 - Estates Committee, meeting of 7 June
 - Finance and General Purposes Committee, meeting of 8 March 2023
 - Finance and General Purposes Committee, meeting of 16 June 2023
 - Senate, meeting of 26 April 2023
 - Student Experience Committee, meeting of 17 May 2023

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

19. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

PAPER L

19.1 Council noted the Forward Schedule.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20.1 There was no other business.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21.1 The next meeting will be held at 13:00 on Friday 13 October 2023.