

## Council Minutes: 22 November 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); Alun Branigan (lay member); Hanah Burgess (lay member) (*online*); Anthony Carey (lay member); Cerys Evans (Students' Union President) (*online*); Claire Leitch (Senate representative); Professor Rebecca Lingwood (Deputy Vice-Chancellor); Alison Mullan (Senate representative); Marcia Reid Fotheringham (lay member) (*online*); Professor Ella Ritchie (Deputy Pro-Chancellor); Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone (Senate representative); Harrison Stewart (student Council member); Maureen Whilby (lay member) (*online*).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Claire Geddes (Committee Clerk); Professor Alisdair Gillespie (Academic Dean) (*for item 13*); Professor Simon Guy (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global) (Digital, International and Sustainability)) (*for item 12*); Jo Hardman (Director of Commercial Services) (*for item 17*); Ben Matthews (Associate Director of Global Engagement) (*for item 12*); Nicola Owen (Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary); Sarah Randall-Paley (Director of Finance).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Adrian Jonas (lay member).

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Council noted the apologies.

#### 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 11 OCTOBER 2024

**PAPER A**

3.1 Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 October 2024.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **QS World Rankings:** the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary provided an update regarding Council's engagement with the process to nominate employers and invited feedback so it could be improved in future years.

4.2 **Item 11: Governance Oversight of Redundancies:** members received an update regarding discussions with the Trade Unions regarding the changes to the governance oversight of redundancies.

4.3 **Item 13: Staff Experience Survey:** the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) and Secretary updated Council regarding the Executive's view concerning the target range for the new key performance Employee Net Promoter Score and that this be set at the typical bracket of (-10 to +20), given the challenge of maintaining this in the current operating context.

4.4 **Item 14: Key Performance Indicators:** members noted that a finalised version of the End of Year KPI 2023-24 had been circulated to Council.

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

***Some Restricted and Commercial in Confidence***

5.1 Council noted a written report from the Executive circulated to Council on 15 November 2024. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor reported on the following.

(i) The Office for Students' (OfS) Financial Sustainability of Higher Education Providers in England 2024 Report, and its assessment of the financial condition of the sector and its resilience. He drew attention to the regulator's stated intention to real time monitor universities' finances, the Executive's focus on in-year cost savings but also its development of a longer term strategy for institutional sustainability encapsulated in the LU Futures portfolio of programmes and projects.

(ii) His meeting with the new President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, as part of an event with chief executives from across key sectors of the UK economy regarding inward investment into Indonesia. He reported that the President was well-informed and interested in Deakin Lancaster and had given assurance regarding continuity of approach from the new government.

(iii) ***Restricted and Commercial in Confidence***

(iv) ***Restricted and Commercial in Confidence***

(v) The Lancaster University Economic Impact Report by London Economics (Paper 3) and its evidence of the University's significant financial contribution to the city, region and country.

5.2 Council noted the report.

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

6.1 The Students' Union President highlighted initial conversations with the Executive regarding enhancing partnership working with the University and the potential development of a partnership agreement. She emphasised the aim of empowering students to take a more active role in shaping their university experience. Council was supportive of the conversations continuing.

- 6.2 The Education Officer gave a précis of the progress of the campaign to embed climate education into the curriculum and how sustainability was now being incorporated into the Curriculum Transformation Project.
- 6.3 Council noted some Students' Union Officers' concerns regarding the management of a disciplinary process related to a sexual misconduct case. Attention was drawn to the work being undertaken to ensure compliance with the new OfS ongoing condition of registration E6 which, would include consultation with representatives from the Students' Union and the Colleges.
- 6.4 Council noted the Students' Union President's Report.

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                     |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 7.   | <b>AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL AND THE VICE-CHANCELLOR 2024</b><br><i>Some Restricted and Commercial in Confidence content</i>                                                                                                                                           | <b>PAPER C</b>      |
| 8.   | <b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024</b><br><i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>PAPER D</b>      |
| 9.   | <b>FINANCIAL FORECAST INFORMATION FOR THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN 2024 TO THE OfS</b><br><i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>                                                                                                                                               | <b>PAPER E</b>      |
| 10.  | <b>FEES PAPER</b><br><i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>PAPER F</b>      |
| 11.  | <b>LU FUTURE UPDATE</b><br><i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>PRESENTATION</b> |
| 12.  | <b>STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PORTFOLIO OF ONLINE PGT PROGRAMMES WITH BUSINESS PARTNER, 2U</b><br><i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>                                                                                                      | <b>PAPER G</b>      |
| 13.  | <b>ANNUAL TEACHING QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25</b><br><i>Restricted and Commercial in Confidence</i>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>PAPER H</b>      |
| 14.  | <b>VICE-CHANCELLOR APPOINTMENT UPDATE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>ORAL UPDATE</b>  |
| 14.1 | The Pro-Chancellor provided a summary of activity to date to appoint and external search agency to support the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor, engagement activity with a broad range of internal stakeholders to inform the process and the timetable for selection processes. |                     |

- 14.2 Council noted the appointment of Odgers Berndston to support the search its assessment of the current market, with the aim to hold interviews with a view to concluding the process by the end of the Spring term 2025.

**The Pro-Chancellor stepped down from the Chair for item 15.**

**15. SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENT** PAPER I  
*Restricted and Confidential*

**16. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT** PAPER J  
*Restricted and Confidential*

**17. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INVESTMENT IN ACCOMMODATION** PAPER K  
*Restricted and Commercial in Confidence*

**18. FINANCE SYSTEM UPDATE PROPOSAL** PAPER L  
*Restricted and Commercial in Confidence*

**19. DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM** PAPER M  
*Restricted and Confidential*

**20. RESILIENCE AT LANCASTER: ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK** PAPER N

20.1 The Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) highlighted the revisions to the Framework including the incorporation of the outcomes from the Council's risk appetite exercise conducted earlier in the year.

20.2 Council approved the revised Risk Management Framework.

**21. DRAFT PREVENT ANNUAL REPORT INCORPORATING THE OFS PREVENT MONITORING: ACCOUNTABILITY AND DATA RETURN 2024** PAPER O  
*Restricted and Confidential*

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

**22.\* REDUNDANCY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024** PAPER 1

22.1 Council approved the Redundancy Committee Annual Report for 2024 as recommended by the Redundancy Committee.

**23.\* ANNUAL MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2024** PAPER 2

23.1 Council approved the Annual Modern Slavery Statement 2024 for signature by the Chair and to enable its publication on the University's website.

**24.\* LU ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT BY THE LONDON ECONOMICS PAPER 3**

24.1 Council noted the report and the University's positive and substantial economic impact on the local, regional and national economy.

**25.\* WRITTEN REPORTS OF MEETINGS PAPER 4**

25.1 Council noted the written reports of meetings.

- Audit Committee, meeting of 28 October 2024
- Council Safety, Health and Wellbeing Committee, meeting of 1 November 2024
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, meeting of 8 October 2024
- Finance and General Purposes Committee, meeting of 25 October 2024
- Senate, meeting of 30 October 2024

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**26. FORWARD SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL BUSINESS PAPER P**

26.1 Council noted the Forward Schedule.

**27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

27.1 There was no further business discussed at the meeting.

**28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

28.1 The next meeting will be held from 13:00 on Friday 24 January 2024 in the Training Suites 1, 2, and 3, POE Building.