

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COURT

Minutes of the Fifty-Ninth Annual meeting of Court held on Friday 5 February 2016

Present:	The Rt Hon the Lord Grocott (Chancellor)	
	Mr A Aggarwal	Very Rev Dr D Hole
	Mr G Arthur	Ms R Holland
	Mr P Ash	Dr L Howard
	Mr E Baines	Mr D James
	Mr K Beaumont	Mr I Johnson
	Dr R Bettles	Mr C King
	Mr G Bodiwala	Mr P Lawson
	Mrs S Bowie	Dr A Linsell
	Professor P Boyle	Mr A Mamujee
	Lady Ann Brooks	Col R Martin
	HH Judge D Brunning	Mr P Mulvihill
	Cllr Mr T Cassidy	Professor M Peel
	Dr M Chamberlain	Ms L Perham
	Mr S de Looze	Mr C Ramsey
	Mr G Dixon	Dr N Reed
	Mr H Doyle	Cllr Mr D Snartt
	Mrs D Few	Professor S Sharma
	Mrs S Forsyth	Dr V Sharma
	Dr J Foster	Mr D Tams
	Dr R Graham-Brown	Dr B Towle
	Jennifer, Lady Gretton	Mr M Turnbull
	Dr R Hake	Cllr Mrs S Waddington
	Mr D Hall	Mrs S Watson
	Ms S Hamilton-Fox	Mr A Wessel
	Dr P Hammersley	Mrs C Wessel
	Mr R Hampson	Dr A Weston
	Dr J Higgins	Mr P Wilson
	Mr M Hindle	Mr D Woodhead

In attendance: Mr M Riddleston (University Director of Finance); Mr N Cox (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from those members of Court whose names are listed in the Appendix to these minutes.

16/M1 **MINUTES**

Court received the minutes of the fifty-eighth Annual Meeting, held on 6 February 2015.

16/M2 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED COURT**

The Chair of the University's governing Council, Dr Bridget Towle, welcomed members to the first annual meeting of the newly-reconstituted Court, following the wide-ranging membership review undertaken in 2015. The review had been overseen by the University's Nominations Committee, and its recommendations had been approved by the full Council at its meeting held on 24 November 2015.

Under the new constitution, the total membership of Court had been reduced by almost two-thirds, from 430 members to 98 Full and 77 Associate Members, a combined total of 175, as at the date of the meeting. The Full members were drawn predominantly from outside the University, whereas the Associate members were drawn mostly from within the institution, particularly from amongst its retired professorial staff. Only the Full members would normally be invited to attend Court meetings.

Court received the list of Full members and noted that the updated list would be presented each year to the annual meeting. The Full and Associate membership lists would also be published on the University's website.

16/M3 **ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS OF COURT**

Dr Towle explained that the specific purpose of the Annual Meeting was set out within the University's statutory documents and governance framework, and required the receipt by Court of the audited financial statements together with a report on the institution's activities and highlights during the previous year. For this reason no significant changes were anticipated at the present time to the format of the Annual Meeting.

The review of Court had considered how the University might engage more effectively with members between Annual Meetings, without the role becoming too onerous. It was hoped that, during the year ahead, there would be an opportunity for some members of Court to engage more directly with the University to offer their insight and advice on a topic of current strategic interest.

16/M4 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL REVIEW 2014-15**

Court formally received the University's audited financial statements for the 2014-15 financial year, as approved by the University's governing body, and the published annual review of the institution's activities and highlights over the last year.

Court noted that in the year to 31 July 2015 the University's income totalled £302 million. Income from student tuition fees reached 50% of total income, whilst funding body grants reduced by 14% on the previous year. The operating surplus for the year was £15.5 million, but this included a one-off HMRC research and development tax credit of £5.7 million, so the underlying surplus was just under £10 million.

16/M5 **ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR**

The University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle, made his second annual presentation to Court.

In the course of a wide ranging overview of developments and initiatives over the last year the President and Vice-Chancellor drew Court's attention to the launch of the University's new strategic plan in September 2015, with brand refresh and new website, and changes to its academic, leadership and governance structure.

The President and Vice-Chancellor emphasized that the objectives set out in the new strategic plan were designed to focus on the University's commitment to its distinctiveness and excellence, and to drive performance by challenging complacency, encouraging imagination and rewarding initiative.

The University was keen to develop its partnerships and impact at all levels – local, regional, national and international – and to be much more proactive in its approach to such matters as equality and diversity, and corporate social responsibility (16/M6 refers).

16/M6 **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The University's Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, Mr David Hall, explained to Court how the University was taking forward its commitment to its corporate and social responsibilities. This was focussed on a new strategy for the University's engagement with the local community, including initiatives for the promotion of health and wellbeing, restoration of the environment, open access to culture and heritage, upskilling for the 21st century, and developing children and young people. These broad themes complemented the priorities of the Leicester City Council, and **Court noted** the wide range of practical measures being taken by the University to engage with and have a positive impact on the delivery of these priorities.

In connection with the above, member of Court Professor Surinder Sharma gave a short presentation on the work of the University's new unit for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (*DICE*), launched in October 2015. DICE's mission was to raise the local profile of research and engagement activities at the University, to emphasise inclusion as part of organisational vision and values, and to help connect practitioners and policy makers with local communities.

CHAIR

Duration of meeting: one hour and 30 minutes

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

MEETING OF COURT

Friday 5 February 2016

Apologies

Sir Michael Atiyah
Mr P Bateman
Mr P Bhojani
Dr J Bonner
Mr J Bowie
Mr A Brown
Baroness H Byford (has since retired from Court)
Mr J Chandarana
Mr G Cinderby
Mr J D Cloud
Mr P Cottingham
Cllr Mr L Darr
His Hon Judge Dickinson QC
Mr B Ghelani
Mr H Ghelani
Mr B Hellyer
Dr W Hickling
Mr B Hindocha
Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys
Mr J Kapasi
Mrs H Lewis
Dr D G Lewis
Dr D Lockett
Dr F May
Mr D Moore
Mr A Morgan
Emeritus Professor K Pounds
Dr G Rimmington
Mr H Stevenson
Dr P Sykes
Mr L Trotman
Dr D Wilson
Mr J R Wilson (has since retired from Court)