

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on  
Monday 20 May 2013

<b>Present:</b>	Mr R Bettles (Chair)	
	The Vice-Chancellor	Dr D Lockett
	Professor A Abbott	Mr D Moore
	Mr P Ash	Mr P Mulvihill
	Mr P Bateman	Professor E Murphy
	Ms J Dunne	Dr N Reed
	Mr D Flatt	Professor K Schürer
	Her Hon Judge A Hampton	Professor J Scott
	Mr M Hindle	Professor M Thompson
	Mr D James	Dr B Towle (except for item 13/M31)
	Mr I Johnson	Professor D Wynford-Thomas

**In attendance:** the Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Finance, the Director of Estates and Mr N Cox (Assistant Secretary).

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mr G Dixon and Dr M Rawlinson.

13/M25     **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Dr Reed declared an interest as a Trustee of the Students' Union in respect of the business transacted under 13/M33 (Financial Forecasts and Annual Budget).

13/M26     **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013.

**Council approved** them as a correct record.

**Arising from minute 13/M23 (Honorary Degree)**, Mr Bettles expressed his appreciation to the University for its decision to award him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws.

13/M27     **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS**

The Vice-Chancellor updated Council on significant matters of interest involving the University since the last meeting. This covered recent developments in plans for the reinterment of the remains of King Richard III, ongoing preparations for the University's REF submission in November 2013, and the exclusion of ABB students from universities' student number controls for 2013-14 entry.

Council was pleased to note that the University had risen 4 places, to 16<sup>th</sup> position, in the latest *Complete University Guide*, published on 29 April 2013.

13/M28 **MASSIVE OPEN ON-LINE COURSES (MOOCs)**

Council received a short presentation from the Director of Distance Education on the growth internationally of massive open on-line courses (MOOCs), and the University's involvement in the FutureLearn platform to develop MOOCs in the UK. **Council noted** the potential benefits of this involvement, and the wider impact it could have on the University's distance learning provision and international profile.

**Council welcomed** the University's engagement with this new initiative and noted that a cautious approach would be adopted in the early stages, with two courses planned to be launched in autumn 2013 on *The England of Richard III* and *Forensic Science and the Criminal Justice System*.

13/M29 **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

- a. **Council approved** the recommendations of the Nominations Committee for the appointment of new lay members of Council for an initial period of 3 years effective from 1 August 2013:

Mr Peter Lawson  
Mr Andrew Morgan  
Ms Vijay Sharma  
Ms Carole Thorogood

**Council noted** that these appointments were as replacements for Mr Bateman, Mr James, Mr Mamujee and Mr Moore, and **authorised** the Nominations Committee to conclude the appointment process with the individuals concerned.

- b. **Council approved** recommendations of the Nominations Committee for the appointment of new members of Court:

- i. Educational organisations/schools:

The Society of Heads

Dr Peter Bodkin, General Secretary

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference

Mr Christopher Ramsey, Chair of the Universities Sub-

Committee and Headmaster of the King's School, Chester

Leicester Secondary Education Improvement Partnership

Mr Bill Morris, Director

The Girls' Schools Association

Charlotte Vere, Executive Director

Beauchamp College, Oadby

Mr Huwe Howe, Principal

Uppingham School

Mr Richard Harman, Headmaster

- ii. In a personal capacity:

Margaret Harrison CBE

**13/M30 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Council received a report of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 22 March 2013. An item referred for the approval of Council, regarding changes to the University's portfolio of loans, was dealt with as a separate item of business (minute 13/M35 refers).

**13/M31 ESTATES AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Council considered reports of the Estates and Infrastructure Strategy Committee held on 21 March and 19 April 2013.

**Council approved** a recommendation from the Committee for the blocks at College Court to be named after University Treasurers: Cinderby, Chamberlain and Towle.

**13/M32 HEFCE ASSESSMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL RISK**

Council received the outcome letter of HEFCE's annual assessment of institutional risk and **noted** that based on the accountability returns submitted for 2011-2012 the University of Leicester was deemed to be 'not at higher risk'.

CHAIR